



MEETING MEN

Some Useful Tips

If you're a man who fancies other men it can often be difficult to meet men, particularly if you live in rural areas with few pubs and clubs. Even in areas that have a scene it may still be difficult. So what else is there?

CHATLINES

These vary widely, and may not always feature live conversation. They can be a very horny experience, and there are lots of services giving you the chance to make dates with men in the same area as you. Some services are charged at national call rates, although it's wise to check as they are often premium rate and can sometimes be international so charges vary considerably.

Chatline services usually include a lengthy pre-amble before the main service starts. Most services will be monitored in some way.

If you're using a phone service remember these numbers will show up on an itemised phone bill.

SAUNAS

In Leeds, Bradford, Manchester, Barnsley, Rochdale, Dewsbury, Newcastle and Hull there are gay saunas that advertise in the gay press. Facilities vary, but most offer private rest rooms, jacuzzis and steam rooms.

Some towns have municipal baths or a sauna suite; these can often be popular with men who fancy other men. Unlike gay saunas, the risks will be higher as you may not know who is and isn't up for sex, and who might take offence. be careful as staff may eject men caught having or negotiating sex, or might possibly call the police.

CONTACT ADVERTS

There are many publications that offer contact adverts, either by mail or by phone. Papers such as Boyz, Pink Paper, SHOUT or QX are available from scene venues, some Yorkshire MESMAC offices or other organisations, and contain many different section headings to choose from. These can be from men hoping for a long term relationship, wanting to meet the man of their dreams that they saw in the local supermarket, or simply wanting to someone to meet for sex.

Many local papers also carry adverts from men wanting to meet men in the personal sections. They may advertise phonenumber services offered by seperate companies which also offer the chance to get in touch with men.

Common abbreviations used: ALAWP - All letters answered with photo; BND - Boy next door; GSOH - Good sense of humour; N/S - Non-smoking; N/Sc - Non-scene; S/A - Straight acting; S/L - Straight looking; VWE - Very well endowed; WLTM - Would like to meet.

GROUPS

Going to a group can be a way of meeting gay men who you will probably have something in common with, depending on what the group is. These range from youth to older men's, general social, those for men who are married or in a relationship with a woman, or for specific interest groups such as Sci-Fi, walking or eating out. Get in touch with your local Yorkshire MESMAC office for more details on what's happening in your area.

THE INTERNET

If you're on the net you'll probably already know about the many different virtual meeting rooms on offer. These are increasingly popular and relatively cheap way of meeting men. Check out our Community links page for more information.

PUBLIC SEX

Sex in parks, lay-bys or public toilets is an effective way of meeting men if you know where to go and how to reduce the risks. Sex between men in public is still illegal, so it pays to know your rights. Yorkshire MESMAC has produced 'Safer Cruising' and 'Rights on Arrest' cards that can be sent to you if you wish, please contact an office with your details (strictly confidential).BE SAFE!

However you meet men, here are some general points...

- Don't give your address to someone until you're sure you want them to have it.
- If possible, let someone know where you're going. If you're arranging to meet someone for the first time do it somewhere public.
- Yorkshire MESMAC provides condoms and lube free of charge - keep some handy and know how to use them. We can also mail these out to you.
- Know your rights! Get the Yorkshire MESMAC 'Rights on Arrest' card!

Yorkshire MESMAC can help in many different ways - anonymous reporting of incidents to police, help in setting up a group, information on safer sex or just someone to talk to...