

LANCASHIRE FRIEND.

Minutes.

MEETING 14. 3. 05.

**Standing Chairman Nick
Secretary Ian P.**

Present.

Pat. Les. Chris, James. Marcus. Wendy. Lizzy.

Nick as standing chairperson welcomed the new volunteers; all present members gave brief introductions, name, position and interest.

Summary of actions.

1. Apologies from.

Jeremy. John Michael. John A.

2. Minutes of last meeting.

Nick gave brief summary of last meetings minutes. All present voted they were true and correct.

3. Matters arising.

None.

4. Executive Committee Report.

Nick as standing chairman opened with a report from himself as Treasurer. That the accounts are completed and sent off. Also that letters to P.C.T's have been sent, and he is now chasing replies.

1. Nick expanded for the new visitors the roles of the existing members, briefly describing the events and achievements of last year. Nick also expanded on his role of seeking new funding and more public relationship via open evenings to be arranged, the first event probably end of June. Nick also mentioned his meeting with John Beck, where he received advice on approaching new funding bodies.

3. Befriending/Outreach Co-ordinator.

Les expanded more on his role and the hope for more social events, walks etc. There was no befriending in the pipeline at present.

4. Membership secretary.

Due to new role, Ian, nothing to report.

5. Website Co-ordinator.

Chris outlined for the meeting and for the new volunteers the benefits of the web site.

The access via the internet for interested people increasing, people requesting information about the group and asking for membership forms, also the users links to other services.

Chris expanded on his re-designing of the membership form, showing an example of a much less formal format. We talked about the two-tier membership system. Associate members and full membership, which would require, referees and more personal detail for security reasons.

6. Social Events.

Discussion of how to instigate events. It was hoped by the members to expand on the success of last year's events by trying to arrange social events more frequently and of a variety to interest all members. These events would also be open to friends and family.

It was proposed for a 10 pin Bowling Night. To be arranged for Friday 29 April. Venue to be confirmed, but probably Accrington.

7. AOB

Chris mentioned he had received information from Manchester Pride, and asked the meeting if we were interested in attending this year. It was, for the benefit of the new volunteers, he described enthusiastically, and the Pride event of last year and the benefits we all felt from participating. From the success of last year in advertising our Service and the Networking we were able to do, plus the enjoyment of being there that boosted the moral of the whole group. It was unanimously voted in favour of attending again.

Nick as Chairperson asked Chris if he would once again oversees the requirements.

On a more serious note!

Nick explained his concern over the recent local tabloid articles, re. Cottageing and Cruising for sex in local Parks and rural areas. The articles painted a very disturbing picture about some GAY life styles. It

was felt that the tone of these articles could, to the average reader, seriously promote a Homophobic reaction to all Gay's. It was felt by Nick that we should as a group, supporting GAY Bi and Lesbian people, respond in some way to balance this negative image of GAY people.

It was suggested, that as a group we could and should try to organise, for instance, a fundraising event for other charities, and gain better PR. Via local press etc. Suggestions welcomed.

6. Next Meeting Arranged for Monday 25 April 7.30pm.

Note for your diary Bowling Evening Friday 29 April.

Meet at Accrington Bowling Alley. 8pm. The Viaduct, Hynburn Road, Accrington

Cost aprox £10.00 if unwaged and need assistance with costs please contact switchboard for details.

See you therefore a fun evening,!!!!!!!!!!!!!! (Playing with your bowls).

PS.

Apologies for the delay in posting these minutes.