

Feb 1979

CHEATERS

Newsletter of the Nottingham C.H.E. Group. No X + 2

February 1979.

When one has a project afoot that is brought to ruination by the incompetence or malice of other parties, by far the most disadreeable aspect of the business is having to make apologies as if it were one's own failings that are to blame. This is just the position that the group finds itself in over the January Gay Switchboard Disco, which had to be put back a week from 24th to 31st. Quite apart from the fact that many disco-goers may not have had the latter date free to attend, that there may well have been people whom we were in fact unable to warn of the change and who turned up expecting to find us there, the latter evening coincided with our first ever exploration of the sauna scene, although this was timed so early that those interested could have managed both visits if they wanted.

Our sincerest apologies them. And why all this upheaval and inconvenience? Simply because the management of the Hearty Good (should it be renamed "Goof"?) Fellow double booked the lounge under the impression that our discos were held on the last Wednesday of the month. In fact the proper date was given to them some time ago, but that probably savours too much of efficiency for them. Of course, as we pay nothing for the use of the lounge we were the ones who had to give way, even though our bookings are of long standing. To add insult to injury, we were not even properly informed of the situation and it was merest chance that we found out. Perhaps forty or fifty annoyed gays turning up and being turned away would have done more good in the long run than all the hasty re-arrangement of plans and frantic phone calls.

The whole business is but the latest in a series of signs of the cavalier attitude displayed to us by the HGF. Grateful though we are and should be for the free room - the discos would make a loss without it - I cannot help but feel that in some ways we are selling ourselves out over it, and certainly we are renouncing rights which we could have if we were to pay like everybody else. The commercial scene knows which way to jump when there's money at stake. Some of us have already taken tentative steps to find another place to hold the discos, and if any member thinks he or she knows of a suitable alternative venue then I urge them to let the group know. Such a course will obviously make the discos more expensive to run, which throws up another set of problems. It is certainly a matter that the whole group ought to discuss and not just the handful of people who put themselves out to keep the group afloat - there is a business meeting on February 8th.

Mike

MICHAEL QUARRIER

This gentleman is a member of the CHE Executive Committee and is a kind of liaison officer with the Nottingham group among others. He expressed the wish to come and visit the group, and, having been sent our programme, decided to come to Tony's coffee evening on February 14th "because it looked interesting"! We still don't know what else Tony is planning apart from coffee, but we hope he'll take the hint. We hope that as many members as possible will take the opportunity for a bit of direct contact with the powers that be as well: here's your chance to let an EC member know how marvellous you think they all are.

NOTTINGHAM GROUP PROGRAMME - FEBRUARY & MARCH

NOTE NEW ITEM FOR FEB 23rd

February

- Wed 7th Pub Evening at the Malthouse, Victoria Street, from 8.00pm. Victoria Street is behind the Council House where the Midland Bank have their main Nottingham branch.
- Thurs 8th Business Meeting at C.V.S., 8.00pm.
- Tues 13th Gay Switchboard Meeting at C.V.S., 8.00pm. This is a joint meeting with the Friend group to discuss all aspects of running the switchboard and all CHE and Friend members interested in the switchboard and its work should attend.
- Wed 14th St. Valentine's Day Coffee Evening at Tony's (Flat 4, 19a Pelham Crescent, The Park), 8.15 onwards. See note elsewhere about Michael Quarrier.
- Thurs 22nd Programme Meeting at C.V.S., 8.00pm.
- Fri 23rd Meeting with members of the local constabulary, C.V.S. at 8.00pm. See note elsewhere for more details.
- Wed 28th Disco at the Hearty Good Fellow from 8.00pm (Upstairs Lounge)

March

- Fri 2nd to Sun 4th Visit to Colchester C.H.E. Group. (See elsewhere for details.)
- Fri 9th to Sun 11th CHE National Council in St Albans.

Other than the events listed above, members are always welcome to drop into the C.V.S. for coffee and a chat on Mondays and Thursdays, 7.00pm to 10.00pm. If you have any ideas for the programme let John or Mike know, or better still come along to the programme meeting on Feb 22nd.

Advance notice On Thursday April 5th we hope to be able to show the Tyneside Tape/Slide Kit "Homosexuality, a Fact of Life". After all the suspense and publicity come along to find out what it's really like.

NOTTINGHAM NEWS This, at last, is an alternative to the dreaded Evening Post in the city. It is being put out once a week on a Thursday by the 28 sacked journalists from the Evening Post. For some of us, this alone will be enough to gain our support, but even more pertinent is the fact that they are willing to take switchboard advertising. I gather that more than a hundred newsagents have agreed to sell it, so hopefully it should be highly beneficial to the switchboard.

As you may already be aware, the Evening Post's offices are being picketed daily between 8.00am and 5.00pm, and an especial effort is being made on Saturday February 10th. In view of the Post's attitude to us in the past, any way we can demonstrate our attitude to them is welcome.

INFORMATION SHEET CORRECTION

Delete Counselling Number for Sheffield Switchboards, and insert:
Counselling (Friend): Sheffield 27516, Fridays 7.30-9.30pm.

REPORT OF BUSINESS MEETING 11th January 1979

1. John reported that the Library had complained of being unable to obtain Gay News from their Nottingham and Mansfield suppliers. He had replied suggesting that the group could supply copies.
2. John also reported that the Police Community Relations Officer had agreed to come and speak with the group on Friday 23rd February.
3. Nothing had yet been done about having collecting boxes in Shades and the Hearty Good Fellow.
4. The Colchester group had confirmed the dates of our visit in March. Ian and Mike to confer and produce details for publication in the newsletter.
5. The question of room hire had again been deferred by CVS; Nottingham Counselling Centre had recommended that we pay £1.00 per week. It was agreed that we make a donation of £25.00 for our recent use of rooms.
6. As there were now nine members of the group who had asked to receive Gay News from the group on a regular basis, it was agreed to increase the group's subscription to 15 copies.
7. Tony reported that since the last business meeting there had been one new member and four renewals of membership in the group.
8. Chris reported that the group's funds at present stood at £225.56, but that some advertising bills were expected.
9. Mike reported that the January newsletter had cost approximately £1.25 to produce. The cost of sending copies out to members would be about the same again.
10. Ian raised the question of purchasing a copy of the Tyneside Tape/Slide Kit, not out of group funds but from a special fund to be started for that purpose. It was decided to wait and see the quality of the product when Lincoln's kit was borrowed for showing in Nottingham before making a final decision.
11. Mike asked the group to underwrite the coming Gays Against Nazis Gig on March 6th to the tune of £10, and this was agreed.

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S SPACE-FILLING PUZZLE

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1. Schubert | 4. Haydn | 7. Verdi |
| 2. Chabrier | 5. Massenet | 8. Holst |
| 3. Mueran | 6. Mahler | 9. Chopin |

Easy weren't they?

GAY OUTDOOR GROUP

An organisation which exists for those interested in walking, cycling, swimming and even boating. The main emphasis, though, with most of the regional groups is on walking and the Transpennine Group regularly gets three or four people from the Nottingham area on its walks. These are held twice a month: once in Yorkshire (on a Saturday), the other being on a Sunday in Derbyshire, usually the Peak District. The walks are usually about 10 miles long and boots and waterproofs are definitely needed. If anyone is interested, Reg Connolly (tel. Luton 411256) will give you all the details, and will put you in touch with your nearest group.

Peter Lockwood (Sheffield)

NOTTINGHAM G.A.N. GIG AND DISCO.

Nottingham Gays Against Nazis, formed last Autumn after a successful gay participation in the city's 'Carnival Against the Nazis', is now planning its first big fundraising event for Tuesday 6th March.

With the help of Rock Against Racism, they are holding a Gig and Disco at Shades between 9.30pm and 2.00am on that date. A popular local rock band, Slip Hazard and the Blizzards, will be the main attraction, and a support band is expected to be signed up by the end of January. It is hoped that this will be an all-woman band. The disco will be provided by Shades, with resident DJ, Tom.

As the Nottingham G.A.N. Group, local organisations have been approached to underwrite the expenses of the event and Nottingham CHE and RAR have already agreed to help in this way.

It is hoped that the event will be as popular with non-gays as gays, and no difficulty is expected in selling the tickets, which can be bought at 75p in advance (contact Chris or John or Mike) or £1.00 at the door.

Chris.

POLICE VISIT On Friday February 23rd at C.V.S. at 8.00pm, Chief Inspector Smith, the Police Community Relations Officer, and Superintendent Stapleford of the Anti-Vice Squad, will pay the group a visit to discuss matters of mutual interest. If they are to go away with the idea that we are a group with any weight behind us at all, it is important that the turnout is good. Members need have no fears that they will be collecting names and addresses for later reference. At last we have our opportunity to impress our point of view on the police and hopefully to lay foundations for a good working relationship in the future. Don't let us throw it away!

COLCHESTER TRIP Colchester CHE group have now confirmed with us that the dates are all right (March 2nd-4th). We don't yet know exactly what they have planned for us, but I gather there is a disco on the Friday night and some kind of party on the Saturday. If you are interested in going then let Ian or Mike know - we must get numbers and transport arranged as soon as possible.

"ICEBERG" TRIP Happy to report, the trip to Lincoln to see this show was a success. Despite appalling weather conditions, the attendance from Nottingham was almost 100%, there were no accidents en route and the show was excellent, funny and moving by turns. Some of our members were so impressed that they helped Gay Sweatshop to pack away their gear. Our thanks are due to Lincoln CHE for their enterprise in arranging what was in fact the final performance of this particular piece.

"GAY NEWS" TRIUMPH IN LIBRARY Another "at last" for the group. Not only have we managed to get the Library to take "Gay News" for a one year trial period, but we are even supplying copies to them and raking in their contribution to the group's funds. However, it is only on a trial basis: if anything permanent is to be achieved, the Library has to see that there is a demand for it so that its stay becomes permanent. Even if you already have a copy of "Gay News" from the group (and if you don't, why not?) go into the Central Library on Angel Row from time to time and ask to borrow it - they aren't to know that you are already a regular subscriber.

BOUQUET FROM MANCHESTER Robert Palmer writes to us: "I would be grateful if you would pass on my hearty congratulations to everybody in your group for the splendid result in the November membership drive. I'm delighted at the number of new members your group achieved and it is clearly an indication of how well things are doing."