

Okay...where to start. Deciphering my notes will probably prove the first hurdle to overcome! I don't intend to write these minutes up in a formal way, because that will take the fun out of the process and make them dead boring to read. I'm not going to apologise for poor grammar either, I'm just typing this up quickly from the notes I made, and hopefully everything makes sense anyway.

Jimmy, Phil and Steve arrived at the Art House to discover that it wasn't open until 12 and some debate was made until it was decided to attend the Greek Cafe just up the road for much needed coffee. Once suitably moistened we began to discuss ideas. First we discussed how the "project" (for want of a better term right now) would largely take the form of a music label with various side-projects. The label side of things would be as follows:

-  We purchase bulk buys of CDRs (and tapes) and cases and pay for the actual copying of a band's release.
-  The band would pay for the recording
-  Artwork would be worked out for each release, some bands would want to do their own but we know plenty of people who would have ideas if a band didn't have any
-  If we get printable CDs then we can either stick a label on them or stencil stuff on, we can have a logo that we stencil on too
-  For the most part CD liner notes would be photocopied to keep costs down
-  Initial suggested price is £1 for both tapes and CDs
-  We would keep a proportion of what we produce to stock a distro. We would also have a number of copies to send for review.
-  We could also record live sets and release these as CDs (with a bands permission of course
-  Some ideas for upcoming shows were suggested and there are a number of local bands recording/already recorded and unreleased who may want to get on board.
-  MP3 download links could be included with cassettes and an RSS feed could be set up for anyone who subscribes to podcasts, either for all releases or occasional label podcasts.
-  The label could also produce split CDs (a la dirty dozen) and reissues of out of print stuff/deceased bands.
-  When we have a number of releases we can produce a free compilation which could be included with mail orders
-  In the future we could look at vinyl releases, but these are often prohibitively expensive; so probably a long way down the line at the moment.

By this point of the proceedings we realised that the Art House would now be open so adjourned to there, where a coffee, regular tea and Roibous with Chai were ordered (guess who had what). Steve and Jimmy also availed themselves of the free stuff shelf, acquiring some useful cooking spices. Then we began discussing how advertising would work

-  For each release we'd run an advert in a number of zines (whichever issue is closest to the release date)
-  We agreed that as Maximum rock and Roll is monthly that it would be a good idea to have a regular advert with them.
-  To avoid one person getting bored with always sending out adverts, this job could be rotated
-  A PayPal account would be very useful to pay for advertising and receive mail order payments.
-  Flyers can be produced and mailed to Distro and given to bands when they go on tour.



Releases would be sent to a number of zines for review, this would vary depending on the nature of release, for example Ripping Thrash would probably not want to review an acoustic band.



The label name could be associated with other projects (that we wouldn't necessarily give financial aid to) thus getting extra promotion

The discussion then moved onto what some of these other projects may include.



Zines would be a large part. We could release a compilation zine like "A Network of friends" with local zinesters all contributing a few pages



A number of local zinesters are interested in publishing compilations of their zines, which we could be involved with



We could agree a discount for printing if we have regular output



In return for helping to print zines we could ask for an advert within/on the back cover of zines



Books and stuff could also be produced, with us providing funds to help pay for printing, which could then be recouped from selling stuff



An unofficial Southampton guide zine and Walking Tour podcast are both ideas that we would be keen to get involved with.



We could also take zines at wholesale price/ get a percentage free to cover costs and distro them.



The distro could be both zines and releases and be stored at a central place which people could collect and take to shows and from which mail orders could be sent out

We then decided that we have a good number of ideas and that there is definitely plenty of motivation to get this thing moving. We agreed that personal tastes wouldn't prevent a band or zine from being released on the label and we aim to be multi genre.

We want it to be a laid back and fun experience; so if people volunteer to do stuff we wouldn't want to get on their backs if they didn't do it, but likewise we'd rely on people who took on jobs to come clean when they haven't done it so someone else can take over.

We then had a quick discussion of things that needed doing fairly quickly. These are:



Sorting out a list of zines to send reviews to (Steve to compile)



Look into website costs/ make website (Steve again)



Sort out a PayPal account (not essential at the moment)



Set up a mailing list for the group (Yup, the ale man again)



Have someone to look after the finance side (Jimmy volunteered for this)



Have fairly regular meetings to get this project going

It would be cool if we could have some releases/zines to show at the Zinefest at the Art House at the end of November, which gives us about three months.

We set a date for the **next meeting on Monday 14th September at 6:30pm in the Bent Brief Lodge Road.**

Then vacated the premises to continue with our own busy schedules. Jimmy went to geek it up in library, Phil grabbed a bus to the footy in Totton and Steve decided to get some spice jars from IKEA.

(Let me know if you have any feedback for the style of these minutes, if you think a more formal approach would be better, then I can do that for next time; until then, adieu!)