

The Guiding principles of the 1 IN 12 Club are
LIBERTY EQUALITY SOLIDARITY
 and the Club aims to promote
MUTUAL-AID SELF-MANAGEMENT CO-OPERATION

Respect & tolerance towards all members and their
 guests is essential at all times.

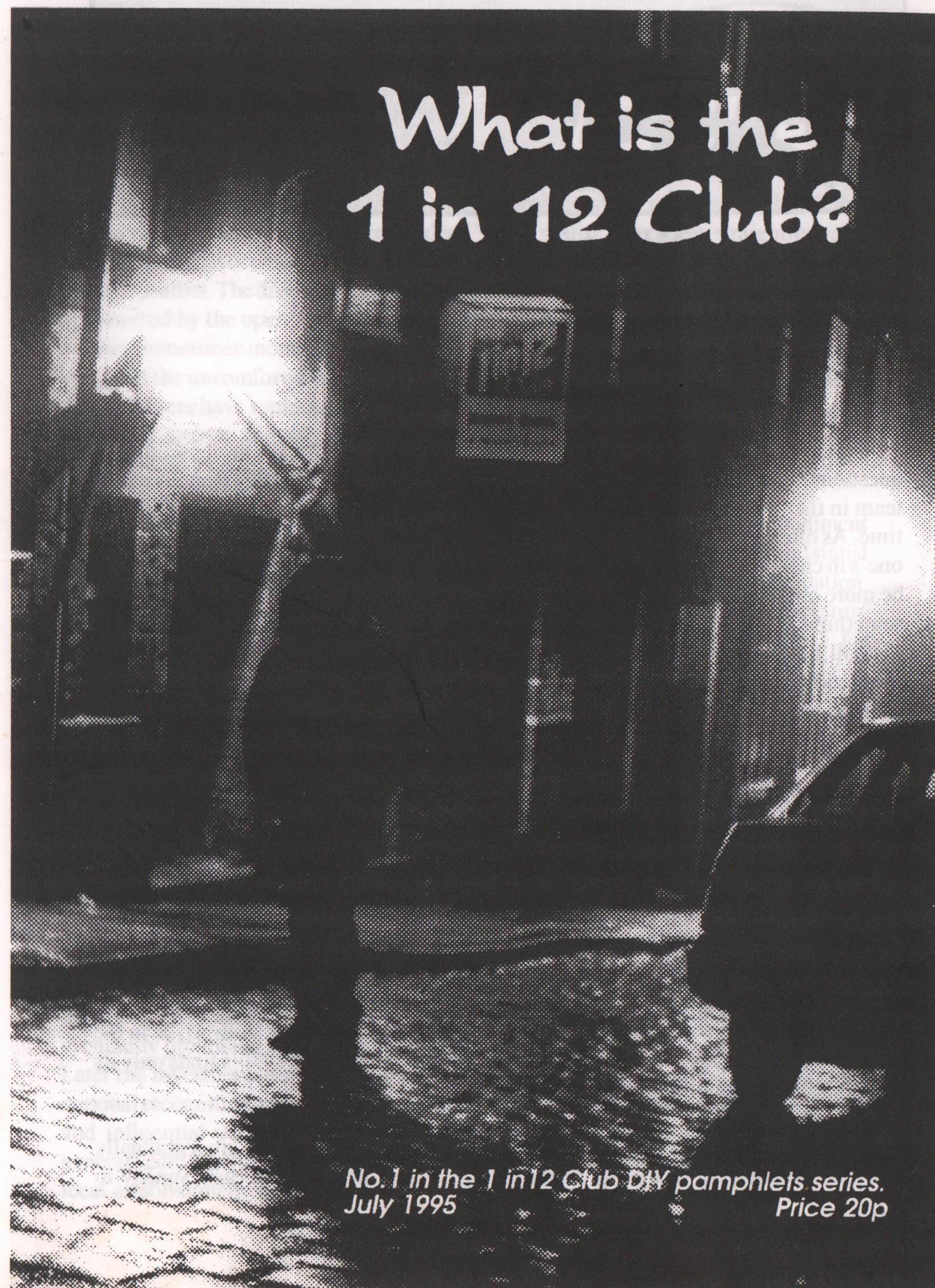
The Club has a strict **NO DRUGS** policy and anyone
 found using or dealing will be told to leave the building.

1 IN 12 CLUB

21 - 23 Albion St., Bradford, West Yorkshire, England, BD1 2LY
 Tel: (01274) 734160

1st in a series of pamphlets about the 1 IN 12 Club and related
 matters. Other titles include *"The Idiot-proof guide to booking
 bands at the 1 in 12 Club"* and *"The 1 IN 12 Constitution"*. Send a
 S.A.E. for further details, or scripts if you have any ideas.

What is the 1 in 12 Club?



No.1 in the 1 in12 Club DIY pamphlets series.
 July 1995 Price 20p



What is the 1 IN 12?

“Where’s the Gaffer mate?”

“Who’s in charge?”

“Can I see the manager?”

On how many occasions have members of the 1 IN 12 Club been asked these questions? By a band arriving for a gig or a brewery rep touting for business, a visiting team in the “Pool and Doms” league or a visitor checking the place out for the first time. As often as not the answer will follow a familiar pattern: “There’s no gaffer, no one’s in charge”, said as a matter of fact and with a knowing smile as if nothing could be more obvious or self-evident. The visitor, disorientated by the reply, searches for something familiar and reassuring. The notice board with its fixture lists for the football, quiz or pool team perhaps, the juke-box in the corner opposite the trophy shelf in the other. But this place is something quite different, testimony to what can be achieved when people with enough nous and determination coupled with a commitment to DIY politics and self-organisation get together. The 1 IN 12 CLUB is based in a converted inner city warehouse, with its two bars, gig room, cafe, snooker room, its membership of 600, thriving publications and record collectives, is alive and kicking, thirteen years of anarchist organisation in Bradford!

Formed from the nucleus of an essentially anarchist orientated Claimants Union in 1981, the 1 IN 12 represented a creative and grass-roots response to the problems of unemployment and the city’s continued industrial decline. the tradition of working class resistance and direct action has a long and proud history in Bradford and the 1 IN 12 has striven to be part of it. A hundred years or participative, active and locally controlled direct action in the City, from the Manningham Mills strike in the early 1880’s, to the anti-fascist “Battle of Bradford” in the mid 1970’s finds only its most recent expression in the 1 IN 12 CLUB.

During the early 1980’s, in a series of rented rooms around the City, a gradually growing membership of mainly working class young people, met each Sunday to

What is the 1 in 12 Club

discuss, socialise and plan. Organised on participative, anarchist principles, the meetings were lively, diverse and fun, in sharp contrast to the usual monotony, drabness and suffocating misery of the left and the irrelevance of most political meetings.

Nevertheless this could bring its own problems! At no stage in the Club’s history has the relationship between “ideal” and “reality” ever been straightforward. Indeed conflict over whose ideals and which reality has often thrown the Club into deep internal conflict. The diversity of interests, priorities and expectations of the membership, empowered by the open and active process of decision making, has often come with a price. Sometimes members have left, disillusioned and perhaps occasionally bitter, but this is the uncomfortable reality of taking responsibility and control. Nevertheless, new members have replaced old, and a new constant regeneration and influx of new ideas and energy continued, likewise new sources of disagreement and conflict emerged too!

The twice weekly gigs held in several City centre pubs provided the embodiment of the 1 IN 12 “way”. providing gigs that were cheap, free from sexist, racist and statist hassles, the usual promoters and rip-offs, dress restrictions and bouncer intimidation. The objective was to create a lively and participative social scene, to stimulate a culture of resistance, a space under the control and direction of the membership for entertainment, debate and solidarity.

The results were emphatic, the gigs were often packed out and the membership swelled to a thousand. The Sunday meetings produced spin-off collectives for those interested in developing various ideas further. The 1 IN 12 Record Collective began production of a series of compilation tapes and records - “Worst of the 1 in 12 Club” - of the bands that had played there. For better or worse (depending on your musical taste) the albums provided early exposure for New Model Army, Joolz and The Cult, a platform for local talent, controlled at a local level by local people.

The Club spawned a magazine - “Knee deep in Shit” - which quickly gained local notoriety for its irreverent and risqué approach to local affairs. Investigations into the activities of the local Freemasonry sparked widespread controversy for example, eventually provoking the local council into action against the influence of the Lodge. Later the investigative skills of those involved and the quality of their work received national recognition and generous media coverage. Further exposes of local politicians and influential persons continued, and the consistent ability of the magazine to generate controversy maintained the Club’s profile as a tireless thorn in the side of the local establishment.

What is the 1 in 12 Club

During the 1984-5 Miners strike, the 1 IN 12 established a close and supportive relationship with strikers at the nearby Kellingley colliery. The Club organised meetings at which miners came to speak to Club members, the gigs were turned into benefits, and regular collections of food and basic essentials were established. When Bradford Trades Council ran a double decker bus to a picket at Emily Moor, the entire top half was occupied by the 1 in 12 Club. When Bradford Council refused to allow miners to collect money in the City centre, the 1 in 12 invited them to collect at its outdoor festival at which hundreds of people had attended. After the strike, a book of poetry by Jean Gittens (mother of two striking miners at Ledston luck) - "Striking Stuff" - was published by the Club to raise money for the NUM Solidarity Fund. A plaque, presented by the Kellingley miners now sits behind the bar, a proud reminder of the solidarity members showed during that great fight.

By early 1985 the ambitions and self-confidence of the Club was underlined by the decision to apply for a Department of Environment grant to purchase a building for itself. Again the nous and determination of the membership proved effective, and a grant of £90,000 was secured for the purchase and renovation of the building. The membership had been adamant that under no circumstances was this to compromise or weaken the principles of the Club's organisation and activities. Under the Licensing laws the Club was required to establish a variety of official positions within its structure and elect a "Management Committee" to "run" it. True to both its anarchist principles and legal obligations required of it, a management committee was indeed elected, but remained subsidiary to the traditional Sunday meetings. It was instantly recallable and subject, where appropriate, to immediate deselection. And so there is no "executive" in the Club. The weekly member meetings remain the sole decision making body.

The prospect of the 1 IN 12 receiving such a large sum of money, together with its scurrilous reputation quickly had the alarm bells ringing amongst police, politicians and local media. "How Public Money is Funding Anarchy" screamed the front page of one newspaper, quickly followed by police raids on several member's homes. When questioned as to the evidence of the allegations contained in the paper's report, the local journalist admitted that the only "proof" had come from information supplied by Bradford CID!

A later Department of Environment investigation of the 1 in 12, provoked by a track from a Records Collective release attacking the then leader of Bradford Council, Eric Pickles ("Eric Pickles is a Fat Tory Bastard"), revealed the quantity of information compiled by the State on the Club's activities. Inevitably most of the allegations were misinformed and inaccurate, nonetheless the Club was questioned as

What is the 1 in 12 Club

to its "bomb-making activities", its anti-police profile and the damaging investigations of "Knee Deep in Shit"!

Nevertheless the money was secured and work began on the new premises, a derelict warehouse, down a cobbled street in the heart of Bradford. With those more skilled in plumbing, electrics, painting etc., sharing their expertise with those less knowledgeable, a building with all the recognised fixtures and fittings of a social club took shape. Three years of dedicated hard work, almost all carried out voluntarily by the Club membership were rewarded when in May 1988 21-23 Albion Street was opened for business.

"I walked down to the Club on opening night..... I was stunned. it was actually working. All of a sudden it hit me - fuckin' hell we did it. And if the Club closes down tomorrow, we still did it."

The achievement was monumental, after years of moving from venue to venue, meeting room to meeting room, the Club actually had its own premises. Yet the building, with its attendant regulations and controls, its colossal expense and responsibilities created a new set of problems for the membership. It became imperative that the 1 IN 12 paid its way, it was a depressing brush with the real world, of tax, bills and rates, of final demands, solicitors letters and bailiffs.

The never-ending struggle to meet the financial obligations of running a building the size of 21-23 Albion street has often imposed a dreary obsession with creating enough revenue to survive. Whilst the Club has never made a profit, most work is done voluntarily and those staff paid work for ridiculously low wages. the pressure to succumb to capitalistic and exploitative methods has never been far away. It is the classic paradox familiar to those who attempt change whilst everything else around them remains the same. Yet while compromise affects every area of the 1 IN 12 CLUB as a building, the 1 IN 12 CLUB as its members has had no such restrictions or obligations. If 21-23 Albion street closed tomorrow, the 1 IN 12 CLUB would still survive and flourish, still aggravating the authorities and keeping politics accessible and fun.

Matt (for "Black Flag", 1994)



WHAT IS THE 1 IN 12 CLUB? - Questions & Answers.

What is the 1 in 12 Club?

The 1 in 12 Club was formed in 1981 by members of Bradford's anarchist orientated Claimants Union in 1981. The immediate objectives of the 'Club' were to generate and sustain a social scene, accessible and affordable to both the low waged and unemployed. The expectation and hope was that this would in turn encourage the anarchist values of self-management, co-operation and mutual aid.

Where did the name come from?

The late 1970s and early 1980s saw massive job losses across Britain and Bradford was no exception with GEC and International Harvesters shutting plants in the City. Against this backdrop a particularly strong and active Claimants Union emerged which campaigned vigorously to improve the situation for unemployed and low waged people in Bradford. When, in 1981 a government investigation into benefit fraud (the 'Raynor Report') found that '1 in 12' claimants were actively "defrauding the state", the union lost no time in adopting this statistic for themselves.

Why use the Red & Black Flag?

From the outset the 1 in 12 Club has identified itself with the anarchist principles of self management, mutual aid and co-operation. As such the 1 in 12 logo has always been placed upon a red and black flag the historic colours of the international anarchist movement.

Do I have to be an anarchist to be a member?

No, but agreement to abide by the guiding principles, aims and objectives of the club is a pre-requisite for membership.

How did the club get a building?

The 1 in 12 Club is two separate things; firstly and most importantly it is a group of people who work together to promote certain political ideals and social change; secondly it is a building housing a members social club. This difference is vital, with or without the building the 1 in 12 Club lives. For the first seven years the club led a nomadic life in pubs around the city, and it was during this period that the club's reputation for political and social action was established. The decision to apply for a grant to buy premises was just one more dimension, albeit a major one, to the already well established Club's existence. The Club is not the building - the building is not the Club, it is just our most recent home, the present location of our activity and focus to our social scene.

Where did the money for the building come from?

In 1985 the 1 in 12 Club applied to the Department of the Environment and received a one off capital grant of £92,400 for the purchase and refurbishment of premises. In spring 1986, following a long and difficult search for a suitable building, the Club brought 21-23 Albion Street, a derelict mill in inner city Bradford.

How was a slum transformed into a Club?

Over a three year period hundreds of Club members worked voluntarily to reconvert the four storey mill into a social club complete with all the recognised fixtures and fittings you would expect. The building was completely stripped, floors removed, and walls demolished, then with painstaking effort rebuilt to our own specifications. For the first six-months the Club employed a skilled builder to oversee the work, but when money became short the Club was forced to go it alone. Two young

Club members, Glenn and Gemma, became 'Project Managers' and successfully saw the project through to completion.

What about the licensing laws and other legal requirements?

Our initial ignorance of such matters was overcome by information gleaned from books, solicitors and the experience of Workingmen's Clubs. After exploring the various models of licensed premises legally permitted (see no.3 in the 1 in 12 DIY pamphlet series) the Club decided to apply for a **Registration Certificate** and establish the 1 in 12 Club as a **private members club owned and run by its members**.

This required the adoption of a written constitution and the establishment of certain formal structures i.e. the election of officers to a **General Committee** to run the Club and a **Bar Committee** to run the bars. This is the law under which Workingmen's Clubs traditionally operate and was the option most consistent with the 1 in 12 Club's democratic structure.

How is the Club managed?

The sovereign decision making body of the 1 in 12 Club is the weekly **Sunday Meeting** open to all members. All other committees and collectives within the Club are answerable to it. However this created an apparent conflict of responsibilities with the **General Committee** required by law. This has been avoided by the elected officers of the **General Committee** meeting on a Sunday with the legally established proviso that all Club members can attend and contribute fully to any decisions made. In this way the **Sunday Meeting** effectively functions as the **General Committee** of the Club.

Each April the 1 in 12 Club holds its **Annual General Meeting** at which the membership must elect officers to the various posts in the Club. The **AGM** is also an important opportunity for the membership to review the financial and general progress of the Club and the various collectives

active within it. In addition an *Extraordinary General Meeting* which has the same powers as an AGM can be called by any ten members at any time during the year. Since control of the Club legally rests with the elected officers, an *EGM* is a good way to review their activities and safeguard against any attempts by power crazed individuals to take over the Club.

Is it expensive to run?

The Club needs to take approximately £1000 per week in income to survive and the majority of this money must come from bar sales. However there is usually a substantial shortfall and about 25% of Club income must be made up by other means, donations, fund-raising activities etc. Minimising expenditure is clearly imperative and has been achieved by tight financial management and a reliance upon the unpaid efforts of members. Indeed a total of only 36 hours per week, shared between three part-time staff, is paid in wages by the Club.

Is it primarily a punk venue?

No. Members book the bands that they like and want to see, and those involved in the punk scene have always tended to be among the more dedicated and enthusiastic at organising events. Fashions and tastes change however and the kinds of bands booked over the years has reflected this. What has always been consistent is that gigs at the 1 in 12 Club are organised, publicised and run by members voluntarily, free from bouncer intimidation and the usual promoter rip-offs. For more detailed info see No.2 in the 1 in 12 DIY pamphlet series.

What are the collectives?

The different interests and concerns of the membership are reflected in various collectives within the Club; booking, record, publications, cafe, library, peasants etc. With separate meetings and finances each collective functions autonomously but must report regularly and is ultimately answerable to the *1 in 12 Sunday Meeting*. (See next section for details of the Collectives).

Who organises events?

Historically the *Booking Collective* has been responsible for booking bands and events but in recent years gigs have tended to be organised by interested parties. For more detailed information see No.2 in the DIY pamphlet series.

How do you become a member?

As a *private members club* who can and cannot join is in the hands of the membership and is decided by the *Sunday Meeting*. Anyone wishing to join the Club must first fill out an application form agreeing to abide by the guiding principles of the Club (see above) and then find an existing member willing to propose them. The application is then displayed on the notice board during the week prior to the *Sunday Meeting* and so long as no objections are received is then passed.

What are the Club's long-term aims?

The original objectives of the 1 in 12 Club were to develop and spread the anarchist values of self-management, co-operation and mutual aid. Through gigs, books, records and direct action, the Club has sought to extend the influence of these ideas throughout Bradford and beyond. Who can tell what the future will bring, a Housing Association, Credit Union, and a Farm have all been discussed by members. Whether these ideas are realised or not the 1 in 12 Club remains a living example of practical anarchism in action. Participative, democratic and dynamic, the 1 in 12 Club is proof that given the opportunity people have the creativity, intelligence and above all desire to begin taking back control over their own lives.



LIBERTY
EQUALITY
SOLIDARITY

THE 1 IN 12 CLUB COLLECTIVES



The Collectives run independently within the Club, so long as they are open organisations, report regularly to Club meetings and further the aims and principles of the Club. Some are closely linked to the running of the Club, like the Bar Collective; others simply meet and organise within the Club.

Bar Collective (a.k.a. the Staff & Finance Committee).

As a Registered Members Club the 1 in 12 is required to elect a Bar Committee to oversee the management and day to day running of the bars. The Staff & Finance Collective fulfils this function, meeting monthly to check the books, deal with staff concerns, wages, disputes etc. However the Staff & Finance Collective has only an advisory role and any recommendations must be discussed decided upon by the 1 in 12 Sunday Meeting of all Club members.

Records Collective.

One of the first collectives established within the Club, the Record Collective has been producing compilation LP's featuring bands to have played at the Club since 1982. There have been thirteen volumes of "The Worst of the 1 in 12 Club" in all, providing bands with the opportunity to record onto vinyl without musical restriction or financial exploitation of their efforts. All money re-couped from sales is reinvested into the Record Collective to ensure that the process of making compilation LP's continues to chronicle the musical history of the Club.

Publications Collective.

The Publications Collective was established in the early '80s to produce material of interest and relevance to local working class people. Initial effort concentrated on producing Knee Deep in Shit (KDIS), the Clubs own investigative magazine, but with the end of the Miner's Strike the Collective published its first book 'Striking Stuff'. More books followed with investigations into the Freemasons, Economic League, and ex-Bradford Council Leader Eric Pickles. The most recent Publications Collective project has been the 1 in 12 DIY pamphlet series of which this is a part.

Cafe Collective.

In 1989 Club member 'Ma Brench', investing her own money, established a Cafe on the top floor of the building as an entirely independent concern from the rest of the Club. When she left Bradford the Cafe Collective was formed to take over the day to day running of the Cafe and continued to provide excellent vegan/vegetarian food at cheap prices. In recent years the Collective have expanded into outside catering, taking quality cuisine to the masses!!

Peasant's Collective.

Closely related to the Cafe Collective the Peasant's Collective was an attempt to take some control over the production of food cooked in the Cafe as well as its consumption. In December 1994 three unused allotments were taken on and a wide range of veg grown and a store shed rebuilt. In addition the Collective has plans to reclaim a wasteland area of the allotment site for use as a community area. The site has already been cleared and a pond dug, and in time a hedge, shed and seating area will be established.

Games Collective.

The Games Collective was set up to run the pool, football, and snooker tables in the Club. The money raised by these has regularly been donated by

What is the 1 in 12 Club

the Collective to other Club projects including carpeting the bar floor and establishing an internet connection in the library. Until recently the Collective also ran a team in the local Pool & Doms League and continues to represent the Club in the local Quiz League.

Booking Collective.

Historically this Collective was responsible for listening to all tapes sent to the Club by bands and booking those that they felt would go down well. However poor attendance's at gigs featuring unknown bands meant a concentration on those that had already proved popular or that members specifically wanted to see. For these reasons the Booking Collective is presently defunct and events are now organised by individuals.

Stimulations Collective.

The Stimulations Collective exists to organise all-night rave events at the Club. These have proved incredibly popular, with every floor of the Club being used by different DJ's with a "chill-out" room in the Cafe. The money raised from these events will eventually be used to finance the major building work necessary to improve the fire exits and increase the Club's capacity.

Building Collective/Maintenance Collective.

Almost all of the work carried out during the reversion of the building from derelict mill to social club was organised by the Building Collective, made up of the most dedicated and committed volunteer workers. The efforts of the hundreds of Club members who helped were co-ordinated and directed by this collective who were themselves learning as they went along. On completion the Collective was wound down but the experience and confidence gained by the members involved has left the Club with a ready and willing workforce ready to have a go at any work necessary. Now organised as the Maintenance Collective the most recent work has been the conversion of an old toilet room into a home for the Club archives and an anarchist library.

Library Collective.

Over the years the Club has produced and been the subject of vast amounts of written material, reviews, reports, books, etc. most of which has never been collated and organised. In the spring of 1995 the library collective was established to remedy this situation, to establish a 1 in 12 Club archive, create an anarchist library and connect the Club to the internet. In November building work was completed on a room for this purpose and the library established.

What is the 1 in 12 Club

Defiance Alliance.

The Defiance Alliance is a broad left collective of individuals and groups brought together by concerns over the Criminal Justice Bill. The Defiance Alliance has since spread its efforts to anti-road campaigns, actions against open-cast mining, and the networking of different campaigning groups.

P.A. Collective.

The P.A. Collective was set up to keep the old Club P.A. going and raise money to improve and upgrade it. In the last year over £1500 has been spent in this regard and recently the Collective was able to buy a new and desperately need mixing desk for the Club. Money is raised through hiring out the gig floor as a practice room, hiring out Club mics etc. to bands, and on occasion hiring out the entire P.A. itself.

1 in 12 Football Team.

Established in 1992 the 1 in 12 A.F.C began life as a kick around at a local sport centre every Tuesday night. As skills and enthusiasm developed the Club entered the local Bradford Saturday League and after finishing bottom of the lowest division in its first season has steadily improved. In addition the team have twice been invited to the Hanau Football Tournament in Germany, on the last occasion actually winning it, and were semi-finalists in a similar tournament in Bristol in 1995.

The Spanish Trip Collective.

The 1936 anarchist revolution in Spain has always been an inspiration to many Club members and in the Spring of 1995 it was proposed that we celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the revolution by organising a 1 in 12 Club trip to Barcelona for May Day 1996. A savings scheme was established to help members raise the air fares and contacts established with the C.N.T and other anarchist groups in Barcelona. All being well a group of around 30 people will travel to Spain representing the 1 in 12 Club in a gesture of international solidarity.

The Solidarity Fund.

Not strictly a collective, the solidarity fund is a Club account in which money is raised to support those in need of assistance, whether it be for strike support, donations to campaigns, or paying fines of Club members arrested for direct action.