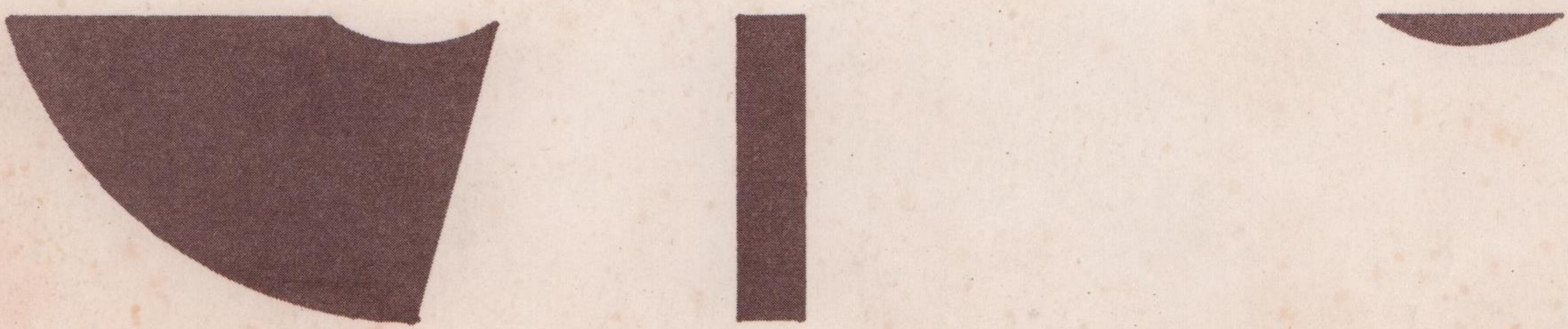


CAMPAIGN FOR HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY



ANNUAL REPORT 1975



'FROM MALVERN TO SHEFFIELD'

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
CAMPAIGN FOR HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY

JUNE 1974 - MAY 1975

A statement of financial accounts and a
discussion of the relevant administrative
work will be provided separately.

PRESIDENT'S FORWARD

I cannot but marvel at the progress which CHE has made since its provincial origins back in 1963 as the North-Western Homosexual Law Reform Committee

The inadequacies of the limited law reform which we first set out to promote have long been apparent. Although the struggle for further progress will be a long one, we have already prepared much of the ground.

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

The year since the highly successful Malvern CHE Conference has witnessed the implementation of various and far-ranging resolutions. This has been made possible only by the establishment of a truly national network of CHE groups which, by and large, have cooperated splendidly with the Executive in promoting CHE's progress.

The year has witnessed few changes in the composition of the Executive. In the autumn, Richard Webster found it necessary to resign because of business and personal problems. The Executive used its powers of cooption once to include Barry Jackson. On the staff side, Howarth Penny resigned as General Secretary in December and his successor, Alan Clarke, took up his duties at the beginning of February. In spite of a difficult hiatus over the Christmas and New Year period, this change-over was achieved with remarkable smoothness.

In fact, the national office is going through great changes. As CHE grows, the need for an efficient central agency to distribute information and service the various elements of the organisation is daily more apparent. Apart from the preparation and distribution of literally thousands of items per week within the organisation, the national office carries a heavy responsibility in coordinating our external relations: 15,000 incoming letters and 12,000 phone calls per year is not an exaggerated estimate. The very real problem of how to staff an ever growing and increasingly busy CHE still awaits a solution. The national office survives at present only by the determined and excellent voluntary contributors who work under the guidance of the General Secretary and the Assistant General Secretary. In the immediate future, increased use of the already valuable CHE London Office is well worth exploration.

It may be useful to review how far CHE is presently achieving its stated constitutional aims. Firstly, CHE is certainly promoting through its various campaigns the cause of equality for homosexuals both in terms of self-fulfilment and of the contribution to society. CHE has taught many women and men self-respect for the first time in their lives and has given them the confidence to take an active part in the gay rights movement. This trend should gain momentum over the next twelve months, although the organisation must remain most watchful for instances of discrimination and misrepresentation.

Our major achievement has been to change the attitude of gays towards themselves and to raise expectations about our rightful place in society.

This is a living issue which will not be stilled by any temporary setback or fitful outburst of reaction. The seeds have been sown and are being nurtured, but the harvest has yet to be reaped. Politicians and policemen take note!

Alan Horsfall

CHE's second aim is to fight for absolute equality at law: this will be stimulated by our law reform bill, sponsored jointly by the Scottish Minorities Group and the Union for Sexual Freedoms in Ireland. Two things command attention. CHE must not lose sight of the fact that equality at law is only part of the battle for equality and must not lose heart or confidence in the long and perhaps repetitive struggle ahead.

The third aim has also witnessed substantial progress: to campaign for improved sex education in schools. An essential pre-requisite is a detailed study kit which has just been completed. Gay activists should not forget that there is a serious lack of any form of sex education in many British schools: ignorance of, and prejudice against, one form of sexual orientation is but part of a problem on a broader canvas.

As regards the fourth aim, CHE has always held it as a priority to pay attention to those in need or in distress: our befriending and counselling service, FRIEND, has taken the brunt. Much excellent, and perhaps undervalued, work has been done. It is essential that the current question of management and structure is settled quickly to allow full and undivided concentration on the all important subject of improving and extending the overall service. The debates about what constitutes befriending and counselling, the experiments in group therapy and the realisation that some human problems may lie beyond limited resources and expertise must all continue with vigour.

Lastly, CHE is pledged to support the inauguration of local groups and social centres. Much improvement and standardising have occurred over the past year, and it is also pleasing to note the development of various centres and information services for gay people in which CHE has often played a key role. Of course, only a small proportion of British homosexuals are members of CHE. It must be remembered that not all share our beliefs, though the basic problem remains to offer good membership services on a national scale. Far more than is commonly accepted, CHE is first and foremost a voluntary self-help organisation whose problems of communications, personnel and personal relations are shared by many bodies not at all concerned with the rights of minority sexual groups.

In essence, then, it can be claimed that CHE is promoting all its aims fairly vigorously. To improve and expand the achievement, a greater cognizance of the world beyond the homosexual sub-culture will undoubtedly be necessary. The never-absent threat of excessive introspection must constantly be challenged.

It would be unwise to conclude without reference to the main threat. Crippling inflation has damaged everyone, not least CHE. The cost of our postage, printing, publicity, travel (to name but a few) is rocketing at an alarming rate. Without a central framework, CHE would soon collapse into small cliques and divided splinter-groups. To avoid the abyss, the individual parts of CHE must

see the worth of what the organisation as a whole is doing; this means constant support by fundraising and recruitment. The Sheffield Conference, in particular, must accept the stark reality that new ideas and portfolios in neglected areas cannot be divorced from the simple truth that income and expenditure have got to be matched. CHE, after all, is not solely concerned with extending gay rights: it is also a principal watchdog to protect what has already been won or conceded. The Sheffield Conference, in the context of realism about what we can afford and what should be our priorities, is undoubtedly a watershed.

Barrie Kenyon

MEMBERS OF THE CHE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SHOWING PRINCIPAL PORTFOLIOS as at 31 May 1975

JOHN BENNETT	Armed forces; overseas and other homophile liason	TREVOR LOCKE	Youth Services Information Project research
TED CLAPHAM	Befriending and counselling; FRIEND	DENNIS NADIN	Social services; churches liason
IKE COWEN	Law reform; legal advisor	PETER NAUGHTON	Treasurer; membership services
BERNARD GREAVES	Press and publicity	ANGELA NEEDHAM	Education; student liason
WALLACE GREVATT	Local groups; recruitment	GLENYS PARRY	Vice-Chairperson; medical and psychiatric campaign
BARRY JACKSON	Conferences' organiser	LIZ STANLEY	Women; elderly gays
BARRIE KENYON	Chairman	PAUL TEMPERTON	Political and parliamentary liason; employment.

SALARIED EMPLOYEES

ALAN CLARKE	General Secretary
CHRISTOPHER BOWDEN-SMITH	Assistant General Secretary

LAW REFORM

The Malvern Conference called upon the Executive to split the proposals for law reform into three phases. Phase One was to be the preparation of a bill for the reform of the more urgent anomalies of the 1967 Act in order to obtain legal equality for male homosexuals with heterosexuals and female homosexuals. Phase Two was to consider whether anything could be done in regard to legal discrimination against homosexuals in areas outside of the criminal law - taxation, inheritance, custody of children etc. Phase Three was, broadly, to consider any remaining areas of the law.

Following discussions between CHE, SMG, and USFI an amended version of the bill was presented to the Executive in July. A great amount of drafting work then took place both in meetings and by correspondence. In February, the CHE Executive approved a final draft. It is that version which has now been presented to the public. The philosophy which was followed by the drafting committee was, quite simply, to achieve complete equality at law, to give proper respect to the protection of the public from unacceptable displays of sexual behaviour in public, to protect homosexuals from harassment and persecution from the police in instances where equivalent heterosexual behaviour would not be offensive, and to nullify the effects of court decision about the publication of homosexual literature and advertisements. Proposals for the implementation of further law reform will be laid before the Conference.

OTHER LEGAL MATTERS

In view of the burdens imposed by the preparation of the bill, it is perhaps fortunate that there has been some decline in the number of requests for legal assistance received by our legal advisor. Many phone calls have been received, although it is not usually possible to give an instant legal opinion without thought and research. The legal advisor has dealt with forty four requests by letter: these covered such miscellaneous areas as foreign law, indecent material through the post, employment discrimination, threats of eviction on the grounds of homosexuality, public indecency and the age of consent.

CHE sent a submission to the Home Office Working Party on Vagrancy and Street Offences, drawing attention to the need to treat homosexuality and heterosexuality on equal grounds. There has been correspondence with the Haldane Society supporting their submission to the James Committee on the distribution of criminal business between the Crown Court and the Magistrates' Courts, the Society of Public Teachers of Law and the Association of Law Teachers. The legal advisor has also had informal conversations with members of the Law Commission.

On the campaigning front, the October general election provided a first opportunity for CHE to make an impact with its proposals. Questionnaires were sent to the vast majority of the 1500 parliamentary candidates in England and Wales. Local CHE groups put in a great deal of hard work. As a result, we now have information on the attitudes in general of over half the members of the House of Commons. This provides a sound basis for lobbying.

A mass rally in Trafalgar Square, London, marked the official opening of the campaign in November. Organised with the help of the South London Gay Liberation Front, this was a remarkable success with about 3,000 supporters attending. The boost to the morale of our movement was tremendous; the event demonstrated that CHE can mobilise if it tries.

The bill itself was publicly launched at a press conference in early July, along with our booklet *No Offence*. There has been an intensive programme of talks to CHE groups about the bill, emphasising not only the demand for a universal age of consent of sixteen and the extension of law reform to Northern Ireland and Scotland, but the inadequacies in the present law relating to definitions of privacy, indecent display, the armed forces and merchant navy, and advertising.

Parliamentary action will begin in earnest when Parliament reassembles in the autumn. It is not possible to speculate in advance what form this will take, but CHE is working closely with a small group of Members of Parliament of the three main parties, as well as seeking to establish contact with a number of members of the House of Lords. The annual general meeting of the National Council for Civil Liberties instructed its Executive to give unqualified support to the bill.

Finally, it should be noted that the annual conference in 1973 set up a working party to study the legal status of homosexuals - not in terms of sexual behaviour but from the point of view of tax, inheritance, passports, next-of-kin provisions, mortgages etc, with particular reference to the many ways in which heterosexual couples are granted special treatment by officialdom, whereas homosexual unions are not recognised by law. The working party was to make an interim report at Malvern and a final report in 1975.

Unfortunately, the members of the working party felt unable to continue after their interim report. Having done a great deal of groundwork, the members felt unsure of the direction they were intended to pursue. Some felt that the only logical consequence of their work would be to nullify marriage, whilst others thought that this would lead to areas beyond CHE's concern.

Ike Cowen

Paul Temperton

WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN

Since Malvern, this has been designated one of CHE's major national campaigns. Throughout the year, the Women's Campaign Committee (WCC) has coordinated and initiated much of the work.

The WCC has taken over a major responsibility for the welfare of women members. Many letters have been answered on a personal basis, since it has been found that women are more responsive to the needs of female enquirers. The committee has had a major responsibility for the befriending of a large number of women, by personal contact and letter, where there is no CHE or FRIEND group cognizant of the problems. We have held one national meeting for women interested in befriending, have urged all women members who are interested to help in FRIEND and continued to press for less male orientated criteria to be adopted in the selection of FRIEND's volunteers.

A large part of our work has been to ensure that adequate information should exist about gay people, including gay women. All too often, CHE's national literature has tended to neglect women. To date we have produced two major leaflets: *Everything you wanted to know about homosexuality*, which has so far sold fifteen thousand copies; and a basic kit *Befriending People*, which sets out in detail our feelings about the purpose and methods of this befriending. Two shorter leaflets and a recruiting poster have also been made available.

Members of WCC have also been involved in the organisation of Sheffield Conference, so that women members can be confident of full recognition and facilities. The results of a questionnaire sent out to all women members will be made available at the Conference.

FRIEND

FRIEND, the befriending and counselling service of CHE, has continued to expand. During 1974 almost five thousand people requested help. These were mainly handled by the present fourteen FRIEND groups and the national FRIEND *poste restante* acted mainly as a referral and distribution point. The sorts of problems presented to FRIEND continue to be as varied and personal as ever: loneliness, isolation, the difficulties of homosexual and bisexual married women and men, conflicts between religious beliefs and sexual orientation, anxieties of parents and relatives, fears of being 'found out', legal matters, divorce proceedings etc.

Considerable debate has continued throughout the year about the future management of FRIEND. On April 26, the FRIEND Conference voted against continuing an application for charitable status. Although the theoretical benefits were well understood - access to charitable funds, income tax relief on covenants etc - it was generally felt that the path to charitable status was by no means sure and that theoretical benefits could turn out to be more illusory than anticipated. A paper on structure will be presented to the Sheffield Conference.

The low level of CHE's advertising during the past year has meant a poor recruitment record of women members. It is now very clear that only a massive publicity campaign aimed at women will resolve the numbers barrier and the present male orientation of the whole organisation.

At Malvern, a motion was passed to set up women's meetings within local CHE groups. In April, local groups were circulated with a questionnaire about their progress in this regard. Seventy two groups did not reply at all, and many others were clearly unhappy about the idea. There is a table of results in Appendix 'B' of this annual report. It should be said that the opposition often comes from female members of the groups, although the motion at Malvern was carried unanimously. It should be emphasised that separate women's meetings are not a divisive move, but a way of improving awareness and increasing the often pitiful number of women in the local group situation.

For the future, CHE must concentrate on advertising to increase the present fifteen percent women total of CHE's membership. Women in CHE need more encouragement to take on responsibilities, and both local groups and the Executive must show a greater awareness that the needs of gay women are a concern common to us all.

Liz Stanley

An attempt was made to broaden the structure of FRIEND by the institution of a management committee in January. This is presently composed of three interested members of the CHE Executive and three members of FRIEND: nominations received by the closing date only matched the six vacancies and no elections were necessary. The management committee is currently working on a structure paper, is actively considering a working-party document on the selection of befrienders and is encouraging the development of more recognised FRIEND groups. It is felt that groups are more satisfactory, in principle, than the concept of 'isolated' befrienders in view of the need for differing expertise required in some cases.

Two FRIEND groups are now in receipt of local authority grants. London FRIEND was successful in its application for an urban aid grant - in fact £7,900 over the next five years. Seventy five percent of this will be provided by the Home Office and twenty five percent by the London Borough of Islington. The grant, given despite some local protest, will enable London FRIEND to establish a new permanent office within the Borough and to establish a paid staff including a full time General Secretary.

Negotiations for premises are continuing, and the post of General Secretary has been advertised. Merseyside FRIEND has also been in receipt of a much smaller local authority grant, and has continued to offer a telephone contact on an evening basis and facilities for people wishing to visit the centre to discuss their problems. Similar facilities, of course, are offered by other FRIEND groups. It is growing increasingly clear that a regular telephone service and visiting facilities are needed by all groups. Cara FRIEND, based in Belfast, is to have closer links with national FRIEND.

FRIEND was represented at the York Psychosexual Conference during April at the invitation of the organisers. In January, FRIEND became a founder member of the newly established National Association of Young People's Counselling Advisory Services. Also, FRIEND is to work closely with APEX, the charitable trust which is concerned to find employment for those convicted of sexual offences.

During the year, there has been experiment both in the ways those in distress are helped and in the self-awareness and training of the volunteers.

LOCAL GROUPS

The most encouraging trend has been a general lessening of the old distinction between a local and a national member. The spirit of the Malvern Conference, the introduction of the combined subscription scheme and of the field officer system, the spread of local groups into a truly national network and the recruitment campaign have all played their part.

At the start of the current Executive's term of office, it was apparent that there was an urgent need to forge closer links between the local groups, both new and established, and the national organisation. In July, the field officer system was adopted. The field officer acts in an advisory capacity and is required to recommend the establishment of new groups as appropriate, to report on the progress of established groups and, generally, to be the linkperson in communication from national to local level and vice-versa. The system has so far developed along useful lines, although there remain unfortunate gaps in the overall geographical coverage.

Communications have also been assisted by a regular column in the *CHE Bulletin*. 'Nationwide' is culled from local group newsletters or magazines and is a digest of recent news and developments. An increasing number of local groups are now issuing interesting monthly news in an increasingly eye-catching format. The local groups officer, the field officers and many members of the Executive have visited local groups during the year.

A valuable feature has been the growth of regional meetings where groups in particular areas get together to share experiences and discover new ways of dealing with the group situation in the interests

London FRIEND has tried group therapy techniques as an alternative to the one-to-one sessions which tend to be reminiscent of the older directive counselling techniques. Other FRIEND groups have organised various seminars on the qualities needed for befriending, the need to avoid the impression that counselling is an 'expert' and 'client' relationship and have reorganised their methods of selecting befrienders. This last point is also being considered by the management committee.

For the future, FRIEND needs to concentrate on standardising the overall service, whilst recognising that conformity does not mean similarity in all cases. Moreover, some human problems can easily strain the limited resources which FRIEND has available, and it is essential that FRIEND continues to operate the right to include befrienders and counsellors without necessary reference to their membership of CHE. Also, it is hoped that CHE groups will continue to support the work of FRIEND both at national and local level. In May, local CHE groups were reminded about the Malvern Conference resolution that they pay at least £5 per year to national FRIEND. The response has been encouraging, and it is proposed to keep CHE convenors more closely in touch with FRIEND developments in future.

Ted Clapham

of members. South Wales, the West of England, North London, Humberside, Essex, Hertfordshire, Middlesex, Yorkshire and Greater Manchester are regions where conferences less structured than National Councils have proved pleasurable and constructive.

Since June 1974, groups have been formed in 28 new locations and 4 groups have been restarted. Overall group management has vastly improved, and most groups now provide expanding social, caring and campaigning wings. Notable successes in the local and national media were the London groups' contribution to a well-publicised London Weekend programme, whilst Milton Keynes were featured in a Jimmy Saville *Speakeasy* programme on Radio 1 and a Granada *World in Action* feature.

The most effective way to manage the London groups has been the centre of much debate. A Central London Agency was established to introduce new members to the eight central London groups with opportunities to learn about the variety of facilities offered. Consideration of how best to operate the London Office within the framework of the overall organisation together with a re-appraisal of how best to bring the nineteen groups in the Greater London area together for certain functions has been considered in the light of the field officer development. A final decision on this important area has to be taken after the preparation of this report, but before Sheffield.

Field officers now meet on a monthly basis. A local groups' manual is in process of production. A successful local groups' training weekend was held in Brighton in December, with emphasis on communications. Of course, much remains to be done. CHE must continue to persevere in creating a fuller awareness among the members of the potential to create even better facilities and more effective campaigning in the years ahead.

Wallace Grevatt

INTERNAL STRUCTURE

The Malvern Conference required that the Executive member responsible for local groups report to the next Conference on the relationship between local groups, the National Council and the Executive. Commissions at the December local groups' training weekend first discussed the matter; a working party was set up later. The findings will be presented to the Sheffield Conference. A strengthening of the managerial aspects of CHE is suggested, and attention is given to the desirability of integrating the National Councils more firmly into the structure.

Four National Councils have been held in the period from Malvern to the Sheffield Conferences. The main emphasis has been on the business side of CHE, backed up by items of general concern within the gay movement. Each Council has heard and discussed reports from the Chairman and Treasurer of the Executive. The March Council had the unpleasant task of de-recognising certain groups which had ceased to exist or be effective, or wished for affiliation only. On this last point the Executive carried a unanimous motion that 'CHE can consider for affiliation only those groups precluded from being a recognised group of the organisation'.

The September Council in Birmingham included a talk from Ray Gosling on the role of a Vice-President and accepted a motion that all groups, apart from exceptional cases, should adopt the name of the

town in which they meet most frequently. The afternoon session was devoted to the general election campaign and plans for law reform.

The December Council, at Brighton, was incorporated into a special local groups conference which included sessions on CHE as a mass movement, workshop sessions, public speaking and understanding the media. The March Council in Newport heard details of the proposed recruitment drive and held discussion groups on sexism.

At Northampton in June, special consideration was given to FRIEND's structure, a special treasurers' meeting and a talk from Roger Baker on 'coming out'. The Executive has been encouraged by these quarterly meetings which, despite inflation, have encouraged reasonably strong representation from the groups. Voting rights have continued to be confined to one representative per group, but speaking rights are extended to all CHE members attending. Sincere thanks are due to the host groups in Birmingham, Brighton, Newport and Northampton for providing accommodation and entertainment.

Wallace Grevatt

RECRUITMENT

The 1975 recruitment drive on a national scale is the first systematic attempt by CHE to increase its membership. It began in May and is to run until the end of September. The objective of the drive is to double the membership existing in April on the simple basis of requesting every existing member to get a friend to join CHE.

There is a need to ensure that our campaigning activities are backed by a much greater number of people who are CHE members. It is also felt that one major means of meeting our rapidly growing costs is to increase our membership revenue and, hopefully, to limit the increases in yearly subscription rates which may be necessary.

Specially designed recruitment membership forms were sent to every member during April. Recruitment 'kits' were presented to the local groups by the field officers. This publicity has emphasised that CHE is a caring organisation with opportunities for meeting friends in a warm and convivial atmosphere. It is hoped that CHE will be able to grow, whilst maintaining friendliness and encouraging a broader appeal. Many groups have taken up the challenge with enthusiasm and it is hoped that more recruitment drives with different emphases will be launched in the future.

Wallace Grevatt

TRADE UNIONS AND EMPLOYMENT

In the Autumn, CHE produced a short general leaflet which was distributed intensively to delegates at the Trades Union Congress. Meanwhile work in individual unions has rightly been originated by members from within those unions, including NALGO, NUPE, NUR, ASTMS, TSSA, NUT, ATTI, TGWU, APEX, CPSA, ACTT, NUJ and also professional associations such as BASW. CHE has tried to provide such liaison and support as seemed appropriate, rather than taking action in its own name. This whole area has only just begun as far as the homophile movement is concerned. With more resources CHE could adopt a more vigorous role.

Paul Temperton

This may also be the place to mention the suggestion that the Anti-discrimination legislation which Parliament is introducing to ban discrimination against women in employment and elsewhere should be extended to cover discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation. There is no general agreement even within CHE on this subject: some sisters have argued that the move represents an opportunistic attempt by some male gays to 'ride on the back' of the women's movement. In the event, CHE's own action has been confined to publicising our support for the Bill as a whole, including a letter to the Home Office, as a mark of our solidarity with the women's struggle. We have, however, noted with approval that the NCCL's many representations on the bill do include a sexual orientation dimension.

MOTIONS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SHEFFIELD 1975

The following motions have been received for Conference. Amendments should be submitted by Friday 25 July to Steering Committee, CHE, PO Box 427, 28 Kennedy Street, Manchester M60 2EL.

1. Election of National Treasurer (Constitution)

That this Conference amends the Constitution of CHE so that the Treasurer is elected annually from the whole membership so that as wide a choice as possible will be allowed in selecting a candidate for this highly important post; which at present is restricting because the Treasurer has to be picked only from the members elected to the Executive Committee

Proposed: *London West End Group; East London Group; Stoke-on-Trent Group; Marylebone Group; Oldham Group.*

2. Membership (Constitution)

Conference amends the CHE Constitution as follows:

Clause 3; first sentence number (a) and insert new (b)

The Executive Committee shall have the right in extraordinary circumstances to censure or, if absolutely necessary, expel from membership a CHE member provided that no more than one EC member holds a contrary view. The grounds for censure or expulsion shall include :

- (i) breaches of confidentially held information or abuse of positions inside CHE
- (ii) statements or actions allegedly on behalf of CHE which deny the basic principle that homosexuality is equally as valid a life style as heterosexuality.

It is emphasised that disagreement is not normally discredit and that censure shall normally precede expulsion.

Prior to censure or expulsion a member shall have the right of representing herself or himself before the Executive. An expelled member shall always have the right of appeal to the following Annual Conference.

Proposed: *Executive Committee*

3. Structure (Constitution)

Conference notes recommendation 4.8 of the Report of the Structure Working Party and resolves to amend the Constitution as follows:

Add new paragraph (b) to Clause 7 of the Constitution, and renumber existing paragraph - (a).

(b) In the event of a member of the Executive Committee continually and seriously disrupting the working of the Campaign or the Committee, the Executive may recommend to the membership that the offending committee member be removed from membership of the Executive Committee. Such recommendation shall require support of every member of the Executive save the

Executive member in question. Such a recommendation shall then be put to the membership in the form of a postal ballot and shall only be carried if it is supported by at least 75% of those members returning voting papers.'

Proposed: *Executive Committee*

4 Finance

Conference requests the Executive Committee to approach business men in CHE to plan fundraising ventures.

Proposed: *North London Group*

5. Finance (Bulletin)

Conference resolves that in order to cut down on printing and postage the CHE *Bulletin* shall be sent out only every two or three months.

Proposed: *David Porter, Brian Hill*

6. Finance (Subscriptions)

Conference, regretting the inadequate consultation with every local group in advance of the recent decision on subscription charges, calls upon the Executive Committee to consider this matter further, with a view to increasing the standard rate of subscription and, within this, to increasing also the amount allocated to the local group.

Proposed: *Wandsworth/Richmond Group*

7. Finance (Group donations)

This Conference notes with concern -

- i the large increases in the costs of administration in CHE and FRIEND
- ii the great amount of unpaid voluntary work necessary to run national office and FRIEND
- iii the expenses incurred by members of official (EC appointed) working parties and committees in discharging their duties both in CHE and FRIEND
- iv the lack of adequate finance available for mandated campaign promotion and execution

This Conference believes that -

- i without adequate financing, the campaigning aims of CHE and the counselling work of FRIEND will be difficult to achieve
- ii income from membership subscriptions alone will not adequately finance the work of CHE and FRIEND
- iii National office and FRIEND should no longer have to depend on the goodwill and commitment of those volunteers who regularly give their administrative services to the organisations
- iv members of the official (EC appointed) working parties and committees should not be financially penalised by their appointment to such bodies
- v all local groups should be concerned with, and committed to solving the continuing financial difficulties of CHE and FRIEND

This Conference instructs -

- A all local groups -
 - i to donate a minimum of £100 per financial year to CHE National Funds commencing with the financial year 1975/76

- ii to donate a minimum of £20 per financial year to FRIEND National Funds commencing in 1975/76
- iii to submit to National Office a statement of accounts at the end of each financial year
- iv to submit to National Office a schedule or provisional date for the payment of the above-mentioned donations.

B the Executive Committee -

- i to organise, through the services of the Finance and General Services Committee, or an equivalent body, four regional fund-raising events in each year commencing with 1975/76
- ii to present to National Council, on a quarterly basis and Annual Conference, a statement of receipts from local group donations and from the above-mentioned fund-raising events
- iii to reprimand any local group which does not comply with the instructions in Part (A) and to inform National Council of such actions
- iv to employ such additional staff as are needed to ensure the efficient administration nationally of CHE and FRIEND
- v to reimburse all reasonable and approved expenses incurred by members of official working parties and committees in discharging their duties
- vi to budget adequately and realistically for expenses incurred under Part (iv B) and Part (v B) above
- vii to include Part A in any manual or guidelines issued to any new or existing local group

C National Council

- i to make note of any EC reprimands to local groups under B iii above and to request explanation from any local group receiving such reprimand
- ii to censure any groups which do not comply with the instructions in Part A above
- iii to withdraw recognition from any group refusing to comply with the instructions of Part A above.

Proposed: *Westminster Group*

8. Campaigning

Conference regrets the lack of information given to local groups about the progress of national campaigning work of all kinds by CHE, considers that the relative failure of several past initiatives by the Executive has been due primarily to lack of such communications, and calls upon the Executive -

- a) to institute more regular and detailed consultation with local groups about what should be and can be done with their help;
- b) to formulate campaign targets only in the light of such consultation; and
- c) to develop a system for quick, accurate and effective reaction to outside events along lines which it has ensured will command the support of the majority of CHE members.

Proposed: *Ian Buist, Dermot Quirke*

9. FRIEND

Conference receives and notes the report and recommendations of the Workshop on 'FRIEND'

Proposed: *Conference Committee*

10. Membership (Composite)

Conference, while affirming the policy that membership of CHE must be increased, believes that the struggle for gay rights should have equal priority in publicity.

Conference is concerned at the sexist nature of the posters used in the recent membership campaign. Conference considers that these posters put down a large percentage of CHE membership and are an insult to gay women and men. Conference instructs the Executive to withdraw these posters immediately and produce other posters which reflect the widest aspects of gayness.

Proposed: *North London Group*

11. Membership (Recruitment)

Conference believes that campaigning is the essence of CHE's work. Any move to play down campaigning in CHE must be stopped and campaigning given a bigger boost both nationally and locally. Conference deplors the current membership leaflet description of CHE as a club without mentioning campaigning. Campaigning together with social activities is for the emancipation of all gays.

Proposed: *Oldham Group*

12. Disabled Gays Campaign

That Conference establishes a campaign specifically for disabled gays, the purpose of which would be to investigate, report on and seek to improve the social facilities available to gay women and men who are physically disabled. The term disabled to be used to denote those who are spastics, epileptic, agoraphobic, blind, deaf, dumb, etc but not those who are mentally handicapped. The question of how the latter can be helped also to receive very serious consideration. The disabled gays campaign shall not compete with established services such as FRIEND, nor segregate those who are already 'a minority within a minority'.

Proposed: *Brian Hill, David Porter.*

13. Aged Homophile in Society

That this Conference calls for a seminar of at least one day's duration to examine and study the needs and place of the aged homophile man and woman in society, as well as the transvestite and transexual; and that bodies interested in all these fields be invited to cooperate and contribute; and that this event be held by 29 February 1976.

Proposed: *London West End Group*

14. Aged Gays

That Conference receives and notes the report and recommendations of the Workshop on 'Aged Gays'

Proposed: *Conference Committee (formal)*

15. Law Reform (Stage 2)

Conference receives and notes the report and recommendation of the Workshop on 'Law Reform'

Proposed: *Conference Committee (formal)*

16. Women

Conference receives and notes the report and recommendations of the Workshops on 'Women in befriending, working with womens' liberation and sexism etc'

Proposed: *Conference Committee (formal)*

17. Gays and Employment

Conference notes -

1. The apparent indifference of trades union and professional associations at present, to the problems of their members who are gay
2. TUC circular 100 which whilst concerned with discrimination in employment significantly omitted the category of 'sexual orientation'
3. The emergence of autonomous gay groups of both professions and individual unions, and that these groups exist to counter the isolation of gays in their employment, and fight cases of discrimination that occur on the grounds of sexual orientation

Conference believes that -

1. The fear of discrimination/victimisation in employment is a very significant factor in the oppression of gay people
2. Trades Unions and Professional Associations have a responsibility to ensure the fair and equal treatment of all their members, and are unlikely to take their responsibilities to gay members seriously unless they are pressured
3. CHE has a responsibility to its membership to campaign in the field of employment, as elsewhere, and to create support for the gay rights issue amongst both employees and employers
4. Local groups should work together with National Office and specialist groups on cases of discrimination in employment and developing the awareness of non-gay colleagues to the gay rights issue
5. Support for gay equality from the general public will become a reality when gays can openly discuss their orientation with fellow workers, in the same way that heterosexuals are able to do

Conference instructs that Executive Committee -

1. To make a member of the Executive responsible for Employment and to encourage that person to form a sub-committee to which members and advisors can be invited to join
2. To counter cases of discrimination which occur in employment and to make the case for equal treatment of gays to both employees and employers organisations
3. To press the TUC to revise its anti-discrimination code to include the category of 'sexual orientation'
4. To encourage CHE members to additionally join their applicable profession/union gay groups and to assist in the formation of other groups
5. To accept that some gay groups may wish to remain autonomous from CHE but to encourage the closest possible cooperation in campaigning
6. To consider the possibility of allowing affiliation to CHE of autonomous profession/union groups, whose specific function would prevent their recognition as full CHE groups
7. To encourage members to press their own union/professional association to take up gay rights as a priority social issue which effects a significant proportion of members
8. To make representation to government that agreements already obtained to prevent discrimination on sexual orientation be extended to cover all employment in local and national government.

Proposed: *Harrow Gay Unity*

Gays at Work

Conference receives and notes the report and recommendations of the Workshop on 'Gays at Work'

Proposed: *Conference Committee (formal)*

19 Students and CHE

Conference notes -

1. The enthusiastic support of CHE by many students including non-gays
2. The Gay Rights Mandate of the National Union of Students which calls on NUS Constituent Organisations to work with CHE, and the subsequent work of NCEGRC and other students in developing links
3. That whilst many students have much to offer CHE others are isolated and need the friendship and support that a local CHE group can offer
4. That there are one million students in Britain, and the support of NUS for gay rights is vital in developing understanding amongst non-gay students and in supporting gay students in their colleges
5. That strong links between local CHE groups and colleges are being further developed by Field Officers

Conference believes that -

1. CHE should give active encouragement to help gay students' movements and encourage student membership of CHE
2. the affiliation scheme for Gaysocs should continue, recognising their particular importance to the gay community where there is no local CHE
3. the active support by student unions will be vital in promoting the law reform bill, as it will provide support for thousands of under 21s to whom the legislation will specifically apply

Conference instructs the Executive Committee -

1. To appoint a member of the Executive to act as Student Liason Officer, who will be in contact with both the NUS Executive and with student CHE members
2. To maintain regular contact with Gaysocs and develop the affiliation scheme and encourage student membership of CHE
3. To advise local CHE groups how they can most effectively work with the gay student movement and to make the Executive SLO responsible for the CHE Education Campaign in Higher Education institutions
4. To encourage development of a CHE students sub-committee to work with the SLO in this

Proposed: *David Dancer, Dave Green*

20. Education

Conference receives and notes the report and recommendations of the Workshop on 'Education'.

Proposed: *Conference Committee (formal)*

21. Young Gays

Conference receives and notes the report and recommendations of the Workshop on 'Young gays'

Proposed: *Conference Committee (formal)*

22. Church Attitudes

Recognising that christian homosexuals form a minority both within the homophile movement and within the church, this Conference mandates the Executive to show sensitivity to the work of christian homosexuals and to work closely with those christians already campaigning within the christian churches, rather than duplicate the work already being done.

Furthermore Conference expresses concern that elements of the gay press misrepresent many christians by its undue emphasis on anti-christian propaganda whilst failing to report work of christians within the homophile movement.

Proposed: *Bill Hurdman, John Pearce*

23 Religion

Conference receives and notes the report and recommendations of the Workshop on 'Religion'.

Proposed: *Conference Committee (formal)*

24. Convenors Conference

Conference instructs the Executive to organise a conference for convenors, chairpersons, secretaries etc of the CHE groups to be held at least once a year to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of group leaders.

Proposed: *Brian Hill*

25. Membership (Group Affiliations)

Conference censures the Executive Committee for its decision to restrict those groups which may become affiliates of CHE and demands that the motion passed at the Executive Committee (15Feb) be reversed so as to allow any gay organisation the right to become affiliates of CHE

Further Conference believes that matters of this sort should be put before CHE groups before a decision is made.

Proposed: *Peter Bishop*

26. Membership (Group Recognition)

Conference resolves that one of the criteria used for granting recognition to CHE groups should be that at least half of the minimum required number of CHE members should be women. Where an independent gay womens group exists this criterion should not apply, but the proposed group formed under the usual criteria.

Proposed: *Executive Committee*

27. Structure (Working Party Report)

Conference receives the Report of the Working Party on the future structure of CHE and resolves to adopt recommendations:

3.1 Steering Committee Composition; 3.2 Steering Committee Duties; 4.1 EC Elections; 4.2 Returning Officer (Elections Count); 4.3 EC Portfolios (and 5.2); 4.4 EC sub-committees; 4.5 Election of Chairperson; 4.8 Removal of EC members; 6.1 EC Progress Reports; 7.1 Group recognition; 7.2 Maintaining group recognition; 7.3 Derecognition of groups; 7.4 Convenors; 8.1 Field Officer appointment; 8.2 Field Officer function; 8.3 Removal; 9 Membership; 10 Affiliations.

(The structure report paragraphs are numbered where there are recommendations. Reference has been made to this report, copies of which have been circulated to Conference Delegates).

Proposed: *Structure Working Party*

28. Structure

Conference receives and notes the report and recommendations of the Workshop on 'Structure'

Proposed: *Conference Committee (formal)*

29 Definition of Homosexual

Conference believes that nearly everyone is innately bisexual; that homosexuality is not a thing apart from heterosexuality; and that many heterosexuals have homosexual feelings which they are not prepared to admit, especially in public.

Conference notes that the most powerful opposition to the CHE Law Reform Campaign and the social emancipation of gays comes from the view that homosexuality is contagious.

Conference considers that this view is fundamentally mistaken.

Conference therefore instructs the Executive when next printing the introductory CHE prospectus, and the Women's Campaign Committee when next printing *Everything you wanted to know about homosexuality* to amend their definitions of homosexual to 'a person who is primarily attracted to others of her or his own sex.'

Proposed: *Bill George*

30 Headquarters

Conference notes that CHE aims to be a political organisation and therefore asks the Executive to seriously consider transferring the Head Office from Manchester to London. As most important aspects of the media and all MPs are heavily concentrated in London the Campaign would be better placed to press its view point in the capital rather than in Manchester.

Proposed: *London Bloomsbury Group*

31. Research and Information

Conference notes -

1. The overall lack in CHE of Information Services, an internal education programme and some policy for development of gay studies
2. The establishment of a CHE Research Library
3. The failure of the Gay Librarians Group to produce booklists and monitor books on homosexuality and make their findings generally available

Conference believes that -

1. Books about homosexuality and gay fiction should be readily available in all libraries and that there should be films and exhibitions open to the public in all major towns
2. CHE has a responsibility to educate and inform its own members about gay rights as well as a responsibility to provide information to the public
3. CHE should be encouraging the production of new books and developing gay studies to provide new ideas relating to homosexuality and sexual politics
4. There are inadequate resources for teaching people the basic facts about homosexuality and that CHE could organise these itself and encourage better facilities in educational institutions
5. CHE local groups should send information about new books to national office, request libraries to stock relevant books, run bookstalls at their meetings, and protest against prejudiced and misinformed literature and for their revision

Conference calls for -

1. A CHE Correspondence School to offer courses on homosexuality to gays and other workers. This service to be run by CHE using tutors who are gay, and to be self-financing
2. The setting up of a research unit to provide information, organise projects, encourage the production of more books etc, prepare bibliographies and press for the establishment of a national gay library, for the advancement of ideas about gay studies and gay liberation.

Conference instructs the Executive Committee

1. To ensure that there is a CHE Research Officer, and a Research Unit responsible for the implementation of the above, and
2. To encourage the making of grants to aid specific research projects.

Proposed: *David Dancer, Oliver Merrington*

CHE ACTIVISTS

The Activists network was set up as a result of a Malvern resolution. It was felt that members particularly keen to campaign beyond the framework of the established national portfolios should form themselves into a loosely federated system.

In the autumn, it appeared that the overall work was going well. Fears that the activists would become an elite or would conflict with the work of local groups seemed to have been dispelled. The Executive, for its part, agreed not to appoint one of its members as leader of the Activists in the usual structured way: this was a deliberate policy to allow the idea to flourish completely from a grass-roots level.

In the event, the Activists' network has not turned out successfully. The 'revolving committee' as the self-perpetuating administrative structure, found great difficulties in coordinating the network, and some members felt they were being directed by another bureaucratic machine. Offers to serve on the committee diminished, money was short and it became clear that an elected leadership to serve for longer periods was needed.

Problems also arose with the register of Activists. There had been virtually no qualifications for membership, and experience demonstrated that this was leading to misrepresentation of CHE and to a minority of Activists being primarily concerned with improving their own situation.

A general meeting for Activists was held in January to attempt to resolve some of these dilemmas. Only fifteen out of ninety Activists attended, but the consensus of opinion was to persevere with the scheme. It was suggested that all Activists should re-register, that a sponsorship qualification should be introduced and that three general meetings at different geographical points should be held over the next year. The Executive accepted these suggestions in February. The nation office is in process of circulating the membership with the requisite Activist forms. It is too early to judge whether these ideas will renew interest in the Activist concept. Certainly, a dedicated and properly coordinated Activist network should be at the heart of our campaigning work.

Barrie Kenyon (on behalf of the Executive)
Christopher Bowden-Smith (last Activists' revolving committee)

EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

Most of the national work has been concerned with the production of an educational study kit, which is presently being printed. The production has involved the commissioning of articles and art work, as well as the gathering of existing material from many sources. Some groups have done stalwart work in their areas. Oxford CHE organised a conference for teachers and others in education in March; Coventry, Bedford/Nothants, Crawley, Sheffield, Wirral and Oldham have arranged meetings, circularised questionnaires and sometimes achieved substantial publicity.

Many enquiries, from as far away as Pakistan, have been sent from those seeking copies of the kit when it becomes available. Partly to help local groups who may feel unsure of how to tackle campaigning in this field, CHE is producing an activist pamphlet called *Gay Education*. This will consist chiefly of the text of a day-long conversation between teachers and others who have addressed educational groups about homosexuality. The pamphlet, it is hoped, may also be used to stimulate sales.

On the international front, it was regrettable that so few people concerned with campaigning in education were present at the International Gay Rights Congress in Edinburgh. However, liason exists between our campaign and that in Scotland, and CHE was represented at a sex education conference in Edinburgh at the end of May.

On the other fronts, efforts continue to obtain statements from the local authorities on their attitudes towards employing gay teachers. Several groups have sought response from the authorities which, however, are unwilling to commit themselves. The NCCL's gay rights committee have also written to local authorities; the results are awaited.

The year has seen the establishment of several independent gay teachers' groups. These began partly on the initiative of Sappho with a symposium on education in London. Gay teachers' groups now exist in London, Manchester and the south west. The London group had its strength tested early as a result of the suspension of a young teacher who talked about homosexuality to his pupils in a London school; the saga still continues at the time of writing.

The education campaign is one with wide implications. We have concentrated on secondary schools, although the sexist and sometimes anti-feminist tone of some primary school materials also need review on general principles. Next year, it is hoped to expand the work of the campaign by closer cooperation with other campaigns in CHE and more liason with the other organisations involved - the Women's movement, gay teachers' groups and the NCCL.

Angela Needham

STUDENT LIASON

The National Union of Students' gay rights campaign has been hampered, like the rest of us, by lack of money. Very few gaysocs are at present affiliated to CHE, and it is arguable how useful this is in any case. What is important is that CHE groups and gaysocs should cooperate together where they exist in the same area. Joint meetings, for instance, are features at Exeter and Bath. Such liason enables students, when they leave university or college, to play a more informed part in CHE if they wish to remain in the gay movement.

It is hoped that those CHE groups which ignore the local gaysocs, and vice-versa, will review their positions. It is certainly true, also, that CHE has much more to learn from gaysocs. There is scope for enabling CHE groups to provide more adequately for young people in general than they may do at present. The formal relations between the NUS gay rights campaign and the CHE Executive will have to be rationalised by next years' Executive.

Angela Needham

YOUTH SERVICES INFORMATION PROJECT

YOUNG GAYS CAMPAIGN

Following the Malvern resolution to set up this campaign, a committee of young gays was formed to oversee and execute the work. It was decided that the policy and approach of the YSIP would be to deal with Youth Service organisations at a national level, rather than with young gays within CHE which should remain the responsibility of the Executive.

The legal consequences of direct involvement with young gays, especially in recruitment, have been widely discussed. CHE's legal advisor circulated information on this point to all convenors. During the past year, no moves have been made by CHE specifically to recruit young gays into CHE. However, a questionnaire was sent out to all local groups asking about the degree to which young gays are already involved in CHE. One problem appears to be that some local groups are not ready to integrate their younger members. Work has already begun in advising groups in this area.

At a national level, the Project has made contact with most of the major youth service organisations. The response has been favourable and very encouraging. In some cases they have solicited our help before contact by CHE. We have supplied them with information about the situation of young

gays, and the increased contact should enable CHE to work more effectively in this field. The Project was represented at a meeting hosted by the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services. A representative of the Department of Education and Science was present, and the general problems of young homosexuals were discussed.

A printed leaflet, *Young Homosexuals*, has been produced and circulated widely. It will also appear in the Education Study Kit. The Project cooperated with Oxford CHE in a highly successful conference on young homosexuals attended by many local teachers. Representatives also attended the National Federation of Homophile Organisations' conference on the same subject.

It was decided that a major booklet on young homosexuals is needed, and an editorial board has already been set up. Various CHE groups have heard talks about the Campaign, and the Project has kept the organisation and the gay press well informed about the progress during the year. Finally, liason has occurred with the student movement, gay education groups, gay social workers' groups, the NCCL and the Young Liberals. There has been some contact with overseas organisations.

Trevor Locke

SOCIAL SERVICES CAMPAIGN

The emphasis has been to provide basic information about CHE to as many statutory and voluntary bodies as possible. Each Director of Social Services in the new local authorities of England and Wales has been sent CHE literature and suggestions for liason and cooperation. About twenty percent of the authorities acknowledged the letter, and only one was totally negative. The venture has led to meetings with district social workers and, in some cases, to CHE involvement in staff training.

Our application for affiliation to the National Council for Social Services was eventually accepted. Every branch of CHE can and should affiliate with its local Council of Voluntary Service, a move which should bring excellent opportunities for publicity, education and campaigning.

During the year, a gay social workers group was formed on the initiative of a CHE member. Working parties on sex education and counselling have already been set up. It is hoped that CHE will work closely with this group in the future. CHE literature has also been sent to Citizens' Advice Bureaux, Family Guidance Units, Family Planning and Marriage Guidance groups, Samaritan groups and other voluntary bodies.

A questionnaire was sent to local groups, but the response was disappointing. Only about one third of the groups replied, and most were unable to find a contact other than the convenor for campaigning and liason work. It is clear the social services campaign has not yet found great credibility within CHE, although it is possible that there is some overlap with FRIEND in this regard.

Dennis Nadin

CHURCHES' CAMPAIGN

Our policy has been to liaise closely with others working within the churches. This has particularly involved working with REACH, an interdenominational group which has established links between the churches and the homophile movement. REACH provides facilities to CHE to circularise their contacts with publicity materials, and many activists are members of both organisations.

Links have been established with the social responsibility departments of all the major christian churches, including the Roman Catholic, Church of England, Baptist, Methodist, United Reform, Quaker and Church of Scotland. It has become clear that most churches have within them individuals pressing for a more informed view of homosexuality.

Day seminars for clergy of all denominations have already been held in Chelmsford, Brighton, Lincoln, Liverpool and Leicester; others are planned. Members of CHE have taken part in the preparation of pamphlets relevant to church members. The first of these, *Cause for Concern*, has been published by REACH.

MEDICAL AND PSYCHIATRIC CAMPAIGN

The emphasis has been to raise the issue of gay rights within the above fields and to provide information about CHE. The campaign is also helping to correct the traditional psychiatric theory which classes all homosexuality as a sickness or a disorder by stressing that a homosexual life-style can be just as mature, healthy and satisfying as a heterosexual one.

CHE was represented at the annual conference of the British Psychological Society. A training workshop on homosexuals and psychotherapy is being planned for this autumn, to be organised by gay psychologists. At the moment, we are trying to persuade the British Psychological Society to sponsor the event. Contact with the Association of Humanistic Psychology led to a weekend encounter workshop on sexual politics and sexual identity. An organisation for gay professionals in the National Health Service has been formed and numbers amongst its members doctors, psychologists, medical students and psychiatric social workers. A London gay medicals group has also been formed.

ARMED FORCES

Work in this area has mainly involved collecting information on the treatment of gays by the authorities. The Minister of Defence is being challenged on the attitude of the Forces and Security authorities on homosexuality; approaches

Two members of CHE sat on a recent sub-committee of the Baptist church which produced a realistic report on homosexuality. Representatives of the CHE Executive gave evidence to the Church of England working party on homosexuality, and a number of CHE members have also presented written evidence.

A wide variety of speaking engagements have been accepted, including several from university religious societies. Local CHE groups have attempted campaigning with varying degrees of success, but many are not liaising with the national organiser who is in a position to make available greater resources and contacts who may prevent overlap and lack of effectiveness.

Work with the non-christian churches has been very limited. We do have some liaison with a gay Jewish group, but attempts to discover members of non-christian churches within CHE have been a failure.

If present initiatives are developed and improved, it could well be that the churches will reconsider their overall attitude to homosexuality and provide a useful support in the not too distant future.

Dennis Nadin

Correspondence with the British Medical Association led us to write to the regional Deans of Medicine, pressing for homosexuality to be treated adequately in the training of medical students. We are currently engaged in research to discover the extent and nature of behaviour therapy used on gay people by psychologists. The effects of aversion therapy are also being researched.

We are in contact with the Association of Gay Psychologists in America, and are hoping to learn from their experience. Lectures have been given to groups within the gay movement and to various organisations outside it, including the Psychology and Psychotherapy Association, Postgraduate Clinical Conference, the Richmond Fellowship, Bristol Medical Education Group and Medway Postgraduate Medical Centre.

Much remains to be done. Success will depend on having more workers in this field who are willing to come-out within their profession and help to expand the campaign.

Glenys Parry

are also being made to the Home Secretary. This is a long-term campaign in which immediate results cannot be expected. Relevant personal experiences are essential to the progress of the work.

John Bennett

OVERSEAS LIASON

This portfolio cannot be divorced from many other of CHE's campaigning activities. Thus international liason also occurs elsewhere in the report. CHE was formally represented at the International Gay Rights Congress in Edinburgh in December. The opportunity enabled us to meet people from twenty other countries who often live under conditions more adverse than those in England.

During the year, CHE has had contact with organisations in the Netherlands, Belgium, Norway, Denmark, France, United States, Australia and Canada. Many of these countries have published articles about CHE during the year.

ELDERLY GAYS

The Malvern Conference mandated the Executive to establish a campaign in this area. It became clear that a successful campaign would require many more financial and personnel resources than have been available. The Executive noted with pleasure and thanked the London West End group for their publication which researched the subject of elderly gays and drew attention to the chronic lack of facilities for them. An independent organisation, the August Trust, was set up to provide rest-homes for elderly gays.

CHE has attempted to organise a holiday for elderly gay people, at no cost to themselves. There are major problems of selection in what would prove to

PRESS AND PUBLICITY

The year got off to a bad start from the point of view of press and media coverage. The Malvern Conference, whatever its success in other respects, was a tragically wasted opportunity. The reason was that insufficient groundwork to attract coverage was carried out.

Since Malvern, the situation has not appreciably improved except in one respect. There are a number of local groups with a keen eye on publicity in their local areas, and indeed some have even achieved a degree of national coverage. Local groups received guidance in their dealings with the media at the Brighton weekend in December and by the subsequent distribution of a press release kit. But that initial impetus has not been systematically followed up. There has been no sustained effort to develop the publicity consciousness of local groups or to follow up local initiatives nationally.

In May, CHE was represented at a conference on women in mixed gay organisations at which the Dutch organisation COC played host. The meetings were useful from a consciousness-raising point of view and served to underline the problems to be surmounted in any gay organisation which exists to meet the needs of women and men.

For the future, the possibilities of united international action remain to be exploited. We could, for example, challenge anti-gay laws at the International Court of Human Rights of the United Nations.

John Bennett

be a difficult subject, although the venture is well worth sponsorship. No final decisions have been taken at the time of this report.

It is obvious that local groups could do much to contact elderly gay people in a way which would not distress or disturb them. Free membership of CHE groups for those over sixty-five would not bankrupt any group; sending birthday cards and christmas cards, invitations to a meal and simple friendly chatting are further possibilities. Notes for guidance of CHE groups are being considered at the present time, and the whole subject is to be raised formally in FRIEND.

Liz Stanley

At a national level, the only proper attempt that has been made to promote publicity has been for the law reform campaign. CHE has failed to devote time, thought and effort to media affairs. As a result, many opportunities may have been missed. A new start is necessary.

Limited advertising in the press has been maintained throughout the year, although financial cuts have necessitated some reduction. In April, advertisements specifically aimed at women were placed in two Sunday papers and two weekly journals.

Bernard Greaves

(Chairman's note: Bernard Greaves submitted the above report, but it is only fair to observe that he has suffered from ill-health throughout the year, a factor which has limited the time and energy at his disposal).

RESEARCH

Throughout the year, CHE has continued to monitor press references to homosexuality through the use of a press cuttings agency. Summaries have been sent to CHE groups on a regular basis, and several articles have been written on 1 enforcement against homosexuals for general use.

A study of gay relationships is currently being made which is looking at all aspects of pair-bonding, love relationships and the attitude of gay movements to these subjects. Research projects being planned for the future include a study of married gay people and their problems and an investigation of working class gays and the general attitude and ethos of CHE to class. Grants and participants are being sought for both these projects.

A workshop on gay research was organised at the Edinburgh International Congress. Contact has since been made with various organisations and individuals in the States, and the first edition of the Journal of Homosexuality, published in America, has been received.

A cassette bank has been started to include recordings of CHE meetings where submitted by groups, various conferences and interviews with gay activists. A library of fiction and non-fiction books has been started and currently contains twenty two volumes. A research filing system has been started at the national office to preserve important documents: several thousand leaflets, pamphlets, journals, reports and assorted documents have been collected. Two bibliographies have been produced, and several thousand references for books and articles are presently being indexed, classified and sorted.

Trevor Locke

PLANNING THE 1975 CONFERENCE

After the success of Malvern, CHE was faced with the prospect of accommodating 1000 people in 1975. The search for a venue started only in June, and the number of places still available for a large conference was limited: hence, it was necessary to use the August Bank Holiday weekend. Approaches to Harrogate, Llandudno, Cardiff, Scarborough and Worthing (out of a total of forty four places) were either rejected outright, or no reason for refusal was given. After an exploratory visit, Sheffield proved to be an eminently suitable choice.

With two local radio stations and three television companies, two daily papers and other news facilities there is plenty of opportunity for good media coverage. There is a large range of accommodation and the City Hall provides a superb setting for the business sessions. Moreover, the local CHE group is one of our most vigorous and the welcome offered by the City Council and its staff has been gratifying.

The conference sub-committee has aimed to provide a wide variety of events all the time. Unavoidably, some events will clash. In an attempt to involve the people of Sheffield, we have tried to open as many events as possible to the public; this should prove a useful contact. Also there are activities, such as a Speakers' Corner, aimed specifically at the public.

In conjunction with the Women's Campaign Committee we have made special arrangements to attract a high attendance by women members and to ensure there are plenty of events to interest them. Also workshops are to be used extensively as a way of discussing motions prior to their debate at plenary sessions. Planning is already under way for the 1976 conference which will be at Southampton (May 28 - May 31).

Barry Jackson

QUESTIONS

Written questions on any part of the above report may be submitted by CHE members to the Executive Committee and these will be answered, in a written form, at the Conference in Sheffield. Questions should be sent to the General Secretary, CHE, PO Box 427, 28 Kennedy Street Manchester M60 2EL, by July 31.

APENDIX A : ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Executive is very conscious of the great help, in WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN both a campaigning and an administrative context, undertaken by very many members. Certainly, a special word of thanks is due to our convenors, without whom the present CHE structure would soon disintegrate. The list below of other workers is not meant to be exhaustive, and the Executive takes the opportunity of expressing its sincere appreciation of all who have assisted CHE's progress during the past year, a task undertaken with sacrifices of both time and money. The list below was accurate as at 31 May 1975.

The following are sub-committees of the Executive, whose members are formally appointed:

FINANCE AND GENERAL SERVICES

Peter Naughton	Barry Jackson
Joe Cummins	Derek Johnson
Leslie Parker Davies	Clive Pritchard
Mike Gibberd	Michael Thomas
Chris Bowden-Smith	Ross Thompson
Richard Head	Stephen Jones

MEMBERSHIP ADMINISTRATION

Peter Naughton	Richard Head
Stephen Austen	John Kernaghan
Alex Handford	

FIELD OFFICERS

Wallace Grevatt	Terry Price
Roy Clarke	Norman Redman
Robert Graham-Thompson	Neil Wallace
Mike Harris	Peter Bishop
Ian Hayward	
John Jackson	Stephen Jones (recruitment)
Andy James	Ray Leggett (secretary)
Earl Leverton	Jeff Day (treasurer)
John Pearce	Ted Clapham (acting FO)

FRIEND MANAGEMENT

Ted Clapham	David Palmer
Alison Hennegan	Glenys Parry
Barrie Kenyon	Hilary Stafford

LAW REFORM (DRAFTING)

Ike Cowen	Malcolm Crowe (SMG)
Ian Buist	Michael Fell
Michael Colson (SMG)	Joseph Lecky (USFI)

YOUTH SERVICES INFORMATION PROJECT

Trevor Locke	Richard Johnson
David Armitage	Oliver Merrington
Chris Bowden-Smith	Sam Orrill
Mike Gibberd	Graham Wilkinson

WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN

Liz Stanley	Pam Johnson
Heather Cook	Jean Milloy
Marilyn Deegan	Veronica Pickles
Jenny Dent	Christine Schemilt
Wanda Goldwag	Hilary Stafford
Bernice Humphries	Sue Wise

CONFERENCE

Barry Jackson	David Jenkersen
Stephen Austen	Gerald Mettam
Dave Brown	David Newton
Martin Fearn	Alan Sive
Wanda Goldwag	Lionel Starling
Simon Ives	Michael Thomas

Those listed below are not sub-committees, but the Executive expresses its sincere thanks for their special contribution to the named portfolios:

EDUCATION John Aspinall, Don Branch, Pat

Campbell, Tony Challis, Marie Cunnington, Henry Egar, Jackie Forster, John Fullick, Eric Gray, Bob Lloyd, Don Williams

STUDENT LIASON David Dancer

LAW REFORM (PLANNING) Ian Buist, Stephen Cohen,

Bob Crossman, David Dancer, Denis Lemon, Michael Mason, Howarth Penny, Dermot Quirke, David Starkey, Michael Steed, Bob Sturgess

The four groups above are not composed entirely of CHE members.

NATIONAL OFFICE

The Executive is conscious of the voluntary effort contributed by many CHE members at the national office, notably at bulletin-mailing time, and wishes to thank publicly for their virtual full-time services as volunteers:

Mike Gibberd
Virginia Bazley
David Ashley.

APPENDIX B : WOMEN'S MEETINGS
 IN LOCAL GROUPS AS AT APRIL 1975

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>WOMEN'S CONTACT</u>	<u>WOMEN'S MEETINGS</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
Belfast	yes	yes	is a Sappho group
Brighton	yes	no	until recently no women willing to do anything
Bristol	no	no	independent gay women's group in Bristol
Cambridge	yes	yes	a CHE women's group but not entirely separate from main group
Cardiff	yes	no	women in the group don't want them
Doncaster	yes	no	group is re-forming
East Kent	yes	no	favour integration; the small number of women in the group don't want them
Enfield	yes	yes	once a month; but otherwise mixed meetings
Gloucester	yes	yes	a separate women's group with CHE women in it is forming
Leicester	yes	yes	meet fortnightly but mixed meetings as well
Lewisham	yes	no	but occasional meeting of 2 women in group with those from a nearby group
Liverpool	no	no	lack of support; independent women's group now going
London Gay Soc	yes	no	not enough women to give it support
London Monday	no	no	in context of central London think it unnecessary
London Youth	yes	yes	once a month; other things in central London
Manchester Town	no	no	but occasional join meetings/socials with Manchester W
Manchester Women	yes	yes	separate recognised group; over 70 nat members; sometimes open meetings but few men ever come also joint meetings with other groups in Manchester
Marylebone	no	no	have only 3 women; none ever referred by the office
Medway	no	no	women don't want them; separate discussions where necessary; few women in the group
Milton Keynes	yes	no	is a truly mixed group - nearly half members are women; may have them in the future
Newport	yes	no	the women members are fully integrated
North London	no	no	because the group is for women and men
Notts/Derby	yes	yes	separate meetings fortnightly; at socials women beginning to outnumber men!
Norfolk	no	no	only just formed; hope to do something later
Oldham	yes	no	women members wish to be integrated with the men; decided at a meeting to discuss it
Plymouth	yes	no	trying to get together the women's side at moment
Preston	yes	yes	meet for socials
Sheffield	yes	yes	attracting more women now
South Durham	no	no	only two women members
South Herts	no	no	our women members have no desire to separate
Tunbridge Wells	yes	no	only three women members; would have separate meetings if there was a demand for it
Wirral	yes	no	insufficient women members at present
Wolverhampton	no	no	no women members; 6 have joined but all at separate times; would have separate meetings if had women in group; thinks this is the only way forward.

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