

# Nightclub boss hires **CHERIE**.. to fight **TONY's** smoking ban

## HUMAN RIGHTS BID TO STOP LAW

### EXCLUSIVE

By **STEPHEN MOYES**

**CHERIE Blair** has been hired by a sex-themed nightclub – to fight the smoking ban brought in by her husband.

The Prime Minister's wife will give expert advice on how it could breach human rights of staff and guests at the venue, which has bondage tables and gold-plated erotic taps.

Her involvement – under her professional name Cherie Booth QC – is in direct opposition to one of the Government's flagship policies just as her husband is about to resign.

Mrs Blair this week visited the HeyJo club in St James's, Central London, and its owner Dave West, who is worth £100million.

She saw its red velvet decor and swings used by amorous partygoers and was shown the gold-plated penis-shaped taps in the toilets – which Mr West says he modelled for.

On her hour-long visit she told Mr West – who wore a trademark garish pink suit – how to challenge the ban in the High Court on human rights grounds. She charged a minimum £3,500 plus VAT for the visit and a written opinion.

Mr West, 63, a divorced father-of-three who lives in a flat above the £4million club, describes it as an "adult Alice In Wonderland" where "naughtiness" abounds.

He fears the ban will force him to close it and his adjoining restaurant Abracadabra.

He told the Mirror: "I have met Cherie before and she greeted me with a kiss. Unlike many barristers, she is not at all stuck-up.

"She wanted to see my flat and I showed her around – she told me jokingly she herself will soon be



**CIG BAN:** Club is challenging it

homeless. I even showed her the bondage table.

"Cherie said the court case should be filed before the ban and then the Government would try to strike it out. I told her I was prepared to go to the European Court.

"I told her I would be defying the ban as would staff and customers.

"When the police come, I shall show them the writ with Cherie's name on it and tell them to come back another time.

"There is no room for manoeuvre when the ban comes in. I will be fined £2,500 each time it is breached.

"The only way for patrons to smoke after July 1 is by going out on the pavement and that could land me in trouble with the police if it creates noise or disturbance.

"I want to eyeball the authorities and am calling on other nightclubs to join me in the challenge."

Leading lawyer Rodney Hylton-Potts, who represents Mr West, said: "This test case seeks a ruling that smoking should be allowed in private clubs. If successful it would run a coach and horses through the ban. Smokers have rights too."