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Forward Battle Group Charlie Hebdo

COMMUNIQUÉ # 1116 MONDAY 18th MAY

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

the fightback begins in due course

Round & About

By Judas Iscariot

Now is the winter of our discontent, made glorious summer by this son of York

But across the dew-soaked hedges around Brighton there's little sign of the sun, let alone glory in the aftermath of another Labour defeat and the prospect of five more years of austerity and relentless attacks on the Civil Service. Miliband has fallen on his sword and the blame-game has begun with Labour biggies waffling on about "aspiration" and mythical "working families" jockeying for position in the new leadership race.



Our great and glorious leader MARK SERWOTKA has pointed out that just 24 per cent of the electorate backed the Tories in the general election. But at least The UK had one. We fortunate few were spared this burden when the grandees abolished our elections earlier in the year on the grounds that they were too expensive to run in PCS' current financial position – sophistry that even Robert Mugabe has never dared use.

Amid all the gloom and doom, those of the Socialist Party persuasion are pointing to the apparent success of their own electoral front; the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition, which claimed that it was the "sixth largest party" in the country - on the grounds that it had put up the sixth largest number of candidates. It did, indeed, run 138 no-hopers who bagged a magnificent 36,368 votes in total (263.5 each - in case you were wondering). They lost all their deposits. The total vote-claim is inflated - by nearly a hundred grand - by adding those won in the local elections on the same day; which enabled the Socialist Party rag to claim that:

"Only TUSC, with a combined vote of 120,000 votes in the general and local elections consistently argued against all aspects of austerity and called for socialist measures. Let the sceptics and the faint-hearts dismiss our election results! TUSC managed to assemble a serious national challenge with a splendid election broadcast, which attracted the attention and support of broad layers of workers, even those who said that 'this time' we may not vote for you, but in the future, 'we will see'".

As JOHN McINALLY put it: *“No doubt the sneering and snarling toward TUSC from within the labour and trade union movement will continue, but it is beginning to sound increasingly unconvincing and reminiscent of those who urged workers to stick with the Liberals when the emerging Labour Party sought their support.”*



But as the maverick INDEPENDENT LEFT points out: *“Anyone who saw the national election broadcast for the Trade Union and Socialist Coalition would have seen Dave Nellist proudly proclaim that their candidates would, if elected, only take a workers wage. [Ed: Familiar ring to it?] It will be very interesting to see what the response will be from them this year, given the financial crisis we find ourselves in”.*

Indeed we will...

Throughout the week, we'll no doubt be hearing a lot of inflated claims regarding the achievements made by the leadership over the past year. Much of it will be utter rubbish but we do have at least one thing to crow about. The DD campaign has, overall, been surprisingly successful. We're actually on target in DWP and HMRC but there's still a lot of work to be done in the smaller groups. Everyone - even the INDEPENDENT LEFT - managed to close ranks around the check-off campaign to ensure the continued financial viability of the union. But that's as far as the surprise goes. The problem is that the only opposition to the dead hand of the grandees' DEMOCRACY ALLIANCE is the IL, and their baleful influence, such as it is, is confined largely to Greater London.

The right-wing 4TM group is dead in the water. An attempt to resurrect it earlier in the year came to nothing and even their last remaining public presence – a tenth-rate website – has now dropped off-line into digital oblivion (though keen students can still no doubt find copies in the Wayback Archive).

While the Inland Revenue 4TM high-caste stalwarts are still around, most are thinking more about their pensions and retirement. But lower down the food chain, WILLIE SAMUEL won't be joining us in Brighton for the second year in succession, though, this year, he has a better excuse – he's on honeymoon in New York. But possibly their most effective-irritant prominent advocate, HOWARD FULLER, has buggered off to PROSPECT, to spend more time ranting on about Israel and comics on his obscure blog. The Apostate FULLERSHIT even made a half-arsed attempt to try and build a PROSPECT bloc within his old branch and initially bigged up the support he was getting from disgruntled members. His current success rate is hovering on zero and he's back on the front-line like the rest of us.



There was an attempt, led by some UNITY turn-coats, to set up the Revenue & Customs Trade Union (RCTU), a breakaway SCAB union within HMRC. That too has - so far - failed miserably. Unsurprising, considering it was led by self-important UNITY renegade MARGI RATHBONE after she was Rule-10d for gross misconduct and lost her facility time. None of the PRIESTLEY crowd wanted anything to do with her project – which consists of a bog-standard WordPress website and a shabby one room office above an e-cigarette shop on the outskirts of Liverpool. It does not appear to be routinely staffed, judging by the junk mail piling up behind the door.

Rathbone's RECTUM may be small but it has aspirations. According to its rules it will be headed by a full-time general secretary and a DGS. Goes without saying that none of the posts have been

advertised, let alone filled. But COMRADE MARGI could always approach MIKE McCANN, late of our union. The ex-EAST KILBRIDE MP could probably do with the readies having become one of the casualties in last week's SNP tsunami. McCANN, a junior member of JOCKOCRACY during the RAMSBLADDER era, went on to win his Westminster seat in the 2010 general election. He then put two more of BARRY's henchmen -- GORDON PATERSON (former IT supremo at Falconcrest) and JIM HANSON (famed former PCS full-timer and habitu  of all the publicans and turf-accountants around Clapham Junction) on the State payroll. For you, comrades, ze war iz over.



McCann 2010



McCann 2015

It woz the Scottish *Sunday Herald* what done it. Last February they reported:

"SCOTTISH Labour's campaign in a key Lanarkshire seat is in meltdown after party councillors refused to campaign for a sitting MP. Leaked emails reveal that Michael McCann, who represents East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow, is facing a revolt after losing the confidence of senior colleagues.

Councillor Susan Kerr, wife of former Labour finance Minister Andy Kerr, said McCann had "done nothing but disrespect myself and many of my council colleagues since he became an MP". Gerry Convery, another Labour councillor in the area, blasted: "I will not be campaigning for Michael McCann."

McCann, chair of the Scottish group of Labour MPs, won the constituency in 2010 with a 14,503 majority. However, opinions polls have predicted sweeping SNP gains and East Kilbride is an important target for the Nationalists.

Party insiders say McCann and his predecessor as MP for the area, Adam Ingram, are the power-brokers in the local party but are deeply unpopular with members who dislike their abrasive style. In 2013, a complaint about the local party was made to Scottish Labour headquarters, a complaint that has not been resolved.

Labour's "voter contact" level in the seat is understood to have been embarrassingly low, which one source said was down to members having no enthusiasm for helping the MP. Party organiser Gordon McKee emailed local councillors recently about the campaign and said the party was "recording" their activities.

Kerr, a respected councillor for East Kilbride Central South, replied: "For the record Mr McCann did absolutely nothing in my campaign so I would hope that this lack of activity in the past is also recorded by you"

She said she would campaign for Labour, but noted: "That campaigning will not be for Mr McCann who has done nothing but disrespect myself and many of my council colleagues since he became an MP. I will therefore be campaigning via the elected members telephone bank and in other CLPs but for reasons known to the general secretary I will not be placing myself in the vicinity of Mr McCann, Scott [a local party official] or Ingram."

Convery, a party member for 42 years, wrote: "I will not be campaigning for Michael McCann and I am happy to explain that to you or anyone else who cares to speak to me. When asked by the party centrally regarding the 2015 campaign I have already indicated that I will be active in any target or marginal as directed with the exception of East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow."

Councillor John Cairney, who is registered blind, took umbrage at the tone of the McKee email: "My personal circumstances make it very very difficult for me to do "normal" campaigning and I found the veiled threat within your email with regard to monitoring highly offensive."

Convery also took exception to the McKee email: "May someone with my years of commitment to this party express my disappointment and indeed sadness at the tone of your email I can only suspect that the tone was fuelled and influenced by a third party."

Dr Lisa Cameron, the SNP candidate for East Kilbride, said: "These leaked emails are another blow to Jim Murphy, following a disastrous week which saw him having to erase a video after peddling

false figures in an attempt to talk down Scotland's NHS. Labour's problem is that people in Scotland simply don't trust them anymore, and now it seems they don't even trust each other."

A Scottish Labour spokesperson said: "Scottish Labour's campaigning in East Kilbride is in full swing. We are out knocking on doors with the very clear message that only Labour can stop the Tories being the largest party across the UK."

McCann did not respond to the Sunday Herald's email.

Finally, defeat came as no surprise to HUGH LANNING, who has been spent his retirement trying to unseat the Tories in their Kent stronghold of Canterbury & Whitstable. LANNING, as usual, came second though he did beat UKIP with an 8.4 per cent swing to Labour. It didn't faze the Tories, who held the seat with 42.9 per cent of the total vote...



Lanning The Grey

PFLCPSA NEWS?

Jeezus H. Will it never end? They promised the agony would end last year and here we are again. WTF? Well, since you've all bothered to turn up, we might as well go through the motions and pretend there's some kind of point to it all. This is the year 38 of our Illuminating Word. Wonder if we'll make it to the centenary? Obviously PCS and most of the rest of the Labour movement won't, but you can be sure the wraiths of the PFL will haunt the Brighton Conference Centre at least until they steam-clean the place.

If you're celebrating the election result and haven't come down from Scotland, you're obviously in the wrong place. Fuck Off. The rest of you, stay alert, or at least awake and try to remember what's going on around you that isn't (yet) widely known and ought to be. Sidle up, at your earliest opportunity, to any passing Imam and, in words of one or more syllables, try to impart your intelligence. Squeeze hard. We'll do the rest.

If you can't catch us during daylight hours, final briefings take place in the usual grimy corner of the OLD SHIT at 22.00 o'clock pm. Approximately. And if your snippets emerge even later than that, you can dump them anonymously using dropbox@pflcpsa.com. That's 24/7/365.25 of course, but we can usually use it the same day if we get it before dawn. Deep cover agents can use the pre-shared secret phone numbers. However, word to the wise, the Colonel's just taken delivery of his first smart-phone and hasn't quite got the hang of how to answer it yet, so allow an extra minute or two for him to figure it out.

The tythe remains the usual. Clanking change and crinkling currency are both welcome and necessary. The T-Shirts might be a problem. The computer with our sole copy of this year's design is spending a few days dead for Tax purposes. We're looking for a working copy of any previous year's artwork. Anyone remember our tribute to Nicolae Ceauşescu?



No one is celebrating the Arab Spring any more. Unfortunately we still possess the world supply of the infamous self-immolation starter kits, so if you'd like your own special memento of the failure, we'll swap you one for 50p ono. No time wasters.

Get on with it.

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.”
2 Corinthians 4:16 Greater London Council