



The London Question **UPDATE INFORMATION**

Sunday 20 March 2011

<http://naturistactiongroup.org>

Introduction

The **Naturist Action Group** is pleased at the response received from naturists to *The London Question* posed in October 2010. Various comments have been given, and by you being here shows that you want to explore this further. *Thankyou !*

My intention today is to chair an open discussion in which (a) we share both factual information and suggestions on what the people present today feel naturists should work for in London, and (b) identify what steps we might take together to get more naturist activity in Greater London.

No naturist clubs operate within London. Sadly, the nearest bona fide naturist Clubs, also regular naturist swims, are located in the surrounding Counties.

Clearly there is little formal naturist activity in London for a population of 7.5million people. **NAG** became interested in this lack of recognised provision in May 2010, when the **Hampstead Heath Naturist Campaign** was having difficulties. Below we give a review of the naturist activity in Greater London known to **NAG**, together with comments received from naturists on what they might like to see happen.

Indoor naturist activities

A few commercial premises exist which provide facilities for indoor naturism, *Rio's* in Kentish Town Road is now well-established. *Rio's* does not operate 100% as a naturist environment. A smaller premises at Wood Green operates a totally naturist environment. It is the *Elixir Health Club*. Some other premises may offer a naturist environment, but also provide for activities which naturists might not approve of.

The Singles Outdoor Club **SOC** has arranged special naturist social sessions in London for its members, the latest was here (*The Oxford* pub's function room) in January. Parties are also held about 4 times a year in *Elixir Health Club*. However its premises are small and quickly become crowded.

Naturist group **Gymnos** used to run regular London naturist swims and some local authority leisure centres did run naturist sessions.

BN has been exploring where in central London a regular naturist swim may operate. Two key restraints in that search are venue hire costs and a sensible time availability, with pools in London already heavily used by the public and swim groups. Surprisingly, whilst naturism is accepted in a very small male changing area, with a concrete floor, at Hampstead Heath Men's Pond - you are then required to put on a costume to swim there!

Outdoor naturist activities

The largest naked gathering in London is in June, when the annual *London World Naked Bike Ride* sees many hundreds of naked cyclists happily accepted by the public on central London streets. In 2011 it is expected to be held on Saturday 11 June and details of how **NAG** will participate will be posted on our website.

NAG has been told of discreet ad hoc naturist activity in Hampstead Heath, Regent's Park, Hyde Park and Richmond Park. In response to *The London Question* naturists suggest that the following may also be worth exploring: Crystal Palace Park, Trent Park in Enfield, Finsbury Park, and (at the London end of Epping Forest) Higham Park or Snaresbrook Park.

Two years ago a move started to get better provision for naturism within Hampstead Heath, which is managed by the City of London Corporation. The ***Hampstead Heath Naturist Campaign*** gathered 1,000 signatures on their petition. That group's original proposal was not accepted by the City Corporation. **NAG** worked with the Campaign to analyse their campaign strategy and identify ways forward. This is contained in the report **Naturism on Hampstead Heath** published by **NAG** in the summer of 2010. Since mid-2010 **BN**, with support from **NAG**, has been exploring how the ***Hampstead Heath Naturist Campaign*** should seek approval from the City Corporation for naturism in the open heath land. Malcolm Boura, the **BN** voluntary national Research & Liaison Officer, is the person to provide more detail on that project's current work. Malcolm may be contacted at rlo@british-naturism.org.uk.

As with all naturist activities there will be a need to guard against people with sexual motives, or aspirations, trying to use such opportunities in a way which is not in the spirit of naturism.

Add YOUR information

You might like to put here any information that you wish to share with the meeting:

A. Another current naturist activity in London that I know of:

B. I would be willing to work with other naturists to explore possibilities at:

(not listed in a priority order!):

1. Hampstead Heath

2. Regent's Park

3. Hyde Park

4. Richmond Park

5. Crystal Palace Park

6. Trent Park in Enfield

7. Finsbury Park

8. Higham Park or Snaresbrook Park

9. Some other location (specify)

C. Another activity that we could consider is:

(i). Some kind of London Naturists' Group

(ii). A 2012 London naturist Olympic Games

(iii). I suggest that here is another concept that we could work on:

By the end of the meeting it is hoped to identify how we, as naturists together, move forward.

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