

Present: { D. Webb, E. Miller, Elizabeth Goodfellow
E.A.C. Goodman, David Keenington.

1. Apologies: Pamela Manson.
2. Welcome to new Committee Member, Elizabeth Goodfellow.
3. Director's Report. He referred members to the copies of the Minutes of the last (Sept 1984) meeting which were distributed. He proceeded to go through the items contained therein as follows:

He said he had written to James Ferman, Secretary of the BBFC, pointing out that contrary to Ferman's allegation at the GLC Film Censorship Conference in May 1984, Dr. Maurice Yaffe of Guy's Hospital had not changed his views. In reply Ferman merely sent a card of acknowledgement on 4th October 1984.

The Director also reported that Lord Norwich had resigned from the NCROPA Committee because of its views on the Video Recordings Act. The Director had asked CAC to remove him from their Sponsors List.

The Director stated he was in correspondence with Martin Barker and Dr. Guy Cumberbatch. He said he had received a copy of the book "The Video Nasties" by Martin Barker. The Director had attended the show "Pornography a Spectacle" at the ICA and reported that it was a poor production.

The Director reported that he had received a letter of thanks from Dave Allen for writing to the BBC expressing opposition to Mrs. Whitehouse's demand that his programme be banned. The Director also reported that he had received no reply to his complaint to Larry Hodgson of BBC Radio News of its description of the items seized in "Operation Sweetheart" on 14th February 1985 as "pornography" although it was innocent until proved guilty.

The Director reported on his correspondence with Lady Porter, Leader of Westminster City Council, complaining about the increase in annual sex-shop licences to £11,000. The Director also reported on his correspondence with Messrs Richard Simmonds, Madron Seligman, and Brian Cassidy, Tory MEPs who had tried to induce the European Parliament to support the principle of video censorship. (rs)

The Director reported on his unanswered complaint to Brian Matthews regarding his radio condemnation of the Frank Finlay film as being "pornography". The Director also reported on NCROPA's unsuccessful appeal for GLC funds and its so far unanswered appeal for AE Trust fund help.

The Director reported that Eric Miller had finished addressing envelopes to members for the ¹⁹⁸⁵ AGM. The 1984 AGM had not been held because of the campaign against the Video Recordings Act.

The Director gave details of the plan to ask all local authorities about their *sex shop and cinema-club licensing policy*.

Ted Goodman pointed out that the abolition of the Metropolitan Counties in April 1986 would change the system and therefore information should be gathered after that.

The Director reported on his News Media Release of the 28th February 1985 and his letters published that month in "The Guardian" and in the "Kensington and Chelsea Times" (with the exclusion of his sentence that the "BBFC could piss-off after passing [the film] 'Water'").

4. NCCL AGM 1985 The Director reported that NCROPA's motion had been rejected by the NCCL *because it reflected* existing policy. He had therefore appealed under NCCL rules to its executive Committee who had upheld the appeal.

It was agreed that the two NCROPA delegates to the NCCL AGM would be David Webb (Director) and Elizabeth Goodfellow (Executive Committee Member) and that Mr. Webb would propose the NCROPA motion and Ms Goodfellow would second it. It was noted that Ted Goodman (Executive Committee Member) would attend as an individual member.

5. Lord Houghton's Video Recordings Act Monitoring Group

The Director reported on the first full meeting of the Group. He complained that at the meeting Vincent Porter, a professor at the Polytechnic of Central London, had described NCROPA and CAC as "not respectable".

The Director reported his appointment to the Group's Committee.

6. Liaison with CAC: Eric Miller reported on the fact that the CAC Committee had instructed its Chairman to write to Lord Norwich and Mrs. Beckett MP suggesting that they resign as sponsors in view of their support for the Video Recordings Act.
7. Matters of Current Concern: Ted Goodman reported on the chaos in prosecution of the video versions of films which had been awarded certificates by the BBFC and of the prosecution of video recordings which had been acquitted. He said logic (though not liberality) would perhaps be introduced when the Video Recordings Act and Prosecution of Offenders Act came into force, as the Crown Prosecutors would be unlikely to prosecute video recordings which had received certificates.
8. Finance: The Director reported that NCROPA was without funds. He said sponsors were needed. Suggestions included Paul Raymond, Mick Jagger, Pink Floyd, and Yoko Ono. The Director was asked to write to them.

9. Future Strategy: It was agreed that after the NCCL AGM, the NCROPA Committee would convene again and plan a NCROPA AGM.

10. Any Other Business

Elizabeth Goodfellow reported on her meeting with Linda Semple, Manager of "Gays the Word" Bookshop, who stated she believed that erotic publications featuring women were only acceptable if the females concerned "self-defined" their participation. Pornography produced by men was therefore unacceptable to Ms Semple.

David Kennington reported on the lecture he was giving to the Gay Humanists in June 1985. Ms. Goodfellow and Messrs Webb and Kennington confirmed that they would take part in Gay Pride Week commencing on 15th June 1985 and demonstrate outside the courthouse during the "Gays the Word" hearing on 17th June.

11. Date of Next Meeting : Provisionally Fixed for evening of 13th May 1985.

Approved:
[Signature]

With the approval of the Committee at their meeting on Wednesday, 18th September 1985,

Signed :- *[Signature]*

Honorary Director

18th September 1985.

as a true record of the meeting held on 11th April 1985.