



CANNABIS NEWS



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August 2007

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING / CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 15TH

North Staffs Conference Centre (Wade Hall), Hartshill, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 7NY

Many people have asked why LCA Conferences were always held in Norwich: the answer was that nobody found a suitable venue elsewhere—BUT NOW—Stoke-on-Trent beckons all true cannabis campaigners who can make the journey to join us and unite to discuss and plan how to rid the country of these dreadful, unjust and ineffective cannabis prohibition laws.

Tickets will be limited so first come first served—book your seat now, at £10.00 including snacks, drinks, and goodies.

As well as speakers from within the LCA activists teams on various issues, we hope to have with us some speakers from ENCOD to explain to us the importance of the Vienna CND (Commission on Narcotic Drugs) meetings, and Cannabis Social Clubs. And maybe a celebrity guest appearance.

The Conference will run from 11 am through to about 5 pm

For more details, or to find out about nearby accommodations, contact the LCA, at lca@lca-uk.org or check out our FORUM, the ideal place to keep up-to-date and discuss the world of cannabis.

Public to be consulted on drug strategy

The Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, has announced plans to consult with the public on the Government's strategy for tackling drugs. Speaking during today's Prime Minister Questions on July 18th, in his confusion he said that the ex-cannabis using Home Secretary and Jacqui Smith would publish a consultation document the next week, which will outline the Government's plans for providing drugs education, treating those with drug problems, and supporting communities troubled by drug dealers.

The public will also be consulted on whether cannabis should be reclassified from being a class C drug to the more serious class B, as if that would make some sort of difference.

Cannabis was downgraded to class C, which includes drugs such as anabolic steroids, from class B, which includes amphetamines, in 2004.

To participate in this consultation, download the document and form from www.homeoffice.gov.uk or telephone Susie Clark at MORI to ask for a copy 0808 238 5412.

PLEASE TAKE PART IN THIS SURVEY



Cannabis news from around the world

Man claims right to smoke cannabis.

A West Wales man has gone on trial claiming the right to cultivate his own cannabis.

Neil Christopher Morgan, 52, told police officers they were infringing his rights under the European Human Rights Act-- and even lit up a cannabis reefer in front of them.

A jury at Swansea crown court heard on Monday how four police officers armed with a search warrant descended on a group of caravans parked in woodland off the B4333 Newcastle Emlyn to Cynwyl Elfed road.

Inspector Richard Lee said Morgan volunteered several quantities of cannabis stored in various parts of the caravan. He also began smoking cannabis and officers confiscated the reefer. In two caravans close by, both owned by Morgan, they found 101 cannabis plants. Each van had its own generator attached.

Morgan, who is representing himself during the trial, told the court his defence was Article 8 of the Human Rights Act, which, he said, guaranteed his right to a private life.

Inspector Lee told him the Act did not cover criminal activities.

Morgan said he would not deny cultivating the plants. But he would argue that his arrest and prosecution were illegal.

Dyfed Thomas, prosecuting, told the jury during his opening address, "Growing cannabis is illegal. That is the law in this country."

"The prosecution case is very simple. Whatever arguments are put forward the evidence is straight forward enough," he added.

Neil was convicted by the jury and given a suspended prison sentence. We have heard that he has since been busted again.

LCA Comment: "Inspector Lee told him the Act did not cover criminal activities."

This is *precisely* the reason why the UN Declaration of Human rights specified that the law itself IS NOT enough justification for authoritarian interference with Human Rights such as privacy—it very clearly states that our rights can be set aside in the interests of law AND to protect public health, public order, the Rights of others etc.

Certainly in Neil's case, the police had no such reason. Blatantly they have dis-regarded our Human Rights.

Tories highlight cannabis dangers in drug blueprint

The health risks of cannabis are so great that it should now be reclassified as a class B drug, carrying much greater penalties for possession and trafficking, says David Cameron's new blueprint for dealing with Britain's growing addiction problems.

The Tory leader has been convinced by emerging evidence that a strong form of the drug, skunk, is causing an epidemic of mental health disorders. A report being published this week by a Conservative policy commission will confront the issue, recommending an upgrading of the drug to class B, as well as arguing the case for a complete transformation of addiction treatment in Britain.

The former Tory leader Iain Duncan Smith, who heads the commission, will produce his report, entitled Breakthrough Britain, on Tuesday. Speaking to The Observer, Duncan Smith said: "We know now that cannabis is incredibly dangerous as a drug. For years people have been allowed to get away with this rather loose and wishy-washy idea that in the Sixties we took it and it didn't matter. But in the Sixties it was a much less potent drug, and now they have this stuff that is home-grown, which is at least 12 times more powerful."

He added: "The real effect is on young kids who take it. We regularly have kids who take it at the age of 11 or 12. If your brain is growing, you can kiss goodbye to that - by the time you are 16 or 17 you will be in a psychotic state. It is an enormously dangerous drug, but a lot of middle-class families don't see that."

A Home Office review in 2006 decided there was no need to change the classification, despite the changing medical advice. The Home Office has pointed to a decline in the number of people using cannabis which they believe is linked to the fact that they downgraded the drug.

Duncan Smith said the slogan 'war on drugs... should be binned because that sends the wrong signals. It is not a war on drugs. It is about getting kids off drugs.'

LCA Comment:

Clearly revealing his complete ignorance over cannabis and the social impact, IDS is merely paying heed to scare-mongers and seeking to push forward a policy which has already failed miserably around the world, at preventing or reducing damage from drugs

SHAME ON HIM for refusing to recognise that prohibition itself is the cause of much harm, enabling greedy and unscrupulous dealers to push drugs on to kids.

Kids take drugs: some kids suffer from that: but that is no reason top punish adults for how they choose to run their lives IN PRIVATE!

September 28th - PARTY AROUND THE WORLD

- The 79th anniversary of the Geneva Opiates Convention where cannabis was banned.

This is a fund-raising day for the LCA, or your local legalisation campaign, and ENCOD. People from many countries around the world have already said they will join the party.

It is a way to introduce the idea of cannabis social clubs (CSC's)- there will be some text for small fliers to help. Also we hope it will generate publicity for the LCA and CSC's (Cannabis Social Clubs - see ENCOD web site for more details) www.encoded.org

This is the idea: we invite everyone to be PART of the PARTY! Join us in SPIRIT

We encourage people to gather in small groups, celebrate cannabis in their own ways, raise funds and awareness.

for example:

- Invite eight people for a meal and charge them £10 each; if one spends £5 each on food, one can serve a small banquet! The £30 profit would go to the LCA and £10 to ENCOD
- Or sandwiches and coffee for a fiver and send £20 to LCA (a Mad Hatters Tea Party?) could have just four people and play bridge
- A quiz and a meal
- A BBQ / story telling / bring and buy sale
- Winston is arranging an outdoor event with camping in Surrey, and will charge a little towards LCA funds (WinstonMatthews@lca-uk.org for details)

let us know your ideas and if you think you can do something and be part of this - it would be fantastic to know people all over the country are with us in spirit .

FOX: 'EVERYONE IN HOLLYWOOD DOES DRUGS'

TRANSFORMERS actress MEGAN FOX insists Hollywood is so awash with drugs, she is one of only five people she knows who doesn't indulge in illegal substances. Fox admits to trying various drugs, but didn't like her experiences under the influence. She tells American magazine Maxim, "I've done drugs, and that's how I know I don't like them. "I wanted to try several things and make an informed decision, but I didn't enjoy anything other than marijuana. I don't even think of it as a drug - it should be legalised. "Cocaine is back with a vengeance - everyone in every club is doing drugs. Celebrities aren't trying to hide it, except when people have camera phones. "I know about five people who aren't on drugs today, and I'm one of them."



WHY NOT BUY YOUR ROLLING PAPERS & TIPS FROM THE LCA?

If you can't afford (or don't want) any merchandise why not at least buy your smoking gear from us? No more looking over your shoulder at the local newsagent when you ask for king size papers! See the forum MERCHANDISE for our great £10 packages.

NOW we have a little shop starting up on Ebay.co.uk called **lca-corner**: T-shirts, Books, stickers, collectors items and more

CANNABIS SOCIAL CLUBS: A HEALTHY OPTION

This is a proposal to put to Government and to seek support for the idea—we are not of course suggesting anyone do anything illegal!

In most countries, adults can go to a shop or bar when they want to get alcohol. Likewise, there should be places where people can obtain cannabis in safety.

There should be a system for production of cannabis and distribution that will cause less problems and lower policing costs. There should be a place where cannabis can be enjoyed in a responsible way, where it is away from minors, away from other drugs, and where the consumers are safe..

Cannabis Social Clubs (CSC's) would offer these things. CSC's are associations of citizens who want to cultivate a limited amount of cannabis to satisfy their personal within the law in a transparent way.

CSC's can be established in various forms. They can be allowed within the legal margins that national governments have within international treaties. They can also they can save on policing costs and boost revenue.

Health and safety conditions of a CSC should be monitored during the entire process - from cultivation to consumption. This would stop the use of many chemicals and adulterants used in the illegal market ("grit-weed", "glass-grass", "soap bar" etc, all with their own risks)

Cultivation would also take place in accordance with safety rules. In countries where people cultivate indoors, this would reduce problems such as fire-risk and the theft of electricity

Distribution would take place with an effective policy of prevention and treatment of problematic use of cannabis. Membership of the associations would be limited to adults, so this system is also a way to reduce the availability of cannabis to minors.

Cannabis Social Clubs are presently operating effectively in Spain and in Belgium, while in Switzerland medical cannabis clubs are operating - also in the US and Canada. In other countries, initiatives are being taken to work out a similar model.

If you want to know more about these experiences, please visit our site www.cannabis-clubs.eu or contact us lca@lca-uk.org



LCA Mobile Phone Recycling Scheme 2007

We want your old business and personal mobile phones

Did you know there are over 100 million mobile phone's lying redundant around the UK offices and homes in draws, desks and cupboards?

99% of all old mobile phones can be reused or be refurbished to be reused

DO NOT THROW AWAY

Every phone carries a financial reward that could help The Legalise Cannabis Alliance.

The LCA has NO paid staff - relying on donations and fund-raising methods like recycling to pay for the campaigning for legalisation and utilisation of.

Please place your phones in a jiffy bag and send to:

FREEPOST, ShP Solutions Lancaster LA1 1NN.

Make sure you place your details inside the envelope **STATING CLEARLY** that the phones are supporting **"The Legalise Cannabis Alliance"**.

AMSTERDAM PUSH

The LCA have designed some pre-printed postcards addressed to the Prime Minister which we'd love to send out to anyone going on a holiday to Holland.

The card has a lovely botanical cannabis picture on the front and a message to **No 10** on the reverse.

All you need to do is sign it, stick a stamp on and post it.

Please let us know if you, or any of your friends, are off to Holland and would like to send one of the postcards. Contact us via the forum or at the usual address.

Eviction lifeline for cannabis gran.

Cannabis Gran Patricia Tabram has been told she will not be evicted from her rented home as long as she does not grow or deal the drug.

The 68-year-old gran was told by a judge at Newcastle Crown Court that he was granting her landlords an eviction order, but it can only be invoked if she breaches its conditions in the next 24 months. After the suspended sentence was passed Mrs Tabram, of Eastlea, Humshaugh, Northumberland, said she was pleased for herself and others who take cannabis for medicinal reasons.

She was convicted of growing and possessing cannabis when she appeared at Carlisle Crown Court in March and ordered to carry out 250 hours of unpaid community work as well as paying £1,000 costs.

After the court decision she said: "I can't cultivate it and I can't ever deal in it, but I've never dealt in it"

LCA Comment:

Although we are pleased that Pat has not been evicted, this ruling achieves nothing other than suspending a sword over her head.

They give her no real choice: GET ILL OR GET OUT!

Although Pat may see this as a license to consume, it is NOT.

Pat and all medical cannabis users still run the risk of eviction as the clause still stands in the rental agreement contracts.

Wheelchair-bound drug dealer spared prison

A wheelchair-bound man set up a cannabis grow in his home and claimed it was all for his own use. Joseph Dymond was spared prison for growing and possessing the class C drug - and immediately called for the cannabis laws to be further relaxed.

Dymond, who was paralysed in a car accident aged 17, told Hove Crown Court yesterday he smoked between one and a half and two ounces of the drug a week to relieve pain and muscle spasms. The 36-year-old described the factory at his home as a hobby that grew out of control.

DS Anthony Pike, of Sussex Police's Serious Organised Crime unit, told the court the plants would yield up to 8,816 grammes, or 311 ounces and estimated the street value of the cannabis at between £24,000 and £49,000.

When he was arrested Dymond said: "I'm not a criminal, I only grow and smoke my own weed." He denied growing the cannabis to sell to others.

Judge Richard Hayward handed Dymond a three-month jail sentence suspended for a year but left him with a warning. He said: "You are an engaging chap and the court feels sympathy for you. You can't push the system indefinitely. "If you continue to grow and supply cannabis to others the courts will say, 'Enough is enough'."

Judge Hayward said: "If you're only using one or two ounces a week you might as well buy it. The cannabis you're smoking must be the most expensive in the world."

"I'm satisfied Mr Dymond was supplying others with cannabis. I hope he has not been used by others to do their bidding. He's cocking a snook at the system, but he can't go on doing it."