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POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF CPSA

GENERAL COMMAND MAY 2013

Forward Battle Group Yewtree

COMMUNIQUÉ # 1108 MONDAY 20th MAY

**UNITY! FREEDOM! SOCIALISM! - ONE CIVIL SERVICE UNION, ONE GLORIOUS DESTINY!**

# ENTRENCHED WARFARE

By Judas Iscariot

*Take a wilderness of ruin,  
Spread with mud quite six feet deep;  
In this mud now cut some channels,  
Then you have the line we keep.*

Yes it's attrition time again as we embark on another round of half-backed strikes and lunch-time protests that the wags in Falconcrest now call "guerrilla action", an unofficial label which we anticipate will be canonised by our great and glorious leader, MARK SERWOTKA, throughout the week. But the dreary Monday morning and the promise of a downcast week sums up the atmosphere of Brighton conference



Heathcote

where delegate numbers have been butchered by a Government that has torn up the Facilities Agreement, aided by the breath-taking incompetence of our own Senior DWP officers viz: FRAN HEATHCOTE and STEVE CAWKWELL – who began their chain of



Cawkwell

disaster by neglecting to negotiate routine conference attendance time.

While the grandees can take some comfort in winning another easy victory in the national elections the dismal turnout hardly qualifies as a ringing endorsement. The grandees DEMOCRACY ALLIANCE swept the board in the national elections bagging 26 seats while 4TM took the other four, one up on last year but no more than their usual pathetic share of the vote. And what a miserable vote it was. Barely nine per cent of the members bothered to participate in the NEC poll. If we discount the activists from all camps - which some optimistically assert to be around five per cent - that means that only four per cent of the rank and file could be arsed to return their ballot forms this time round. It was even worse in DWP which accounts for half the union's membership and is right on the front line of the battle with the employer. Yet, even there, only eight per cent turned out and thus, assuming a similar prevalence of activism, only three per cent of their hoi polloi voted.

In addition, DWP delegate attendance is further depressed – partly because some cannot afford to sacrifice part of their annual leave, even to take part in what is still regarded as the paramount decision making body of the union - but mainly because the DWP

negotiating team didn't bother to talk about the allocations until it was far too late. Despite energetic warnings in June last year (see PFL Easter 2013), by her predecessor (JANE AITCHISON) that the matter required their immediate attention, FRAN and CORKY didn't get around to raising the issue with management until February this year. The negotiating ace up their sleeve was that PROSPECT Reps had been allowed facility time to attend their conference this year. "Oh really", said management, "we'll soon put a stop to that". Which they promptly did. With friends like the hopeless duo, who needs enemas?

This attack isn't yet on the national agenda but you'll all have a taste of it by next year. So, by way of a timely warning, we're giving you the full text of the DWP motion (A103) on the debacle – which will be moved by NICK DIAMANTIS (Sarf London branch) just after lunch on Monday. Do pop in:

*A103: Look around you at the empty seats usually filled by the plump bottoms of middle aged delegates and the less rotund ones of younger delegates. Have they all been sacked? Have they all retired? No! Conference, they are not here because the GEC failed to negotiate paid time off for them to attend.*

*For many, their annual leave entitlement is already allocated to family commitments, looking after kids or grandkids in school holidays, or assisting disabled relatives. For some of the lowest paid, reliant on Tax Credits, asking them to take unpaid leave is an ask too far.*

*The GEC assured us that the agreement to time off for reps was safe until 31st May. This has proved not to be the case. For an issue as central to Group policy as this, it brings into focus whether or not the GEC is capable of running a Whelk Stall, let alone negotiations for the largest government Department.*

*We have been represented by probably under-qualified negotiators, out-manoeuvred by slick government spindoctors and apparatchiks for too long which has allowed situations such as this to happen. Our negotiators must be trained to industry standard and the incoming GEC is instructed to ensure our negotiators are thus trained.*

*The refusal of paid time off to attend Conference has created a dangerous precedent. The Government has picked off the biggest Department, seemingly without demur. Unpaid time off to attend Conference for all Departments will likely henceforth become de rigueur, subject of course to that other Departmental cri de Coeur, "business needs".*

*The outgoing GEC must take responsibility for this debacle and offer an explanation, to be agreed by Conference. If not offered or agreed, the outgoing GEC must be censured for failure to carry out their duties as elected. Such censure for failing to adequately carry out their duties will be circulated to all DWP members within one calendar month of close of Conference via a statement on the PCS website and Branch Circular.*

*Conference instructs the incoming GEC to reverse this situation by proper negotiation using properly trained negotiators, involving ACAS if necessary. Progress to be reported back to all members within 3 calendar months of the close of Conference and again at 6 months via a statement on the PCS website and Branch Circular. The negotiators must be named and their qualifications as negotiators listed.*

*If progress by the 6th month stage has proved unfruitful, Conference instructs that the GEC should consider a members ballot on industrial action which should include withdrawal of goodwill and an overtime ban.*

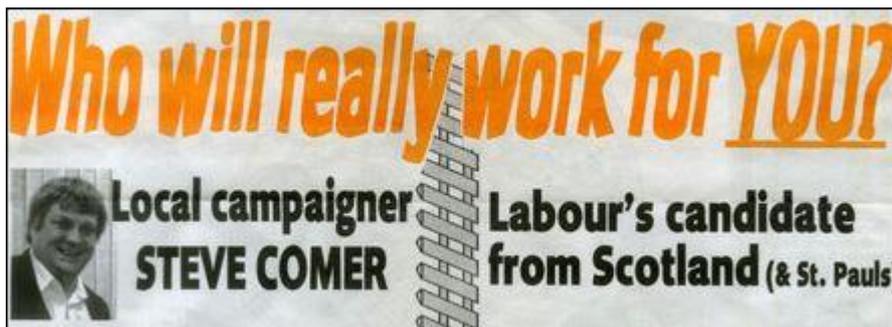
So bibi then HUGH LANNING. The old fraud who took an early bath earlier in the year when the UNITE merger talks fell through (PFL *passim*) has now applied for the top job in NAPO, the union that represents probation officers. While the globe-trotting old lush knows fuckall about the probation service he's got decades of experience in making the most of what little talent he possesses to climb further up the greasy pole. While HUGO is, of course, just in it for the money he is, on this occasion, part of a much bigger game. The NAPO General Secretaryship became vacant in February when the incumbent was paid off following a sordid ET complaint by another NAPO officer. His post was temporarily filled by his deputy, IAN LAWRENCE, late of our union and backed by the NAPO's right-wing. Lacking a suitable candidate from their own ranks NAPO's left faction has turned to LANNING to try and block LAWRENCE. He has the backing of SERWOTKA. But HUGO has never won an election in his life apart from his last one, when he was the only candidate. Even then, there was a re-count. It will interesting to see how he fares now that he's got a real fight on his hands. The smart money hasn't yet made its mind up.

Talking about has-beens STEVE COMER is expected to be in town to collect his honorary gong for a life-time of treachery. Poor old STEVE. First he briefly featured on RUSSELL HOWARD'S GOOD NEWS as the WORLD'S FIRST OFFICIAL BORIS JOHNSON LOOKALIKE and then this happens at the May local elections in Bristol:



Coma

- Mhairi Threlfall - Labour Party 1021
- Steven Robert Comer - Liberal Democrat Focus Team 1020
- Mike Williams - Conservative Party 237
- Josie McLellan - Green Party 223
- Mark Baker - Trade Unionists and Socialists Against Cuts 84



It is believed that following COMER'S anti-SCOTTISH rant (see left) the PCS Democrats official Scotland spokesperson NEIL McLICENSE organised the handful of JOCK EXILES in the

EASTVILLE ward to switch their allegiance to the NEW LABOUR candidate thus depriving, by a single vote, his old NEC buddy a further three years of COUNCIL EXPENSES whilst doing little else than watching BRISTOL ROVERS.



Sergei Meerkat with the missing Willie

Conversely, we won't be seeing WILLIE SAMUEL this week. WILLIE told our correspondent: "I won't be with you this week. Having booked my annual leave and my hotel in Brighton, I looked at the agenda and decided to go to Spain for a week instead. I have given up on 4TM. Like Jake, I have grown tired of being in a faction with no meetings, policies or membership rules. I'm seeking election to North Tyneside Council in 2014."

All is not lost though. OOR WULLIE has been having secret talks with IAN ALBERT and NEIL LICENSE, the top men in the PCS Democrats who are major players in the grandee BIG TENT. So despite protestations of terminal apathy, SAMUEL clearly is thinking of making a come-back with his new found chums. But be careful old boy. JAKE WILDE tried it and failed. He never quite made it on to the DEMOCRAT list, largely because this would cause problems for LICENSE (PFL *passim*). He had no choice but to reinvent himself as an "Independent". That boosted his vote in the HMRC elections where he retained the support of his old 4TM buddies but it still wasn't enough to get him back on the NEC.

Back at HQ, whispers suggest that the canteen is being sized up as the next victim of the PCS Austerity Drive following the successful departure of NIGEL PEARCE. Mr PASTRY retired from his HR Supremo post, undefeated as "the most hated man in Falconcrest" and will not be replaced, or missed. Next in the firing line appears to be the canteen, which, rumour has it, will be converted into a further meeting room and replaced with a coffee bar (with snacks) on the ground floor. The aim is, allegedly, to slash the 50% subsidised - and highly valued - hot meal service and pension off virtually all the catering staff who tell us that snack and coffee sales won't amount to a hill of beans. Coincidentally, the Travelodge over the road has just opened a new coffee bar (with snacks).

Meanwhile the Tory Government has moved to force the union to take down the massive “Austerity isn’t Working” banner that has adorned the back of the PCS building for the past two years. Wot that about?



For two years PCS has put up banners supporting strikes and campaigns against the Tory-led Coalition on the wall of its Falconcrest HQ which is clearly visible from trains passing through Clapham Junction station (Europe’s busiest Railway Junction). Tory controlled Wandsworth Council made an initial complaint when the first banner went up, but this was ignored - on the advice of the lawyers – on the grounds that it was private property and nothing to do with the council. In normal circls, that would

have been the end of the matter, but voices on the wind suggest that FRANCIS MAUDE, who regularly passes through the station on his way to Whitehall, personally pressed the council to take action. Wandsworth Council issued a legal warning for breaching planning regulations or face a fine of up to £2,500 unless the banner is taken down within 14 days.

MAREK said: "This is a ludicrous attack on free speech by a Tory council more concerned about playing political games and propping up support for its government’s rotten policies." (sic). But he has a cunning plan. The council has to give two weeks’ notice of any possible legal action so the union is planning to hoist the banner up for ten days, at any given time, and then comply within the legal deadline.

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## PFLCPSA NEWS

Still here? Not for much longer if you can read which way the wind’s blowing; so enjoy it while you can. ~~Amusingly~~, Amazingly, we’re still here as well. 36 years preaching the revolution against reality and still the aversion therapy hasn’t kicked in. No doubt, long after Independent Civil Service Trade Unions have shuffled off this mortal coil, puzzled punters will still report occasional sightings, round about the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May every year, of a ghostly ensemble of aging hippies and communists, accompanied by a faint whiff of urine and single malt, in some shady corner of the coffee lounge at the Brighton Conference centre.

Be that as it may, it remains our sworn duty to guide you through the ever diminishing maze that used to be Conference. We begin by reminding you that your principal task is to suspend disbelief for as long as possible in order to convince yourselves that what you accomplish here this week will have some significant effect back in the real world. Our daily guidance is professionally unbelievable so you’re already off to a good start.

During office hours, those with gossip, malicious rumours, pithy quotations and even actual news should corner one of the imams you’ll find in the above mentioned shady corner. If you forget, or happen across your amusing ditty after close of business, you can find a similar ensemble of disreputable old codgers in another shady corner of the OLD SHIP in the hour before shut tap. After that, you can email us using [dropbox@pflcpsa.com](mailto:dropbox@pflcpsa.com). Deep cover agents can use the secret phone numbers at any time. If we answer, we’re up. If you can’t feed us material, don’t panic. We accept financial donations in lieu. Nothing ostentatious. A pound a day keeps the printer at bay. But for paper money, the old man with the sinister walking stick, straggly shirt and coffee stained beard can be persuaded to perform a short but embarrassing dance. We will also accept bitcoins, if you can show us one.

This year’s **AUSTERITY** themed **T-SHIRTS** remain unchanged in price (£12) for the 5<sup>th</sup> year running. And we’ve still got some **Self Immolation Starter Packs**, at a pound apiece, for those who want to leave a lasting impression.



If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you – **John 15:19 Blessed Oxydental**