

2900 RM
Box C

CHIMAERA
CHIMAERA
CHIMAERA
CHIMAERA
CHIMAERA
CHIMAERA
chimaera

SPECIAL OLYMPIC EDITION

nottingham
che
newsletter



Буррэр
Амэрыка!

CHIMAERA

NOTTINGHAM CHE

NEWSLETTER

PROGRAMME SEPTEMBER 1980

SEPTEMBER

- FRI 5TH COFFEE EVENING at Alan Melville's. The address is 19, Fernwood Crescent, Wollaton. If travelling by bus, take either a number 63 or 83 bus from Maid Marian Way (they are about every 30 minutes). Tel.286173 if in difficulty. From 8pm.
- WED 10TH MUSIC GROUP MEETING. This will take the format of a Quiz. It will be at Stuart Smith's flat - 18-22 in the Victoria Centre. 8pm.
- THUR 11TH BUSINESS MEETING at the CVS at 8pm.
- SUN 14TH Visit to BELTON HOUSE with groups from Derby, Lincoln, Leicester and Boston. Meet at 11.45 am for 12noon departure at Clinton St. East (outside the Dog and Partridge).
- FRI 19TH A talk by Barry Prothero of NCCL about his work and its relation to gay rights. This meeting will take place at the CVS at 8pm.
- SUN 21ST FRIEND are organising a CAR RALLY from Southwell Minster to Rufford Abbey. Entry fee is £1 and the prize is some champagne. Phone Switchboard nearer the date for full details.
- THUR 25TH BUSINESS MEETING at CVS at 8pm.(Includes Programme Meeting)
- FRI 26TH There will be a PUB CRAWL. Meet at the Forest Tavern on Mansfield Road at 7.30pm to move on elsewhere at 8pm.

OCTOBER

THUR 2ND A TRIP TO GOOSE FAIR. Meet at the CVS between 8pm and 8.30pm.

FRI 3RD A visit to see the Boyfriend at Nottingham Playhouse. If you are interested in this please contact Tony Barker and have your MONEY ready - you can phone Tony on Nottingham 49137.

You will receive details of the Programme for the remainder of October with the CHE Broadsheet for that period.

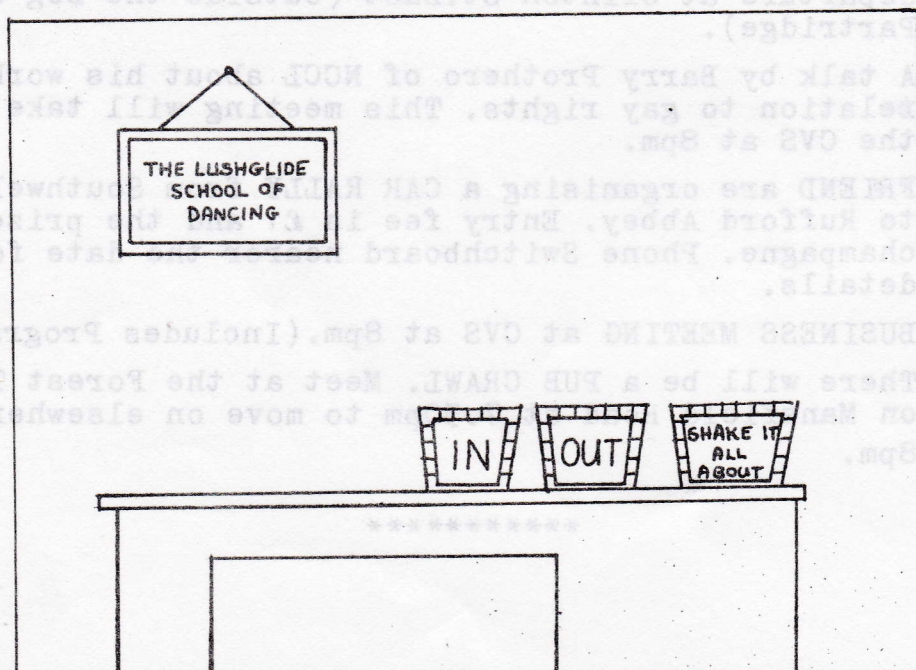
ADVANCE NOTICE: Mike Jarrett, CHE's new Chairman, will be coming to talk to the group on Friday, November 14th. This will be at the CVS.

There are a couple of meetings taking place during September which are not part of the Social Programme, but which you may be interested to hear about:-

The first is on September 10th and is a meeting with Radford and Basford Labour Club.

The second is a meeting with Gaycac at Gedling Youth Centre at 7.30 pm and will including a showing of the CHE tape/slide kit.

For those new to the group, the letters CVS stand for the Council for Voluntary Service which is at 31a, Mansfield Road, Nottingham. This is also the address from which Nottingham Gay Switchboard operates on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7-10pm. The phone number is 46881.



OLYMPIC SADISTS' CORNER

Do you enjoy watching Princess Anne being thrown at the water jump at Hickstead and emerging from the Trout-Hatchery with frog-spawn streaming from her jodhpurs? Sport offers so many delights for the telesadist and the Olympics provide something of a climax.

It was fascinating to see the Cuban gymnast vault over the horse, perform a double somersault in the air and land on his neck. "Look - he's all right!" said the commentator when the gymnast's wrist twitched over the stretcher as he was borne away.

You may remember that at the last Olympics Nadia Comaneci won a Gold Medal on what one newspaper described as the assymetric bra. Perhaps she should have invested in such an appliance as she has developed a substantial bosom since 1976. Possibly this change in her centre of gravity accounted for her fall from the bars during the individual exercises.

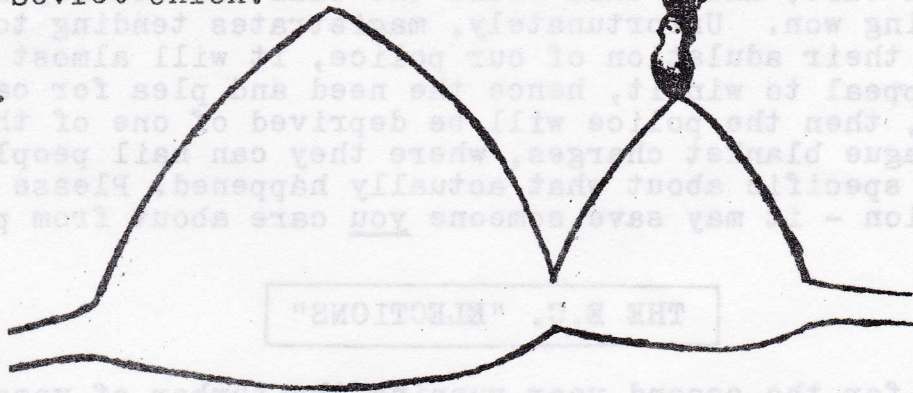
I'm sorry that I missed the Russian fencer who had his chest pierced by his opponent's foil; but I did catch the 23 stone Hungarian Judo Player who dislocated his shoulder during the final seconds of his bout. Agony-on-vision was retained, but the screams were muffled by a discrete lowering of microphone volume.

Best of all was the Russian gymnast who lost his grip while on the Pommel-Horse. The expression on his face as he landed astride the horse suggested that his wife may have to relinquish any hopes she had of becoming a Heroic Mother of the Soviet Union.



Nadia
Comaneci

David.



OLYMPIC COMPETITION: OR WHAT TO DO ABOUT DAVID

A fortnight ago at the CVS there were about twenty people present. There were about six people of no real consequence and then there were Alan, Alan and Alan, Chris, Chris and Chris and David, David, David, David, David, David, David and David.

A prize for anyone who can suggest a simple, cheap, painless and foolproof way of distinguishing between Davids. Send your solutions to me at the CVS,

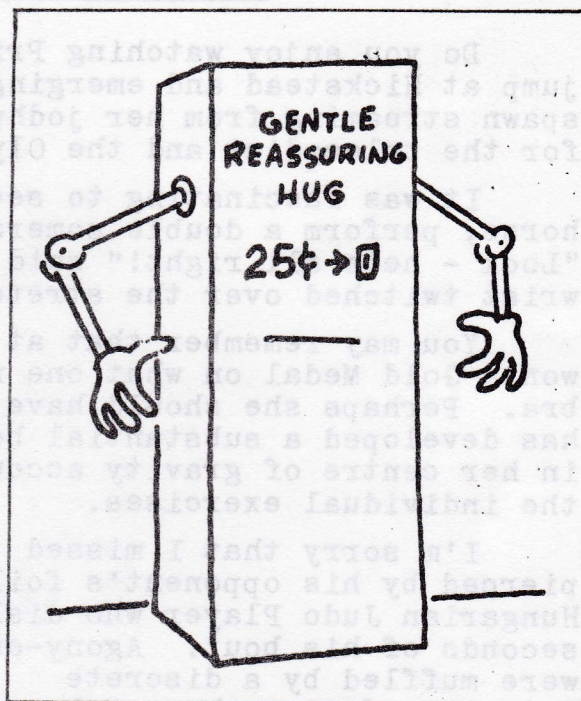
David.

FRIENDS

I fear it's very wrong of me
And yet I must admit,
When someone offers friendship
I want the whole of it.
I don't want anybody else
To share my friends with me.
At least, I want one special one,
Who, indisputably,

Likes me much more than all the rest,
Who's always on my side,
Who never cares what others say,
Who lets me come and hide
Within his shadow, in his house -
It doesn't matter where -
Who lets me simply be myself,
Who's always, always there.

E.Jennings.



JOHN CLARKSON DEFENCE CAMPAIGN

Every week seems to bring a plea for money from some quarter of the gay community, and now it's Nottingham's turn to send out the begging bowl. Enclosed is a sheet which gives details of how and why the JCDC came to be set up. This should stand well on its own merits, but we obviously place special emphasis on this as John's is a local case, and a case where the odds are heavily in favour of its being won. Unfortunately, magistrates tending to the ridiculous in their adulation of our police, it will almost certainly need an appeal to win it, hence the need and plea for cash. When it is won, then the police will be deprived of one of those oh-so-useful, vague blanket charges, where they can nail people without being too specific about what actually happened. Please make a contribution - it may save someone you care about from police methods.

THE E.C. "ELECTIONS"

Since for the second year running the number of vacancies on the EC has been exactly matched by the number of candidates, there will again be no election. Perhaps not a surprising state of affairs in view of the uncertainties hanging over CHE at the moment, but rather disappointing all the same. It does mean, however, that our very own David Hicks will now be entitled to add the letters CHEEC after his name officially, as he somehow managed to persuade enough people to support his candidature. We do wish him well in this new venture, and, since it will probably mean that he relinquishes the post of Gay Lobby Officer in our group, it would not come amiss at this juncture to thank him for his efforts in that direction and to warn all members that we shall be scouring the group to find a replacement for him. Any volunteers?

OLYMPIC EC NEWSFLASH

Local CHE member David Hicks, now on the Executive Council of CHE, has just received his portfolio. David comments: "But I don't know how to make tea."



David Hicks

THE DECLINE AND FALL OF NOTTINGHAM CHE DISCOS

(Not so much a history, more a statement of fact)

The inevitable has happened: at last even the most optimistic of us have had to admit the futility of continuing or regular discos at the Hearty Good Fellow, and these will now cease to feature in our programmes as a result. The point was reached not only where we made a slight loss on them, but where they became an embarrassment to witness, and people turned up out of a sense of duty to try and keep up appearances rather than because they enjoyed them.

In that respect there can be no sense of loss. But as regards the money that these discos have over the months enabled us to give to the support of Nottingham Gay Switchboard, the loss is very real indeed. It seems to me overwhelmingly important that CHE should continue to support the local Switchboard financially and in other ways, mainly because we should be participating in this service throughout the area, helping to end isolation, to bring people together, to help them cope with a multiplicity of problems; but also, less altruistically, because Switchboard is potentially our most valuable source of new members. I feel it is undesirable to divert our hard won funds away from campaigning too much, which means that alternative ways of funding Switchboard are going to have to be found. (Remember that we still have about £80 outstanding on the commitment we made to Switchboard at the AGM). One scheme is already under consideration and you may receive details of it with this newsletter. Anyone out there got any more ideas for raising money?

I should like, semi-publicly, to express the group's thanks to the Hearty Good Fellow for their help and co-operation; to Mike Andrews for his provision of the actual disco, to Bob for regularly running a raffle and scrounging (or otherwise acquiring) prizes therefor, and to the various members who at one time or another have helped on the door, produced tickets or just been there to give support.

One final word: we are hoping to hold a disco at Shades one Monday evening during December. Further information will follow when the details are sorted out.

Mike.

ANSWERS TO LAST ISSUE'S PROGRAMMED QUIZ

Beginning with the first question, the correct sequence of question numbers is as follows:-

622 - 749 - 803 - 108 - 517 - 499 - 932 - 268 - 338 - 866 - 400
259 - 753 - 331 - 567 - 198 - 622

GAY FILM SEASON IN NOTTINGHAM

As a result of a couple of phone calls, we are currently collaborating with the film section of the Midland Group Gallery to present a short season of gay films later this year. There will be six evenings devoted to it, and the main films we are hoping will be shown are: "Word is out", "Army of Lovers", "Not in front of the Children", "Women in uniform" and "Comedy in Six Unnatural Acts", plus various shorter films where appropriate. It is planned that there will be speakers on some of the evenings to talk about the films and lead discussion on them. Details will be circulated later.

OLYMPIC RADIO TIMES

Here is a quote from the Radio Times of August 1st about a children's programme on parachute jumping. Could it be a reference to Loughborough CHE's former EC member?

"Chris Harris rides out with his crazy pink caravan to meet a 16-year-old whose birthday treat is his first jump."



Anita Harris

NEWS FROM NATIONAL OFFICE

Two items where members can help out:

1. In order to monitor newspaper reporting on gay matters over the whole country, local groups are asked to appoint a Monitoring Officer to collect and send to National Office any cuttings from the local press with a gay interest. If anyone would care to volunteer for the job, please let Mike know. However, there is no reason why every member should not help in this. If anyone comes across any reference to homosexuality, whether favourable or not, in any local paper or magazine (or national one either, if it comes to that) please let us have it to forward to London. Be sure to include the source of the cutting and its date of publication. Examples of the kind of thing we want are reports of court cases, comments or reactions expressed by local councillors, vicars, or other worthies, letters to the editor, feature articles, book reviews, etc. Here is a chance for the most retiring person to make a contribution to the work of CHE.
2. With the increased facilities now available at 42a, Formosa St., CHE is in the position to accommodate archive material. With the help of the CHE London Groups Committee, a comprehensive library of Gay News, early British Gay Lib. Material, some American and Canadian newspapers and magazines have been assembled. They now need early lesbian and feminist material, transvestite/transsexual material, books (good or now considered awful), badges, photographs, film, videotapes, advertising material, programmes, group newsletters, correspondence (!) and everything else with the slightest relevance to Gay Civil Rights, Sexual Law Reform and the Gay Liberation Movement.

If you have any such material and are prepared to part with it, then send it to Gay Archive, c/o London Groups Committee, 42a, Formosa St., London W9 2JP.

LOCAL GROUPS CONFERENCE: BIRMINGHAM, 21/22 JUNE 1980
--

Fircroft College is situated in the Selly Oak area of Birmingham and was established in the 1930's with the money provided by the Cadbury family of chocolate fame. It ceased to function as a full-time educational establishment in 1978 and has since served as a venue for short residential courses. Apart from a very new annexe, the buildings resemble the setting for an Agatha Christie house-party mystery: panelled corridors, french windows and large rooms and an extensive garden complete with fishpond.

This, then, was the setting for CHE's third local groups Conference. The theme running through the proceedings was just that - various aspects of running a local group. Groups represented were from Nottingham, Reading, South Hertfordshire, Thurrock, Arun, Brighton, Manchester, Croydon, London Monday, Islington and Haringey.

The first session was devoted to public speaking, and seemed to be geared to rather more formal speaking engagements than we have been accustomed to. However, most of the rules hold good whatever the level of the occasion. Perhaps the most important aspect is that of preparation, not only of material but also of oneself in anticipating the audience: what they will know, what pre-conceived ideas they may have, how they will react to you and your subject, and so on.

Fundraising was the theme of Saturday afternoon's session. Methods by which other groups successfully raised cash included doing the football pools (they won £11-78!) running a miniversion of CHE'S 400 club, selling books, and bring and buy evenings. Several groups have had success with jumble sales - perhaps Nottingham should try one. Potential methods of doing so that were mentioned ranged from quite practical ideas, such as persuading members to use their skills (typing, interior decorating, craftwork etc.) for a small fee and donating the money to the group, to rather more flippant ones such as persuading the young and pretty members to go rent.

Sunday began with each group present giving details of its campaigning activities: an interesting session, but of rather more limited value as so many of these activities were quite obvious or had a relevance restricted by local conditions to the group carrying them out.

The remainder of the day was devoted to a vastly superior exposition of the recommendations of the Special Commission than that to which the delegates at the Southampton National Council were treated, with the result that I now feel competent to explain these.

The weekend was a social event as well of course. On Saturday night most people departed for the Jester (usefully taking a supply of Saunders/NIGRA petition forms to get filled in, the effort of which seems to have sapped all energy, for no-one visited any of the Birmingham gay clubs), whilst a handful remained behind allowing Griff to reap some benefits at his improvised bar. There was some satisfaction here for Nottingham, who, in alliance with Croydon, inflicted two heavy defeats on an EC team over the snooker tables.

LOCAL GROUPS CONFERENCE: BIRMINGHAM, 21/22 JUNE 1980

Besides being pleasant, the social side of such gatherings can also be valuable, providing not only for an interchange of ideas and experiences, but also for the forming of more personal friendships that bring groups closer together through knowing people rather than just names. If there was a disappointment about the weekend, it was the low level of groups participating, but for this I should think the cost and the placing of the weekend between a National Council and the Gay Pride March weekend are to blame, neither of which is really within CHE'S control. It is hoped to continue these conferences, but Fircroft will no longer provide the hospitality as it is reverting to its educational role from September. Anyone know of a suitable venue in the Nottingham area?

Mike.

OLYMPIC MEDAL WINNERS

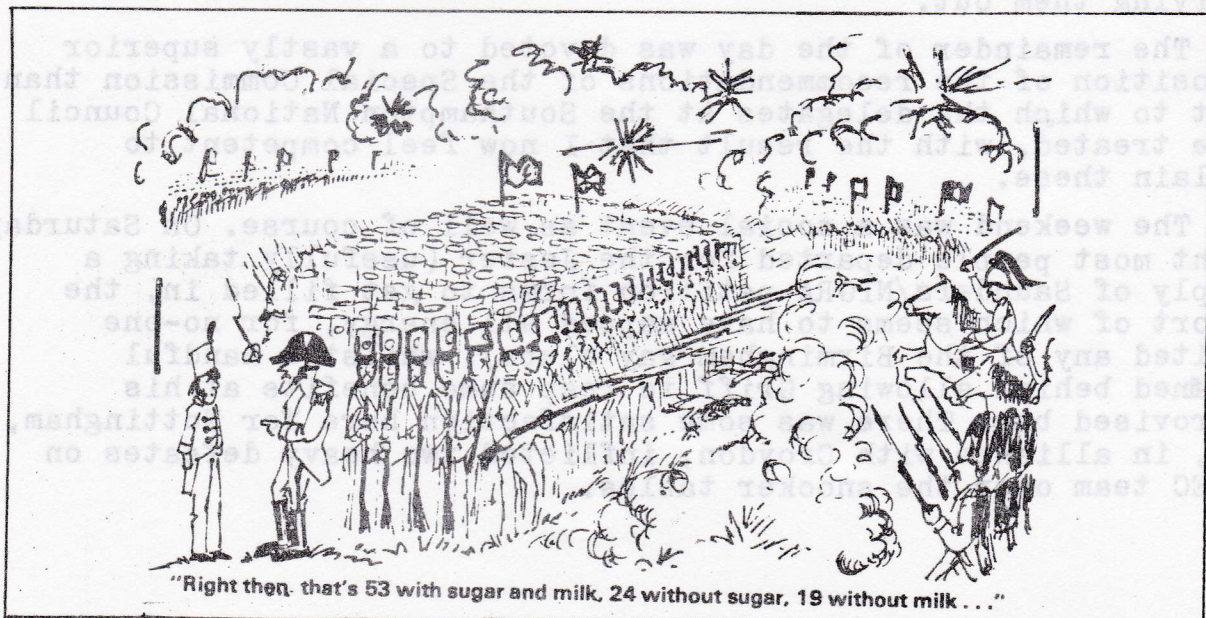
Our congratulations must go to the local CHE members who obtained medals:-

David H. (Silver) Throwing the hand-cuffs.
 Bob T. (Bronze) Dissolving the coffeemate.
 Vincent (Bronze) Making up the rules as you go along at cards.
 Alan F. (Triple Gold) 800 minute, 1500 minute and 5000 minute talk-in.

At a less elevated level mention must also be made of Mike Raymond's Quiz which he hosted in June. The winner was in fact your beloved Editor, who received the magnificent and unexpected prize of an economy size tube of Gay Dragoon Bubble Bath.

The Editor





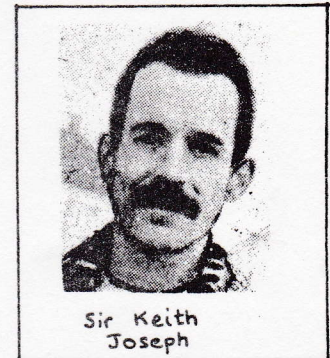
OLYMPIC ODDS AND ENDS

The BBC Olympic commentators were unusually restrained, by their own standards. No one "pulled out the big one" but I did hear David Coleman say "Let's look forward to things that happened earlier today" and "Daley Thompson is miles ahead, 3 to 4 metres clear". Some of the comments seem to act as a self-fulfilling curse on our poor British athletes - so we heard "He is the man they have all got to beat" and of course, they did.

I also glued myself to Wimbledon. Head bands are in. McEnroe's head band converts him into a sort of bad-tempered cottage loaf. Borg's head band - as Clive James remarked - is there to force his eyes ever closer together. What most commentators have failed to notice is that between 1979 and 1980 Borg's eyes have actually exchanged places and are now moving apart in the opposite direction.

Did you see the Russian gold-medal winning diver. He demanded a second attempt at his dive after claiming to have been distracted by a noise in the crowd - a case of Portnov's Complaint.

Inspired by Sir Keith Joseph's exhortation to offer ourselves for employment at cut-rate salaries, I have decided to apply for the position of Secretary of State for Industry. I will accept a salary of only £13,000 and I confidently expect that Sir Keith will tender his resignation in the best interests of the country's economy.



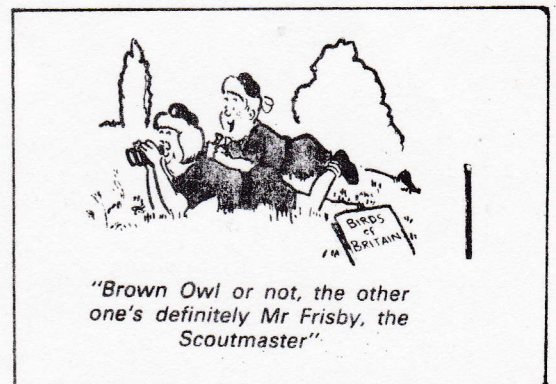
Sir Keith
Joseph

Having learned that Rod Stewart's voice is produced by gargling with a suspension of carborundum in meths, I am eager to find out how Mrs. Alan Wells produces her own abrasive coloratura. Vegetarian friends tell me that her oft-played-back cries of "COME ON ALLLAAAAN" can shred lettuce at a distance of 18 metres.

Watching some Italian athletes reminded me that someone described Italians as being like chocolate eclairs; five minutes after they've gone you feel as if you haven't had one. (Though some fit the sentiment that comes to mind every time I see the sign on a certain Derby Garage - "Tyres and exhausts".)

Frankly I just did not understand the All-In Wrestling. All those "Flying Buttocks", "Half Nelsons", "Boston Crabs" and "Triple Arkwrights" mystify me. As Mae West said "If it's all in, why wrestle?"

Isn't it a pity that Coventry City Football Team have been stopped from changing their name to Coventry Talbot? Using a football team's name for advertising purposes could have given us Arsenal Fairy Liquid Rovers, Brentford Nylons, and Manchester Minced Morsels.



"Brown Owl or not, the other one's definitely Mr Frisby, the Scoutmaster"