

MEETING OF THE LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

held 1st March 2012

PRESENT: Councillors John Campbell (Chair), Jenny Armstrong, Diane Leek and Ian Saunders.

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1. WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

1.1 The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and outlined basic housekeeping and fire safety arrangements.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 There were no apologies for absence received.

3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982- SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES

Villa Mercedes (Scores), 2-4 Charter Square, Sheffield, S1 4HS

3.1 The Chief Licensing Officer submitted a report to consider an application for the grant of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence made under schedule 3, section 10, of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended) for the premises known as Villa Mercedes (Scores), 2-4 Charter Square, Sheffield, S1 4HS.

3.2 Present at the meeting were Marie-Claire Frankie (Solicitor to the Sub-Committee), Shimla Rani and Kathy Stockdale (Licensing Officers), Gillian Capewell (Democratic Services), Andreas Baskoutas (applicant) and Paddy Whur (solicitor to the applicant).

3.3 The Solicitor to the Sub-Committee outlined the procedure which would be followed during the hearing.

3.4 Kathy Stockdale presented the report to the Sub-Committee and it was noted that, although no representations had been received, guidance issued by the Home Office recommended that all applications be heard and considered together.

3.5 Mr. Whur addressed the Sub-Committee, informing Members of the nature of the business at Villa Mercedes. He stated that it was a gentleman's club, with self-employed dancers working at the premises. He detailed the operations which took place, including information about dancers' welfare and the security measures which were in place. He stated that the dancers who worked for Mr. Baskoutas were often retained within his company for a long time, as he was an excellent employer. Mr. Whur added that a great deal of work had taken place recently with regard to improving the frontage

of the building where Villa Mercedes was located. Previously, the bar had been called Scores, and had been a sports and striptease bar, which had potentially confused customers as to what to expect. There had also been pictures of scantily dressed women adorning the outside of the property, which had now been removed. The premises were now very discreet, with an entirely black frontage, and just the name of the club above the door, and the sports bar element of the operation had been entirely removed.

- 3.6 The premises were extremely well run, and used SIA trained security staff. There were 32 extremely modern CCTV cameras in the premises, including CCTV in the private dance areas, which many other lapdancing clubs did not have. A senior member of security staff proactively viewed the CCTV footage during each evening to assess any problems if and when they arose.
- 3.7 It was noted that Mr. Baskoutas was the sole owner of Basco Ltd, and that Mr. Whur had represented him for over ten years. Mr. Baskoutas worked closely with South Yorkshire Police, and no problems had been associated with his premises. The Police had visited the building and were impressed with the operation.
- 3.8 There was extremely clear signage at the club which indicated the code of conduct for customers with relation to the dancers. He added that the premises were open from 2100 hours until approximately 0300 hours daily, depending on how busy the premises were.
- 3.9 It was noted that the premises (as Scores) had been owned by ABA Leisure, of whom Mr. Baskoutas was a director. However, the ABA group had since disbanded, and Mr. Baskoutas had formed Basco Ltd in August 2011 to take sole charge of Villa Mercedes.

La Chambre, 548 Attercliffe Road, Sheffield, S9 3QP

- 3.10 The Chief Licensing Officer submitted a report to consider an application for the grant of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence made under schedule 3, section 10, of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended) for the premises known as La Chambre, 548 Attercliffe Road, Sheffield, S9 3QP.
- 3.11 Present at the meeting were Marie-Claire Frankie (Solicitor to the Sub-Committee), Shimla Rani and Kathy Stockdale (Licensing Officers), Gillian Capewell (Democratic Services), Linda Calvert (applicant) and Barry Calvert (husband of the applicant).
- 3.12 The Solicitor to the Sub-Committee outlined the procedure which would be followed during the hearing.
- 3.13 Kathy Stockdale presented the report to the Sub-Committee and it was noted that, although no representations had been received, guidance issued by the Home Office recommended that all applications be heard and

considered together.

- 3.14 Linda Calvert addressed the Sub-Committee, outlining that she had submitted proposed amended conditions for the operation of the premises which were contained within the information pack for Members. She added that the club had been in operation for 15 years and there had never been any incidents or trouble associated with the premises.
- 3.15 **RESOLVED:** That the public and press and attendees involved in the applications be excluded from the meeting before further discussion takes place on the grounds that, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, if those persons were present, there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information as described in Paragraph 5 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.
- 3.16 The Solicitor to the Sub-Committee reported orally, giving legal advice on various aspects of the applications.
- 3.17 At this stage in the proceedings, the meeting was re-opened to the public, press and attendees.
- 3.18 **RESOLVED:** That the Sub-Committee agrees to grant a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for the premises known as;
- (a) Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS, as application, and amended standard conditions (this application was heard by the Sub-Committee on Tuesday 28th February 2012);
- (b) Villa Mercedes (Scores), 2-4 Charter Square, Sheffield, S1 4HS, in the terms now requested, and
- (c) La Chambre, 548 Attercliffe Road, Sheffield, S9 3QP, as application and amended standard conditions, with the addition of conditions 3 and 4 from the original standard conditions.

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