



NAG London meeting

Saturday 15 February 2020

Please Note: Due to coronavirus restrictions no activities listed below are currently taking place. We are keeping the situation under review, with the earliest possible event likely to be 27 June NAG London meeting – only if it is safe to hold it.

Notes from the meeting held at Belsize Park. It was preceded by an indoor picnic and the meeting itself started at 2.35pm.

Present: Louise (chair), Harvey, Carlie, Luigi, Michael, Ray, Steve, Jon W, John P.

1. Apologies for absence had been received from Chris, Philip, Bob, Dan.

2. More agenda items?

John McPartlin and Hampstead Heath was added at item 8. A.O.B.

It was agreed that we continue the rotating meeting chair concept. Louise volunteered to chair this meeting.

3. Important changes

(a) NAG management. John Paine gave a brief update on NAG management collective which had met in January. He was appointed NAG Chair. Problems with the NAG website had been sorted recently. This management change meant that John would need to drastically reduce his involvement in NAG London and another volunteer would be needed for the post of NAG London Co-ordinator.

(b) relationship with BN. John reported improvements in the local relationship between BN and NAG. Jon Williams would now liaise closely with NAG with authorisation from the BN President and people in LASER region. Jon added that he would help local BN members develop activities and that BN would promote NAG events in London.

4. Notes from 2 November 2019 and updates

(a) to agree the Notes. The Notes were agreed.

(b) Hampstead Heath visits. Chris reported that during summer 2019 he had made occasional naturist visits to various HH locations. It was noted that, as the Heath is criss-crossed with many informal paths in constant public use, lone women naturists using HH could feel quite uncomfortable.

It was agreed to hold a NAG naturist picnic on the 1st Sunday each month from 3 May to 6 September. The meeting time would be 1.00pm at Kenwood House café. It was suggested that '*an area recognised to be used by naturists*' be informally agreed. Cohen's Fields had been successfully used for past naturist gatherings.

(c) HH Ladies Pond initiative. Louise reported that during 2019 summer individual naturist women visits had taken place but no group activity had been organised. It was agreed that Louise and Carlie organise a women naturist picnic at the Ladies Pond this summer.

(d) Naturist meal. The Blue Lion NAG meal in November had been cancelled due to low bookings.

5. London naturist options for 2020

We should not spread our limited NAG energies and resource over too many activities. In discussion It was agreed that the following NAG events be organised.

(a) Hampstead Heath. Dates agreed in previous agenda item.

(b) Beckenham Place Park. Steve offered to set up a naturist sunbathing day, with Chris (date to be confirmed).

(c) **Rainham Marshes.** Harvey agreed to organise a naturist day in this wildlife area (date to be confirmed).

(d) **Pub meal at Calthorpe Arms.** Harvey agreed to continue discussion with the pub manager a Sunday naturist gathering with a buffet meal (date to be confirmed).

(e) **NAG possibilities for the future.** It was agreed that further work to be deferred on the following, until NAG resources (and volunteers) allow.

Picnic in Richmond Park. Meet at Richmond Station as before, but much more advance publicity would be needed.

Naturist day at Walthamstow Marshes. Louise suggested that this could be a naturist picnic and game of rounders.

Wimbledon Common. To be kept on the list of future places to check out.

London Royal Parks. Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, Regents Park. Although heavily used it was agreed to keep them all on the list for possible future exploration.

Epping Forest. Another heavily used place, agreed to keep on the options list.

6. Events by others

(a) **Naturist Women.** Louise reported that the three 2019 events had each been very successful. For 2020 two women only events were being planned, a Naturist Spa Day in London and another Brighton Beach Day. (dates to be confirmed)

(b) **London WNBR.** To be held on Saturday 13 June with eight start points. There will be an after party in Brixton.

(c) **BN.** Jon reported that various events are being organised in the S.E. and accessible from London. Two possibilities still to be explored were naturist private view events at the **Royal Academy** as during 9 June – 16 August the *Summer Exhibition* and later the *Marina Abramovic: 'After Life' exhibition* during 26 September – 8 December. Larger naturist numbers than at the March 2019 event would be better for the RA.

7. Any other business

(a) **Date for next meeting.** Agreed this would be **Saturday 27 June 2020** as an indoor naturist picnic in north London, but at HH if weather is good on the day. Details were to be circulated nearer the date.

(b) **John McPartlin.** John Paine reported on a recent dialogue with NAG London Group, initiated by John McPartlin, regarding HH strategy. The first matter was his letters in the local papers, regarding a recent decision by HH management to initiate new charges at the Swimming Ponds. Carlie gave a brief rundown on the issue. Following local showings of the film about Hampstead Ponds there had been a massive increase in public use of the Ponds. HH management needed to employ more life-guards at extra cost. Voluntary payment into 'honesty boxes' at the Pools had provided virtually no extra income – hence the current discussion on increased charges.

It was noted that John McPartlin was perfectly entitled to make his views known to the local paper, as was any citizen, but he was not authorised to do so on behalf of NAG.

The second, and more serious, was that John McPartlin had initiated a correspondence with the City of London asking for written evidence of their policy towards naturism on HH. NAG already has a written assurance from HH management (September 2018) that they accept the Police Guidelines and accept the naturism on HH. John Paine, as BN Chair, had written to John McPartlin on 15 February, making it clear that his actions were damaging the cause of naturism at HH.

The meeting finished at 4.40pm