Department of Social Research Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute Withington Manchester 20

## CAN WE MEET IN THE NORTH?

In the two years that I have been a member of Radical Statistics, I've found it impossible to attend more than one official meeting. The reason, of course, is that London is a long (and expensive) distance from Manchester. With around fifty other members (ex-members?) in the same situation, it seemed worthwhile to test the interest, if any, in a Northern sub-group of Radical Statistics amongst those who would find it more convenient and cheaper to get together in Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield or Leeds (or anywhere else north of the line between the Mersey and the Humber). Of fifty people contacted since the end of April, twenty have already replied, all more or less in favour of the idea. Some are even prepared to help in the organisation. Replies are still coming in, yet the response so far makes me enthusiastic enough to think of putting together one or two meetings. Alison Macfarlane has suggested a get-together in Leeds during the Social Science and Medicine conference (13-15 September) so northerners might like to keep these dates in mind.

My enquiries have elicited only one difference of opinion, and that concerns the rationale and format of such meetings. Do we fix a regular schedule, or call meetings for specific discussions as and when the interest arises? My own feeling is that a general get-together twice a year would be useful if only to reinforce contacts and to continue a discussion that, judging by the most recent Radical Statistics A.G.M., has a long way to go. I would appreciate many more opinions on this matter.

Best Wishes

Dave Haran

P.S. My apologies to all residents of the Newcastle/N.E. area that my enquiry did not cover them personally for financial reasons.

A copy of the quesionnaire is printed overleaf.

## QUESTIONNAIRE FOR NEWCASTLE/N.E. AREA

I would like to get some idea of whatever interest there might be in Radical Statistics meetings held in the North, and indeed what kinds of meetings people would be interested in (for example, workshops, invited speakers, etc.) Space is provided for comments, opinions and ideas, and even if you aren't interested could you still return the questionnaire indicating so. Thank you.

- 1. I am still interested in Radical Statistics yes no (please circle one)
- 2. I would be interested in attending meetings somewhere in the North.

  yes no
- 3. I would find the following places convenient:
  Liverpool Manchester Sheffield Leeds

  (Please circle those convenient for you, if none are then indicate where would be convenient.)
- 4. I would be prepared to be involved in organisation yes no
- 5. My areas of interest related to Rad. Stats. are

6. Comments, etc. (please continue on a separate sheet).