

# RED RAG MEETING: MINUTES

14th August 1986



MINUTES OF A RED RAG MEETING, 14th AUGUST, 1986

Present: Paul P. Ian, Mark R. Liz S. Ana, Cliff, Linda, Laura, Paul Ka.

1. At the previous meeting, on 3rd August, several people had agreed to contact outlets to enquire whether they would be willing to sell Red Rag if it had a cover price. Two people reported back on this:

Ian - Acorn, UE Cycles, Pan Bookshop, Harvest Wholefoods all OK probably not expecting to take a retail margin.

Mark R - No.60 Christchurch Grn doubt that it would sell, but prepared to give it a trial. Jelly's don't want to be bothered with any money dealings. Paradise not suitable except direct from papersellers at gigs.

Somebody suggested that these may be the outlets most amenable to selling, so it can't be taken for granted that others would mostly agree as well.

2. NAME The minutes of the previous meeting give a strong impression of a markedly different publication being launched. Therefore there is some strength of feeling about the continued use of the name "Red RAG". Inevitably the general issue of the identity of the revived Red Rag, and whether or not we will put a cover price on it, got drawn into the discussion. (ie, some of us stayed quiet and confused while others of us spoke at cross-purposes)

Is it to be an "anarchist" paper or a "community" paper?  
RED RAG needs a re-vamp - how drastic is it to be?

We went around in a circle and all present gave a brief account of what they personally value about Red Rag:

\*Present structure and content is sound response to the realities of production; change necessary: more people/energy, but not drastic change.

\*Strength of RR is that it can cater for those who wish to use it: nothing needs eradicating except possibly partisan attacks.

\*"free-access/free distribution" as at present is important. If accepting conventional "solutions" to capitalist problems, the should go all the way and become a commercial, profitable publication.

\*Long incomprehensible articles should be excluded, otherwise basically OK.

\*Should continue free but not totally open forum - stands for UE rather than just anyone.

\*Retain free access as far as it is anyway; more local issues, groups, activities. "News". Cover price OK, probably won't affect content too much.

\*Basically satisfied: needs more news written by those involved or sympathetic, rather than journalists. Listings important as "selling" point. Price necessary as donations/benefit gigs are not raising enough.

(Interruption- often greater demand for something if it has a price)

\*Happy with cover price because we live in a capitalist society. More news, more initiative from RR, greater spread of people to be involved. Better not to be dependent on any one source of funding.

\*Basically good: small cover price seems good-ish idea. Going Out Guide attractive and useful.

Wide-ranging discussion of COVER PRICE/IMAGE/ IDENTITY.

Realistically, money for production has to come from somewhere.

ADVERTISING a possibility, but to be done well enough needs centralising a lot of responsibility and work onto one person.

MINUTE TAKER MAKES TEA... TEA BREAK

Laura proposes a cover price, calculated to cover costs. Some clearly agree. Others unhappy but accept.

Back to NAME. Symbolically, putting a cover price on RR is a major change, although in practice it may not affect its identity a great deal. If its identity does change, several people feel that the name should change too. Others very attached to the name. It was agreed to keep "RED RAG" for now.

OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING

Mention of standard format - much horror at any proposed limiting of the freedom of each issue's producers. Perhaps a consistent banner/logo on front cover

NEXT ISSUE:

Last freebie to be produced in first week of September, Coord: Marcus 567060. Edit meeting 8pm, Thursday 4th Sept. 141 Cumberland Road. Production process largely as usual  
FIRST NEW LOOK RAG:

Late in September, coordinated by Mark/Simon.  
Edit/prod meeting, Thursday 13th Sept, 8pm, 75 Filey Road  
People wishing to be involved please be there...

BUT...

POSTSCRIPT: It appears that this meeting thought that the 18th Sept. issue would be charged for; the minutes from the first meeting did not make it sufficiently clear that the 18th Sept. one would be the new type of Red RAG but it would be put out through the old distribution network and it would be FREE... to let people know what's going on etc. Simon & Mark & Marcus... (& maybe Cliff) are prepared to co-ordinate the 18th Sept Rag... editorial at Filey Rd still..... sorry my minutes were so confusing..... x Mark R.