

# Berkshire Older Lesbian and Gay Forum

## Steering Committee Minutes

Wednesday, 7th January, 2004  
Rupert Street Information Centre

Action

### 1. Attendees and Apologies

In attendance were Jenny Ward (Chair), Suzanne Khambatta, Nigel Tooke, Maria Ottway, Rebecca Ballard, Lois Williams, and John Wood.

Apologies had been received from Wyndham Clampett, Liz Hill, Derek Rogers and Jane Kightley.

### 2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th November, 2003, were agreed as a true record with the following amendments:

Page 2, final paragraph, should read "Awards for All" for "Community Champions".

Rebecca

### 3. Matters Arising from Last Meeting

#### a. **Joint Research with beYOU**

Jenny had heard nothing recently on how beYOU were progressing with their research project.

Rebecca advised that beYOU had been successful in gaining registered charity status. This might mean that Simon and Catherine would now have time and energy to move the project forward.

#### b. **Email to the Forum**

Rebecca confirmed that she had set up email diversion. Messages could now be sent to individuals @bolgaf.org.uk. Messages to addresses not set up are received by Rebecca.

#### c. **Opening Doors**

Jenny reported that, in the end, more than 55 evaluation forms had been received. They had contained good feedback apart from one or two comments.

Jenny, Rebecca and Margaret had attended a debriefing session at Age Concern Berkshire (ACB), which had been very useful. The result of that meeting, and subsequent contact, was that ACB want to continue working with the Forum. We noted that the relationship between the two organisations was likely to be enhanced now that Suzanne was working for Age Concern.

Ray Williams (ACB) had been in contact with Jenny. He was going to be involved in the training of care assistants at Newbury College, and was

hoping to put ensure the training contained time to a look at LGB issues.

Reading Borough Council (RBC) have asked for us to be involved in evaluating their care home strategy. We agreed that we would be willing to attend one meeting to advise on the sorts of things they should look for without charging. If they required more input than that, we would ask for remuneration.

**d. Consortium of Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Voluntary and Community Groups**

The Consortium have confirmed to Jenny that if a national network of Older LGB organisations were to be formed, it would not be duplicating the work being carried out by any existing group that they were aware of. They are happy for us to be involved in setting something up.

**e. Christmas Chorus**

The Christmas Chorus had sung in various places and had made collections. The Forum was to receive some of this money and we expressed our thanks for that.

We understood the Chorus was no longer to be for gay men only.

**f. AGM**

We all agreed that the AGM had gone well.

**g. Thames Valley Switchboard Launch**

This had been a good event. There had been a number of police officers present, including an Area Commander. This was very positive.

**4. Election of Treasurer**

Liz, having agreed to stand prior to the meeting, was nominated as Treasurer by Maria and seconded by Rebecca. She was unanimously elected.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

Nigel reported that the bank Account stood at £943.34. This included £338.22 which was specifically for training. We agreed that we would use this for second networking day on 6th March.

**6. Chair's Report**

Jenny had nothing to report other than items covered elsewhere in the Agenda.

**7. Second Networking Day**

After the first networking day, Jenny, Wyndham, Margaret Collins, Liz, Sally Middleton and Lindsay River had volunteered to set up a working group to establish national group (provisionally called "OLGA"). The working group had reached an impasse about how to set it up so, via telephone, members of the steering committee had agreed that the Forum would run the second networking day and charge for attendance.

The day would be divided into 2 parts. In the morning each group would share what it had done since the first networking day. (Groups who had not attended the first day would give a short presentation about their achievements.) Amber Hollibaugh would then speak about the work of SAGE in New York. In the afternoon we would discuss how to take a nationwide group forward.

Jenny  
Margaret  
Maria

Jenny and Margaret C would draw up an agenda. Jenny was in touch with Amber directly. Maria will organise the lunch once we know how many people to be catered for. She would probably contact Panino's again. NB Panino's will need something in writing and payment in advance so Maria and Jenny will liaise over headed notepaper. We will also need to organise plates.

?

## 8. Post Conference Report

This was not quite complete. Rebecca needed to complete the workshop reports.

Rebecca

Rebecca will put the report together by the end of January.

Jenny will give Lois the names of people who had not attended the Conference and those who had requested the report subsequently, so that a distribution list could be drawn up.

Lois  
Jenny

## 9. Planning for 2004

### a. Grant Applications

We agreed that a sub-group was needed to put together and submit a grant application for Awards for All for running expenses including for a PO Box, and telephone number. Maria and Jenny agreed to form the sub-group together with Liz.

Maria  
Jenny  
Liz

A separate application for funding would also be needed to undertake outreach to older LGBs. This would include funding for advertising and support for social events.

### b. Social Events

We agreed that we were not to be in a hurry to run another Tea Dance unless people told us they wanted one and volunteers were available to organise it.

We agreed to think about having one big annual fundraising/profile raising event such as a Ceilidh.

In the longer term we would like to be able to offer a couple of social events per month. Some possibilities were: a book group and a film club.

**c. Partnership Legislation**

We noted that the government had published the response document to its consultation. Rebecca has an electronic copy if anyone wishes to have a copy.

**d. Scarborough conference**

Jenny has been contacted by the organiser and given them some help. She had also suggested that build links with their group, particularly if there was to be a national group.

**10. Any Other Business and Dates of Future Meetings in 2004**

The next meeting is to be held on Thursday, 12th February, at Rupert Street Information Centre. The meeting will start at 8.00pm. It was agreed that we would discuss the post of **Vice-Chair** at that meeting.

**Next  
Meeting**

The Networking Day is to take place on Saturday, 6th March, starting at 10:30am.

Further Steering Committee Meetings will take place on:

Tuesday 6th, April, at 20:00;

Tuesday 1st June, at 20:00;

Thursday 22nd July, at 20:00;

Tuesday 7th September, at 20:00;

Thursday 21st October, at 20:00;

Tuesday 7th December, at 20:00.