

# the Southern



# Report

Chronicle, established 1783; Border Mail 1797; Border Standard 1848; Hawick Advertiser 1854; Jedburgh Gazette 1870; Ha-

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# 'Neo-nazi' concert thwarted

By MARK ENTWISTLE

FURTIVE plans for a gathering of 'neo-nazis' in Selkirk sparked a major police presence in the town on Friday night.

Members of fascist and right-wing groups from as far afield as Carlisle, Dumfries, Newcastle and Edinburgh, were said to be on their way to Selkirk for a concert by the infamous skin-head band, No Remorse.

Mr Sean Oliver, proprietor of the Tower Tavern, in the Back Row, where the event was due to have taken place, said he had been told the booking was just for a private disco. It was Mr Oliver who pulled the plug on the event.

According to Inspector Vic Pemberton of Lothian and Borders Police, the concert turned out to be a non-event.

"The owner of the Tower Tavern got wind of what was going on and closed up the place for the night," he said.

## Apologising

A notice was attached to the door on Friday night, indicating the venue was closed due to "unforeseen circumstances" and apologising to customers.

Asked if any neo-nazis had arrived in Selkirk, Inspector Pemberton said there were only "one or two strange faces" in the town.

"We had a considerable police presence, but absolutely nothing happened."

Several Edinburgh-based members of the organisation, Anti-Fascist Action, travelled to Selkirk on Friday. They told the "Southern" the disco booking was a cover to allow a neo-nazi gig and get-together to take place.

Spokesman Richard Davis said his organisation monitored neo-nazi and fascist groups and that he had already spoken to staff at the Tower Tavern.

"No Remorse is a well-known neo-nazi band," he said. "We believe they booked the gig at the Tower Tavern under the guise of a 21st birthday party and disco, without using

their real name."

Mr Oliver told the "Southern" he had no idea that neo-nazis were involved when the booking was made. "They booked us for a private disco and said a band would be coming on later."

According to Mr Oliver, a member of the public had tipped off the police about the neo-nazi involvement. "I cancelled the booking in the afternoon," he said.

Anti-Fascist Action this week expressed delight the event had been cancelled, but claimed Borders venues could still be targeted by neo-nazi groups looking for places out of the spotlight.

A spokesman said: "A lot of local authorities now have race relations policies, which would make the holding of such concerts illegal. But places like Selkirk and Galashiels are ideal, because they're small and out of the way."