

Report for Naturist Life magazine (April 2011 for publication May 2011)

What do naturists want in London?

Since October 2010 naturists have been answering **The London Question**, posed by the Naturist Action Group (NAG). London, a capital city of 7.5 million people, has virtually no facilities for naturism. Naturists are concerned about this lack and 50 naturists had commented to NAG by April 2011. NAG held two meetings, attended by female and male supporters, and several options for action have been identified. This article will update you.

Naturist Life supports the debate and the April issue carried a NAG meeting notice for late March. Sadly, this was too late for many *NL* readers to attend. A good start has been made, a lot of information given, and YOUR input is still very welcome.

Three categories of provision identified are **(a)** outdoor locations to enjoy the sun **(b)** indoor facilities for year round use, and **(c)** regular naturist swimming sessions. Of course, the biggest nude activity in London is the annual *London World Naked Bike Ride*. Of the 1,000 participants on the streets of central London in 2010 about 200 were totally naked and only 100 fully clothed. This year's London WNBR will start in Hyde Park at 3.30pm on Saturday 11 June, and NAG supporters will meet up at the Silver Bed (just in from Park Lane) from 2.00pm to participate.

On **(a)** discreet casual naturism takes place in Hampstead Heath, Hyde Park, Regents Park, Richmond Park, The Welsh Harp reservoir, Wimbledon Common. A new possibility is Trent Park, to be explored this summer. Naturists suggest that an official area for naturism be set up near to The Serpentine in Hyde Park. Victoria Park in Hackney has also been suggested, and NAG has heard that a group of naturists want to get naturism accepted in a park at Crystal Palace. No details of campaigns at these parks are available. More comments from *NL* readers are required for real progress to be made.

Over 1,000 people have supported a campaign at Hampstead Heath since autumn 2008. In May 2010 a review of that Campaign's work was made, with new objectives suggested in a NAG report **Naturism on Hampstead Heath** (see naturistactiongroup.org). The Hampstead Heath Naturist Campaign now needs more local people to be actively involved. Malcolm Boura of British Naturism (BN) is assisting this Campaign. You can contact Malcolm at rlo@british-naturism.org.uk. For NAG I am the contact (contact details below).

Regarding **(b)** commercial facilities for indoor naturism operate in Kentish Town (Rio's) and Wood Green (Elixir Health Club). Only Elixir is totally naturist at all times, but its facilities are not large. Various local authority leisure centres used to operate naturist sessions. None are known of today - unless you can tell us differently! There are no formal naturist groups in London. Single Outdoors Club (SOC) holds occasional social events in London and about 200 BN members live in London. BN national officers are exploring how a BN London Group one might start. For this to happen will BN members need to co-operate.

Naturist swimming sessions in London, category **(c)** above, have died out since Gymnos formally folded in March this year. The BN Executive Committee decided early in 2010 that to start regular naturist swimming session in central London is a BN priority. NAG has heard that BN is likely to announce details soon of when a swim session in London, open to all naturists, will begin.

I would like to personally thank the many naturists who have taken time to support **The London Question** initiative so far. NAG looks forward to hearing anything that YOU would like to add to the above, YOUR comment on how this project is going, and which action - to improve naturism in London - YOU may like to join? I can be reached by email john-paine@naturistactiongroup.cop.uk

This is just one NAG project. NAG has no membership fees, welcomes all naturists to join in its campaigns, and is happy to receive donations of cash or other valuable support. Further details are available on the NAG website naturistactiongroup.co.uk

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