

MINUTES OF A RED RAG COLLECTIVE MEETING HELD ON 16 JANUARY 1983 at 24 NORWOOD ROAD
12 people present.

MONEY

When the printing of the early January issue had been paid for, we would be overdrawn by about £20. Expected income was £50 from standing orders at the beginning of February (22 people) and whatever come in meanwhile in donations - which had totalled about £29 over the previous 4 weeks. Production costs were running at about £60 per issue, set against income of £25 plus donations per issue. We did not have the money, or prospect of it, to produce a late January issue in the usual format. Nor had we the guaranteed income to afford to continue production on the present scale.

FUTURE PRODUCTION AND CONTENTS

It was agreed that in future a check would be made before each issue as to money in hand and the issue would be no bigger than we had the money to pay for. It was thought that a litho'd 4-pager cost about £25 - roughly equal to the standing order income. It was agreed that the next issue should be 4 sides, duplicated, using paper, stencils, etc left over from the days of duplicating. It was also agreed that the - ents guide and the going out guide were valued by readers and should be maintained. News could be digested, opinion and comment could be edited or omitted, the front cover could be used for material, illustrations could be ditched, the re-printing of leaflets produced by worthy causes stopped, and any paid ads accepted only on the basis of cash in advance. It was not possible to lay down specific or detailed guidance on the editing of articles, but the general feeling seemed to be that authors should be consulted if at all possible and the aim would be to preserve the sense and the facts/arguments but reduce the length. If we dropped the fortnightly production schedule it would be virtually impossible to compile worthwhile events and going out guides. It was noted that the better issues had produced better donations, but that recent issues had contained some articles of rather variable standard.

FUND RAISING

A whip-rou produced £5.07, despite everyone being hard-up.

There had been a suggestion that Bulmershe Students Union might take, and pay for, 50 copies; someone was pursuing.

If production schedules matched, and the addresses fitted in with existing rounds, and distribution was reliable, RTUC might well be willing to pay a bit less than second class postage to have Red Rag deliver items RTUC would otherwise post.

Chris B to give Chris S a list of possible addresses. The dates would not match in the next couple of months, however.

Liz intended to raid Milman Road basement, in doing so she would consider whether it formed the basis for a jumble sale.

Paid ads - only viable if issues printed. Assuming pages containing paid ads were printed by Acorn at commercial rates, the full cost of printing a sheet containing ads and editorial matter could be covered by the ads, and they would still be very cheap to advertisers. (They would all need to be clearly marked to show they were paid ads; they might cover outlets and events or extend to wholefood and other small businesses too, we might restrict them to no more than $\frac{1}{2}$ a page each for the sake of appearance - these questions were left open). DEFINITELY cash in advance.

PRODUCTION ARRANGEMENTS

If we had to edit, it was agreed to try doing it in open session, advertised in the previous issue - agreed to make it the Thursday evening and a phone number to ring for where.

The Production Groups were unbalanced and Mark's change of job would make it worse. It would help if each Group had someone able to take copies to distributors. On a show of hands, 3 people were willing to work regularly, another 4 or 5 to help on a casual basis. Agreed to advertise in the next issue for production workers as well as money and probably hold a meeting for those interested the following Sunday. Production Group re-constitution deferred until then.

21 January 1983

C C Borgars