

POSTHORN

NEWSLETTER

Branch Secretary's Report



Pensions/Government Review

LTB 581 circulated on 24 July 2008 provided a brief update to Headquarters various campaigns on Pensions and the Review on Competition.

Dave Ward, DGS(P) met with the Industry Minister, Pat McFadden regarding the union's position to dealing with change and modernisation and there would be no prospect of progress unless there was a new deal on pensions. The point was made at that meeting on 1 July 2008 that the Government had a responsibility to employees of Royal Mail a company they owned. Also discussed was the Government Review and what the CWU

hoped to get out of this.

A meeting took place on 2 July with Mark Higson, Royal Mail Letters Chief Executive, it was stressed that the union was embracing a deal on modernisation but in parallel we would have to find a new resolution on pensions. Mark Higson outlined some of the challenges facing the company and gave his personal commitment to improving the relationship with the union to find better ways of working together!!!!!!

Nationally the CWU are working with CMA Unite where agreement was reached to initiate a Parliamentary Early Day Motion focussing on pensions. The EDM was tabled by the CWU supported MP from Dagenham Essex, John Grogan.

Billy Hayes and Dave Ward met with the Government Review Team on the two key issues concentrating on the regulations and pensions. It was made clear that the union's abil-

ity to reach agreement with Royal Mail on modernising the company would strongly influence the outcome of the Review.

Meetings took place with Royal Mail team Dale Haddon, Ninian Wilson and Gillian Allford regarding the Industrial Issues who gave the union a presentation on the new management operations structure, assurances were given that no further reviews will take place in 2008 bearing in mind we already know the mail centres that are already earmarked for closure are Thames Valley, Northampton, Coventry and Milton Keynes.

The Branch has been locally campaigning and approaches have been made to the 9 local MP's regarding the Renewal of the Post Office Card Account to award the new contract to the Post Office Network when the new contract expires in 2010.

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Nationally the CWU are working with Unite, where agreement was reached to initiate a Parliamentary Early Day Motion focussing on Pensions.

Michael Clapham, MP is seeking Paramilitary support with an EDM. Only three of our MP's have signed Robert Symes MP (Poole) Annette Brooke MP (Mid Dorset & North Poole) and Robert Walter MP (North Dorset). Four other MP's have acknowledged the Branch communication and they support

the principle but will not sign the EDM. Hopefully the other two MP's who have not responded will have similar opinions. The Branch will be actively campaigning and contacting the MP's in regard to the Review of Postal Services and Pensions.

Derek Clash
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AREA REP'S DELIVERY REPORT

The last few months have been a difficult time for our Members. The main issues effecting Delivery staff at present are :



Phase 3 Deployment

An agreement on how Phase 3 of the Pay & Modernisation Agreement will be introduced into delivery offices has been

endorsed by the Postal Executive. It has also been agreed nationally that the 1.5% will now be paid to all weekly staff on the 8th August, backdated to the 7th April.

The objectives of Phase 3 are; New arrangements to cover for one another, Absorb absences & increase workload where time exists within normal work hours, (This is already happening in some offices), Utilise all paid hours and enable employees to cover & swap duties (subject to approval) within their contracted hours

Summer Staffing

There have been a lot of problems in implementing the Summer Staffing. Some Members have been getting in early and running round to get the extra done.

This was not the object of the agreement. The Summer Staffing was to allow extra Members to have time off in the summer but only if the traffic volumes allow. If you believe you can not complete the extra in your duty time you must speak to your Manager before you leave the office.

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Pegasus/Geo-route

Some offices have introduced Geo-Route (Pegasus) revisions. All Members must be fully involved in this process. If your walk is constantly going over 3.5 hours after the revision you must make your Local CWU Representative aware so that the Rep can speak to the Manager as to how to resolve the issue.

Shop Direct Group Catalogue

Could I take this opportunity to thank all the members who delivered the Littlewoods and Empire stores catalogues? It was the goodwill of the Members that got these delivered, no thanks to Royal Mail who again had not planned or discussed how these were going to be delivered.

Graham Hardy
Area Delivery Rep
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AREA HEALTH & SAFETY REP'S REPORT

TRIP TO LONDON

In June of this year myself and my fellow area safety reps, including royal mail senior management were invited up to London, to meet Ninian Wilson, who is Royal mails new director of operations. In a refreshingly honest way Ninian spelled out his blue print and vision for the health and safety for the business.



He said a great many things but the one thing which sticks out in my mind was his comment on a greater co-operation on health and safety matters between Royal mail and the CWU, this suggested that before in the past and at the present time that there is a lack of communication on this most serious and important matter.

Only time will tell how great an impact he will have on the business, and whether Alan Leighton and co will fully support him. We wish him well.

PEGASUS OR GEO-ROUTING

One of the greatest changes to deliveries since SDD is happening right now, called PEGASUS there are in this major change, health&safety implications, which require that deliveries are properly risk assessed, and that where deemed suitable HCT trolleys are utilised, and where the terrain is hilly an electric trolley is considered.

Also that careful consideration is given to the loading and unloading of trolleys following an established SSOW. In conclusion no walks are to be based around the use of private cars a practice which the CWU thoroughly condemn.

Kevin Fitzgerald
Area Health & Safety Rep
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AREA PROCESSING & DISTRIBUTION REPORT

It has been a very busy time over the past weeks and this does not look like letting up any time soon. For those who remember the old Pearl & Dean adverts at the cinema I sometime feel like the bloke in the spaceship that goes off into space and sees himself coming back.



Pay & Modernisation Agreement Phase 3

Agreement has now been made with regard to phase 3 which releases the 1.5% pay increase back dated to the 7th April. This will be paid on 8th August 2008. There are 2 plans to come out of the trials. One for Deliveries and one for Mail Centres. The main change is that members will be able to swap duties and get a colleague to work for you. We had this some years ago and Royal Mail took this away from us and they call this new ways of working? The agreement restates the commitment to work with the CWU and to give members the training we have asked for. The full agreement has been published please read this so that you are aware of how it affects you.

Professional Drivers Pay Rates S/A-O/T

I had a meeting with Martin Collins at conference and he said that there were now problems at a number of other offices around the Professional Driver pay rates and that he would continue to peruse this with Royal Mail. I have asked him for an up date and the upshot is there has been correspondence between Martin and R.M. which has been published for you to see so hopefully this will come to a successful conclusion soon.

Changes to the Floor Layout

This has now been agreed with the forward roads going from 6 to 5 roads. The roads will be sighted directly behind the ops flat frames. This work is due to be carried out on the 4th August 2008. We do have some concerns over the sighting of yorks but we will have to look at this when the frames have been moved.

Saturday Collections

We have received proposals for our Saturday collections to be processed at Southampton with PO traffic to go on the 23rd August and the BH/DT traffic next January. I have had 2 meetings with management so far and have asked for clarification on the costings and throughputs and I am waiting for these questions to be

answered. It is clear that we will be going into disagreement as we can carry on doing this work cheaper and no one can deny our quality of service. This is a most serious issue as this movement of traffic is a purely political action and could in my view put into question the viability of the future of our Mail Centre. I will keep you updated as this issue proceeds.

If you have any questions on this report or any other subject then please contact me.

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**We have
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CONTACT DETAILS

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Ken Hilton

Area Delivery Rep
Graham Hardy

Area Health & Safety Rep
Kevin Fitzgerald



TOLPUDDLE FESTIVAL 2008

The Tolpuddle Festival 2008 was the most well attended event held there for many years. A lot of people took advantage of the lovely weather and decided to camp out in the fields adjacent to the Tolpuddle Martyrs houses.

Our Branch along with our South West Region was very active in representing the TUC at this annual event. The South West region had a stall where many CWU badges, hats, pens and campaign material were handed out. It was very nice to see some of our members from

our Branch coming along to the rally.

If anyone is not aware the Tolpuddle Festival was set up to celebrate the six farm labourers from Tolpuddle that were arrested on a charge of taking part in an illegal oath ceremony. However the real offence was that they dared to form a trade union to defend their livelihood. For this they were sentenced to seven years and transported to the penal colonies of Australia. The sentences provoked

an immense outcry, leading to the first great mass trade union protest. The campaign won free pardons and the martyrs return to England. A historic episode in the struggle for trade unionists rights in Great Britain.

The Tolpuddle Festival is held every year on the third Sunday of July. We would love to see more of our members in attendance. I will publish dates nearer the time in 2009.
Andy Rook
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