

HE & E

naturist

THE HEALTH & EFFICIENCY GUIDE TO
NATURIST LIVING

October 2008

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USA AND CARIBBEAN SPECIAL

Where to find the
hottest spots for
that all-over tan

View From Behind the Lens

How to capture
the perfect
naturist shots

A 'GLAMTASTIC' WEEKEND!

The sights and sounds of
the Merryhill Music Festival

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Jade
at Rivendell

Photo by
Roger Holt



Editorial



It really does seem as though the sun has packed his bags for good this year, bringing down the curtain on another nondescript summer. This can't have been good news for the British naturist scene, as our clubs really rely on favourable weather to attract visitors new and old. When the weather is poor, naturism in Britain has to become largely an indoor pursuit – not great if you're camping or in a caravan! This could possibly be one of the factors which led to yet another club, Parklands, deciding to turn non-naturist in 2009. It cited poor visitor numbers making it not financially viable to stay naturist. So what do British clubs need to do to survive in the current tough economic climate? Do you think the club scene is thriving or dying? Let me know your views.

This month, therefore, we turn our attention to warmer climes, and our USA and Caribbean Special will hopefully provide some ideas. I realise not everyone is able to travel so far afield, but with the US dollar still weak against the pound, it's a good time to go across the pond – and travel does form the backbone of H&E, especially due to the lack of sun over here. Hopefully, though, you'll find enough interesting features to balance things up.

I've also had a few comments about full-page pictures. Some readers have pointed out that the models are not necessarily naturist, and I think this is an interesting point. Do they have to be naturist for us to appreciate their naked form? Indeed, some models who may not have been naturists at the start, enjoy the experience of natural, nude modelling, and go on to take up a naturist lifestyle. I'm trying to achieve a balance between the professional shots and more natural shots (as in the Naturist Living section), and I'm still looking for more photos of couples and men. What would you like to see?

I hope you're continuing to enjoy the magazine, and watch this space for new features and ideas in the coming months.

Sam Hawcroft
email me at: editor@henaturist.net

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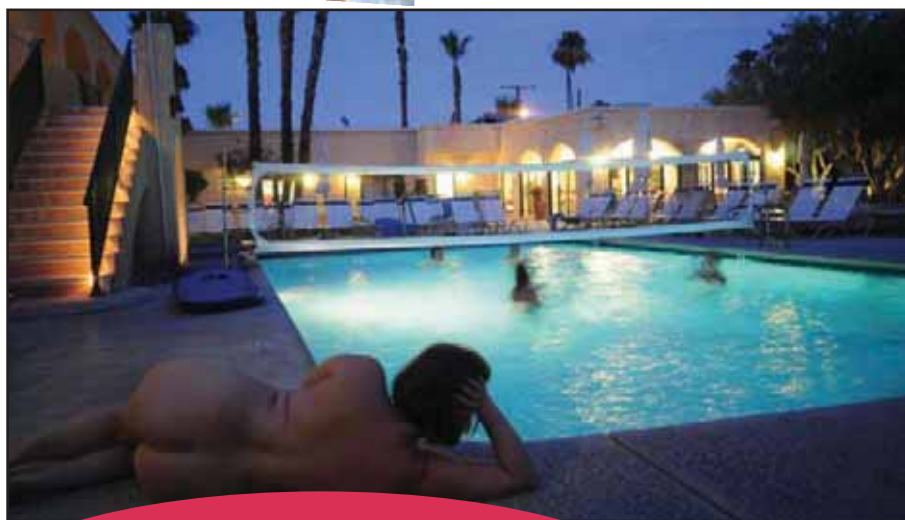
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BN court action against former chairman

Further to my article in July, about a police investigation into allegations of irregularities and possible criminal offences concerning a loan made to former BN chairman Mick Ayers, I can now report that at a meeting held on June 15, BN's Executive Council voted to pursue the matter in the civil court. On June 24, BN lodged a claim against Mick Ayers in Northampton County Court, and due to the failure of the defendant to respond, a default judgement was made in BN's favour on July 16 for £1,467, comprising the original disputed sum of £1,068 plus interest and court fee.

However, it appears that some present at the meeting failed to reveal that Mick Ayers was on a touring holiday in France from June 11 until July 24, and on August 11 he applied for the judgement to be set aside on the grounds that he had no knowledge of the hearing. It also appears that some of what I was told earlier may have been less than the truth.

Rather than concluding that no criminal offence had taken place, there was a police view that Ayers had indeed exceeded his authority in the matter of the writing off of £1,068 of a loan of £1,791 made to him on August 24, 2004. It seems the strength of the evidence, in a convoluted case, coupled with the relatively small sum involved, failed to meet the CPS's criteria for pursuing a prosecution.

Furthermore, in November 2004 the EC had approved an earlier management committee decision to allow the purchase of a laptop computer at a cost not exceeding £1,000. Mick Ayers had in fact already bought the laptop at Dixons, in July, at a cost of £850. It is unclear why the loan was for the sum of £1,791, but it is clear that no repayments were made under the terms of the written agreement until a

single payment of £723 in November 2005. This appears to represent the cost of the laptop less VAT, although it would have been illegal for BN to attempt to reclaim VAT on a computer quite clearly belonging to Mick Ayers. At the same time it was alleged that the computer had become irreparably damaged, although this seems to refer to an older computer, also quite clearly the property of Mick Ayers. In early November 2005, general secretary Tracey Major contacted BN's accountants for advice on how to write off the cost of a computer. Seemingly unaware that it was not on BN's books and BN did not own the computer, they somewhat alarmingly supplied the advice that did the trick. Mick Ayers' loan debt was shifted from the Officers Loans section of the books to Repairs and Renewals. The remainder of the loan was cleared in that way, by referring to the write-off as being that of a computer belonging to BN, rather than that of a debt belonging to Mick Ayers.

Although then treasurer, and now current chairman Richard Daniels denies any knowledge of the write-off, it is apparent that Tracey Major agreed the procedure with both Daniels and Ayers. The transaction was not reported to anyone else within BN, and remained hidden until the election of chartered accountant Duncan Heenan as treasurer in October 2007. Although most of BN's rapidly diminishing membership is disgusted by all this, and clamouring for its money back, on August 16 Richard Daniels chaired a meeting of the EC, again dominated by the old guard, which voted to discontinue the County Court action against their old friend Mick Ayers.

Bob Janes

Naturism not unlawful, complainants told

Chalet owners at Hill Head beach near Fareham, Hampshire, have been upset by the authorities' responses to their complaints about nudists. A report in Portsmouth paper *The News* claimed the law on public nudity changed five years ago, making activities such as nude sunbathing no longer illegal. That is not correct, and is probably a reference to the Sexual Offences Act 2003, which rescinded a couple of ancient provisions relating to indecent exposure. Simple naturist activity has never been unlawful, although it has been, and still is, often viewed and treated as such.

However, for once the authorities seem to have taken the correct view. One complainant, Treavis McCall, treasurer of the Meon Shore Chalet Owners' Association, said: "It's really not on. It's getting so bad that people can no longer just take a walk along the beach without seeing someone naked. It makes me so cross." Gill Jacobs, 60, complained to police about nudists on the western end of the beach, and was shocked to be told nothing could be done. "It's completely unacceptable. These people are just lying around completely

naked in full view, some even walking along the water's edge. They shouldn't be allowed to parade their bodies in public. It's not very nice or fair on other people, especially children. But the police and council just turn a blind eye."

Far from turning a blind eye about people "parading" their bodies in public, the police and council have considered the situation and come to sensible conclusions. The local authority, Fareham Borough Council, said it had received only a few complaints and was not planning to take action. Responsibility for policing the beach lies with the head of the Park Gate sector of Hampshire Constabulary, Inspector Chris Manktelow. He said police had responded to complaints, but found people were not breaking the law. "This is happening up one end of the beach, away from where the crowds go, and we've not actually had that many complaints. Just lying on the beach naked or looking out to sea is not illegal. If they were engaging in sexual activity that would be seen as a lewd, obscene or disgusting act so it would come under the common law offence of outraging public decency. But just sunbathing is not enough." Naturists can only hope that message becomes rather more widespread.

Bob Janes

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