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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### The 'Truth' About BUFORA?

From: "Tim Matthews" <[matthews@zetnet.co.uk](mailto:matthews@zetnet.co.uk)>  
Date: Sun, 3 May 1998 03:21:20 +0100  
Fwd Date: Sat, 02 May 1998 13:58:46 -0400  
Subject: The 'Truth' About BUFORA?

Dear Researchers,

I have read with some interest the recent discussion about the current state of British Ufology. Now don't get me wrong, there are some excellent researchers over here - around 50 people if the truth be told.

Some of these people are independent, some are members of local groups.

Others are members of BUFORA - The British UFO Research Association.

Our US colleagues need to know the truth about the current state of affairs within what is claimed to be the number #1 objective research body in the UK. I was a member for a year during which time I assisted the Director of Investigations with her research wherever possible. Whilst Gloria Dixon did, and continues to do, an excellent job with a tiny number of other researchers, the 'organisation' has become a sick joke.

In the last two years members have been treated with a shocking disregard. Imagine paying out =A320 a year to join. You get almost nothing in return. A couple of magazines a year, the chance to attend lectures in London (200 miles away from a majority of members) and the very occasional attempt at a regional lecture in Merseyside and the North East.

I was shocked to find the depths of UFO politics within the organisation. This had been going on for years, according to several long-term members and the political mess reached a head in late 1997 after a series of resignations.

The membership has largely been kept in the dark about this and over half the members have not renewed their membership. After all, what do they get for their money? Very little.

Over the last ten years Jenny Randles, Britains' most respected member and a colleague of mine, has recorded a weekly message on the BUFORA 'UFOCALL' service. This was set up with the intention of providing interested parties with a chance to keep up with the latest UFO activity and to raise money for the organisation. Just a couple of years ago this service raised =A35,000 for BUFORA and so it is safe to assume that over recent years tens of thousands have been raised.

Where has all the money gone? BUFORA is currently in a financial mess with no money to print a new magazine or to pay its' officers.

Several initiatives have been killed off, through a range of seemingly deliberate means. One such initiative was directed towards putting the several thousand BUFORA case files, lovingly collected over three decades, onto CD-ROM. The idea was that this should be sold to both members and public and serve as a resource for researchers everywhere.

A good idea. Killed dead. One researcher, Matthew Williams, reportedly bought a CD writer to assist this effort only to be told that his services were no longer required.

One prominent member, who had put BUFORA on the map to some extent through a succession of well-organised Conferences, was forced out by a shabby campaign waged against him.

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