

POSTHORN BUSINESS EDITION

Branch Secretary's Report

On Monday 22 September 2008, Graham Hardy, Andy Rook and I took part in representing the Branch amongst other Branch Representatives throughout the UK in a rally at the Labour Party Conference in Manchester. Well over 500 members marched onto the Conference venue to protest and demand that the "Labour Government must Listen" and deliver a successful future for Royal Mail.

Prior to the march a rally was held in the Castlefield area of Manchester where there were a number of speakers which included, Katie Clark, MP: Steve Farley, North West TUC Chair: Lord Tony Clarke (Former DGS of the UCW): John Grogan, MP: as well as Dave Ward, DGS (Postal) and Billy



CWU MEMBERS PROTESTING IN MANCHESTER

Hayes, GS. Dave Ward said the future funding of Royal Mail is crucial to provide a successful future and defend the universal services and protect pensions. The loudest cheer was when Dave confirmed that Allan Leighton (Royal Mail Chair) will leave the business in March 2009 as a beaten man who never achieved his aim to break the union.

Prior to Billy speaking at the rally Billy had already addressed conference in the morning on the Prosperity and Works Debate setting out Labour's policy on a

positive Future for Royal Mail, he said the Tories in 1994 wanted to privatise Royal Mail and Liberal Democrats want to privatise Royal Mail. The Labour Party and the CWU wants to keep Royal Mail in the Public Sector delivering mail to 28.4 million addresses at a uniformed tariff. Billy said it was disgraceful and a bit rich that our Chief Executive in the public sector receives over £3 million a year the highest paid public servant.

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Special points of interest:

- Report on electric HCT's.
- Summer Lapsing
- Geo-Route
- Annual leave 2008/2009 settled in DMC
- ParcelForce pay deal
- More pics from rally back page.

Area Health And Safety Report

ELECTRIC HCT'S

At Blandford delivery office we saw the arrival of 5 electric high capacity trolleys, these were obtained under Pegasus, and are currently being used by those staff whose rounds are no more than a mile from the office and where there are elements of hilly terrain.

Of course with this type of equipment there is full training involved, and yours truly was invited along by the CWU to observe the first day of the training session.

This involved a read through of the safe systems of work and then a practical demonstration of the trolley, first by the tutor then by every body else, including myself.

I found the trolley quite a remarkable piece of kit and like everybody present

was quite impressed by it.

Although it is early days yet so far the reaction and use of the trolley on the chosen rounds has been a good one.

DANGEROUS DOGS

There is a move to amend the dangerous dogs act 1991 which this union is taking a lead role in trying to bring about a change in the law.

As the act currently stands there is no protection for postal staff who are attacked by peoples dogs whilst on their property even though they have a legal right to be there.

This law our union says leaves a very dangerous loophole and gives our members no protection.

As currently the police would not take any form of action unless the attack

occurred on the streets.

We are seeking to influence MP'S, and get support from the RSPCA and the association of chief constables, to help us in our aims.



Kevin Fitzgerald

Area Health And Safety Rep

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Area Delivery Report

Delivery members are still being put under a lot of pressure to carry out their duties this is mainly due to staff shortages and absence.

I am in the process of doing a full review of each delivery unit to find out what staff and hours are needed in each Delivery office to carry out the work. This process will take a couple of months but should give us a clearer picture as to what is needed in the Delivery sector.

As we all know this problem has arisen due to the fact that management replace full time staff with 20 hour contracts but do not look into how those hours are distributed.

Phase 3

This part of the Pay & Modernisation Agreement has now been introduced.

The job and finish has now gone due to the utilising of the hours in this part of the national agreement

Unfortunately some managers are using this phase 3 as a way to save money and are trying to absorb walks on a daily basis even if absorption is not required. This should not be happening. If this is hap-

pening let your unit representative know or contact me if you do not have a unit rep.

Any absorption should to be completed in your duty time, if you cannot do the extra in your duty time then you must let the manager know before you leave the office so he can deal with the extra mail or you can claim overtime if you wish to go over your duty time

Summer Lapsing/Staffing

This is now called autumn lapsing and again this is being used to absorb absence and staff shortages. Any lapsing or absorbing must be discussed with the local Representative and/or Members and how best to deal with the problem of absence and staff shortages.

Pegasus/Geo-route

All Members must be fully involved in this process. If your walk is constantly going over 3.5 hours after the Geo-route 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.

GEO-ROUTE

ALL MEMBERS MUST BE FULLY INVOLVED IN THIS PROCESS.

IF YOUR WALK IS CONSTANTLY GOING OVER 3.5 HOURS AFTER THE GEO-ROUTE REVISION, MAKE YOUR LOCAL REP AWARE.



Graham Hardy

Area Delivery Rep

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Area Processing & Distribution Report

Christmas 2008

Christmas is rapidly approaching. We have had our first meeting, which has not produced very much detailed information. We will again be looking for S/A payments for the pressure period. All work will be contained in the Mail Centre again with no out housing. Dorset's will be sent to delivery offices but we do not know which ones I would assume this will be along the lines of last year. As Christmas Day and Boxing Day falls on Thursday and Friday those members due to work on Saturday will have to work unless agreement is made at national level that Saturday is classed as a non service day. I shall let you know further information as soon as it is known.

Leave 2009/2010

Agreement has now been reached on all shifts in relation to next years leave. Management were looking to block 4 weeks at Christmas but agreement has been made on 3 weeks blocked. It is important that you get your forms back by the due date so that leave can be sorted out by the end of October as per the Way Forward agreement.

Traffic Measurement

At the last Business Letters Meeting, which is where all the reps for Delivery, Distribution and Processing get together, doubts were raised that the traf-

fic going to Delivery Offices was more than what was being recorded. There could be reasons why this would appear the case such as advancing Mailsort which would be count here one day and counted in DOs on different days. Having said that it is most important that all traffic is misted properly as the number of hours used in the Mail Centre is based on the number of items that go through it. If we are to maintain the maximum full time or part time duties our traffic figures must be correct. So please make sure that, if you are involved in misting traffic, all traffic is recorded properly.

Professional Drivers S/A O/T Pay Rates

I do not have any news on this and it is just dragging on. I am due to meet with Martin Collins on the 6th October and it is one of the subjects on the Agenda so hopefully I shall get more information then.

Pension Briefing

Andy Rook, Graham Hardy and myself will be attending a National Briefing on pensions in Northampton on the 1st and 2nd October. This is still a very live issue even though nothing very much has been mentioned about it over the last few months. This is due to pensions being linked with the Government's review of the Post Office, which will determine our future. The outcome review is due out by the end of the year and hopefully we will get a detailed update at this briefing. It is most important that we get an agreement with Royal Mail on pensions other wise many of you will loose a great deal of money when it comes round to members taking their pensions.



If you have any questions on this report please contact

An Agreement has been reached on all shifts in relation to next years leave.

Ken Hilton

Area Processing Rep

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Parcel's Report

Pay Deal 2008

The Membership within ParcelForce has accepted the 2008 Pay Deal by way of Ballot. I felt that in this current economical climate it was a good deal being 3.8% flowing through to O.T. & S.A. rates. The disappointing aspect is the amount of people that voted. 49% of eligible members bothered which goes to show ParcelForce management that there is still apathy, within our membership.

Also in this pay deal the CWU has added to our Healthcare by supplying free eye tests and free glasses every two years for all employees.

The Demise of Amtrak

Amtrak, our fellow parcel couriers have ceased to trade and although Parcelforce have picked up many of there contracts, I was saddened to hear that 900 fellow parcel couriers have lost their jobs due to the economic climate.

A final note is that all predictions for Autumn pressure are very good with high streams of parcel traffic expected thus securing yet another profitable year for our depot.



Phil Dean

Parcel's Section

Secretary.

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WWW.UNIONCWU.ORG**



*CWU Members protesting outside the
Labour Party Conference 2008*

Branch officials

Branch secretary.
Derek Clash

Branch Chairperson
Gary Bailey

Branch Treasurer
Graham Hardy

Deputy Branch Secretary
Andy Rook

Youth Officer
Max Mathews

Equality Officer
Luke Brown

Lead Union Learning Rep
Barry Underdown

Business Letters Secretary
Brian Street

Parcel Secretary
Phil Dean

Area Processing Rep
Ken Hilton

Area Delivery Rep
Graham Hardy

Area Health & Safety Rep
Kevin Fitzgerald

Billy went on to mention that the CWU is known as “Disputes are for us” this is untrue and we are looking for solutions and working with Unite in making sure our pensions are protected. Billy ended by saying the CWU will continue to fight to keep Royal Mail in the public sector and making sure our pensions are protected.



After the rally we marched to the conference venue amongst tight security on a grey morning complete with a piped band to demonstrate with whistles, anything that could make aloud racket, which in the end brightened up the occasion. Hopefully our impact was not in vain and will make the Labour Government Listen if they don't the price will be paid at the ballot box.



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