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POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF CPSA

GENERAL COMMAND MAY 2010

Forward Battle Group - McCann's Marauders
COMMUNIQUÉ # 1701 MONDAY 17th MAY

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

PUT THE KETTLE ON

A chill and grey Brighton welcomed delegates arriving on Sunday in the aftermath of transport difficulties caused by volcanic ash in the sky, engineering works on the main train line into town, a general election victory that bodes ill for most civil servants, NEC elections that did little to cheer the grandees or their 4TM foes and sundry other portents of the End Times. Though the Democracy Alliance slate easily won it wasn't as decisive as before, while 4TM can draw sparse comfort from quadrupling their seats at the top table. Their tally of four seats only confirmed how ineffectual their Red-baiting campaign has been over the past year.



Robert Bryson

ROB BRYSON has finally achieved an ambition by getting on to the NEC along with DI BREEN and a couple of nobodies from HMRC. With a bit of luck at least one of them will turn up to argue the 4TM corner on the NEC; unlike JAKE who couldn't be arsed. GOLDENBOY ROB will be doubtless strutting even more coquettishly than usual around the Conference Centre now that he's leader of the 4TM bloc on the NEC. The fact that he failed to get nominated by his own branch will barely dent his own opinion of himself.

The news of MARK SERWOTKA's illness added further to the downcast mood. MAREK has been out of action for four weeks with a heart complaint and he's been ordered to rest. If, as it is feared, it turns out to be a viral infection, SERWOTKA may be hors de combat for some time yet. We wish him a full and speedy recovery and we'll refrain from any remarks about his hair dye in the future. The question, of course, is Qui Bono?

HUGH LANNING, who will have to stand in for our great and glorious leader and cover some of SERWOTKA's group and fringe meetings, is not overjoyed at the prospect of missing out on valuable gorging time, though CHRIS BAUGH is apparently really looking forward to stepping into the limelight to address the big Groups. Those of us who want to send a personal tribute to MARK should contact COLONEL HARDING and RICHARD HALFPENNY who are organising a collection to send a floral tribute from Brighton to the General Secretary's bedside. Both of them can be found all week during conference hours in any bar within three minutes of the Brighton Centre and so will most of us when BOFF or LANNING get up to speak.



Hugh Lanning

OFF THE WIRES: Unite welcomes sympathetic action from Eyjafjallajökull in support of BA strikers

Even More Election News

The grandees will, of course, claim credit for winning the CSCS High Court judgement and use it to justify the Spring Offensive. But this is already been overshadowed by the cock-ups in DWP. The catalogue of incompetence – which includes reprinting last year's election addresses for some candidates; missing some addresses out altogether; failure to observe the word count and getting names in the wrong alphabetical order - has forced the biggest group in the union (covering half the entire membership) to re-run the group elections at a cost of another cool £100k. All the grandees are scurrying round to ensure that it doesn't happen again but the blame-game begins and ends with Group Secretary, MARTIN JOHN.

Likewise the HO Group election closing date has now been extended until 21st May due to problems with balloting. Apparently two former Customs areas didn't get any ballot papers and when this was rectified, they got papers for the wrong GEC elections! The correct papers have now been issued but the closing date has been extended to allow time for members to return them.

Though 4TM's Revenue veteran GWENDA BINKS saw off the VP challenge from BIFFA BRYANT in HMRC, grandee favourite KERRY FAIRLESS was again returned as senior veep and thus the face of HMRC should anything unfortunate happen to the group's charmed leader, Mr BEAN. That would not please HMRC Management, who recently called in DGS BONIFACE to say they didn't want to deal with Fairless because of his personal hygiene problem (B.O.). FAIRLESS, incidentally, has also attracted the wrath of the Falconcrest watchdogs over mobile phone expenses claims in excess of £1,000 -- all apparently used to access FACEBOOK and the internet. KERRY is not all bad. He stands a round for all and sundry which helps him remain popular with the rank and file.

Double-banking woes

Seasoned readers will remember that "double-banking" was a balloting strategy whereby a candidate ran for an officership and also for a seat on the relevant Committee so that if he doesn't get the senior post he's still in the running for the general position, somewhat mitigating the risk of having to go back to working for a living. This was common practice by all the factions in CPSA, though not in the high-caste union we acquired to form PCS, because most of their elections were rigged. However, this practice has been verboten by the grandees since the merger on the grounds that it can block candidates and they have a higher interest in bringing on new blood. This has, however, had unfortunate consequences for ALWYN MASON in the HMRC. This year the bigwigs fielded seven candidates for AGS, as they did last year. So, when the opposition got 4 re-elected, the last on the LU list was knocked off. This time it was ALWYN, so he lost his AGS post and, thanks to the ban on double-banking, he is no longer on the GEC either.

Some say that ALWYN was a victim of the application a dogmatic LUNITY stance but there's more to it than meets the eye. Many members, especially in Scotland felt that MASON and STEVE RYAN had sold them out on grading and unfortunately for ALWYN there is no evidence of competence in the negotiating arena. None of this would normally bother the grandees. But MASON had frequently failed to follow the LU line on the GEC on Customer Contact issues. This indiscipline could not be overlooked. A whispered word to a chosen few is enough to seal someone's fate at least for this year. Clearly, MASON needs to learn the rules of the game if he wants to get back into the grandees' confidence.

ALWYN's defeat might scupper RYAN's hopes of moving away from the AGS Processing post onto the much easier Campaigns beat vacated by FAIRLESS. The first job involves negotiations with management and the second is simply placating enraged Scots.

In other abuse, it has been noted that the brevity of HECTOR WESLEY's branch briefings compare favourably to the long winded pompous crap that he writes whilst allowing ever increasing privatisation on his Debt Management patch.

Flatulence will get you nowhere

It's an ill wind that blows no-one any good and it's certainly true in the case of STEVE COMER, a leading grandee who is also the Liberal Democrats top man in Bristol. PUDDING HEAD, who bears a an unfortunate resemblance to a nightmare hybrid of BORIS JOHNSON and EDDIE IZZARD, will doubtless have no problem justifying the new government's plans to decimate the service in the months to come. Like his mentor, NICK CLEGG, COMER is all things to all men and he's used this dexterity to keep in with the TROTS and his seat on the NEC year in, year out much to the annoyance of the likes of OWEN DODD, a former TORY nonentity and onetime MODERATI placeman who is going nowhere on the 4TM platform.

By the way, DODO is going round telling anyone who'll listen - and many who won't - that 4TM is going to make sweeping gains in the HO elections which have yet to be counted. In any case, like most of his predictions, which owe more to wishful thinking than any psephological expertise or political acumen, we'd bet against.

PUDDING HEAD has, of course, never done a day's work for his employers in UKBA or indeed Customs before. According to oral tradition the last time anyone can recall COMER doing some official work was in 1992 when he did some filing in the Taunton VAT office shortly after he arrived from Dept of Employment and just before he wormed his way into a branch post. The rest has been exclusively union and council work for past 18 years. In these days of severely reduced facility time, that's quite an achievement.

Mr BEAN has wisely ruled that when offices close and members move they *must* move branch as required -- except, it seems, when the grandees interests are at stake. GEC and NI ex HMCE Branch SEC BARNEY LAWN, whose conversion to LU amazed those who had heard him slagging off socialists over the years - or maybe not - moved into the IR office in Enniskillen when his HMCE office closed. But curiously enough he's still been allowed to keep his sinecure HMCE Branch Sec post.

Yes We McCann

Finally: Best claim of the year? Ex HMRC treasurer NICK McCANN flies down to attend a reps meeting in Clapham, stays the night before, and after 20 mins into the meeting says he has to fly back as he has tickets to an Old Firm game. Cost to PCS: £350. Contribution in that 20 mins: Nil. Some would argue that this even tops the time he missed his flight from Manchester to Edinburgh due to excessive drinking with his chums in the Waldorf - not part of that lofty international hotel chain but a seedy Mancunian pub near Piccadilly station - and had to stay over and buy a full price ticket for £250.



And while we're talking of the Clan McCANN, hats off to MICK McCANN (no relation), a former member of the JOCKOCRACY in the old BARRY regime and onetime junior PCS SCOTTISH OFFICER, who has now been elected as the LABOUR MP for EAST KILBRIDE. The disgraced BARRY REAMSBOTTOM hasn't had much luck since his attempted coup failed back in 2000. His crawling to the late DONALD DEWAR (ask someone from north of the border if you don't know who he was) failed to get him the Scottish parliamentary seat he craved, while sucking up to the disgraced SPEAKER MICHAEL MARTIN as a research assistant didn't do him any good

either. However, McCANN was raised from obscurity by RAMSBLADDER and perhaps the GREAT SCOT will remind him of past favours given when they meet up next week.

Trouble at 'Mill...

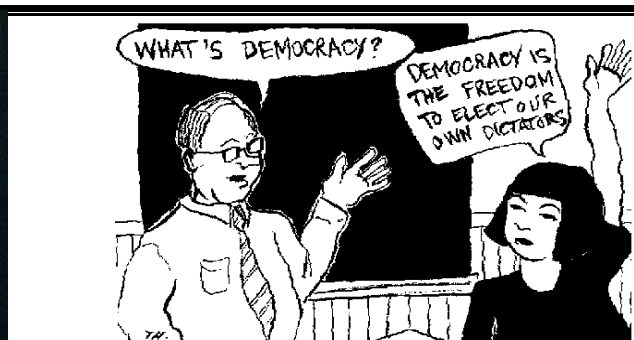
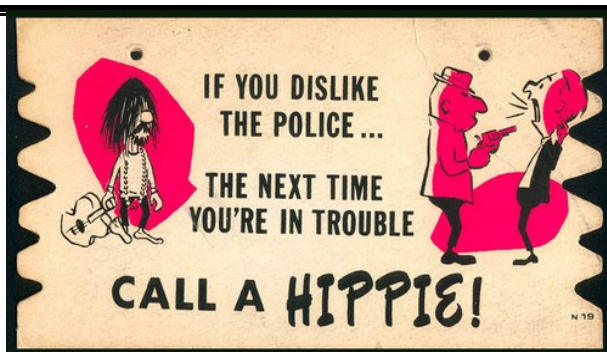
We don't suppose many of you have actually seen this year's Financial Report but word has it if the report is nodded through, and it will be, it will endorse a section on PCS staff pensions which introduces employee contributions. This has not been agreed with GMB, the full-timers union, or the Pensions Trustees. While this move is justified as far as the senior FTOs are concerned it has enormous implications for the low-paid back-room staff at Falconcrest.

While the GMB *may* have a problem in opposing an ADC mandate, it will help to fix a £22 million black-hole in the pensions fund. The GMB will doubtless argue that whatever terms Conference may impose on future employees it cannot amend existing contracts without the agreement of the GMB which negotiates on their behalf. It's the same as the CSCS court ruling.

There may be also be objections from the Pensions Trustees on similar grounds. GORDON PATTERSON, Falconcrest's IT supremo who retires this month, has been retained until next January as a TRUSTEE in anticipation of a protracted argument on this very point.

Thank God we won't be seeing LEON SYRON at Conference this year but unfortunately the rest of the pack at the weird and wonderful Department of Health will here in force instead. This rump department with a grand total of 1,400 odd members has at last achieved group status under the leadership of STEVE NORTON who is not a member of any national faction but has achieved cult status in DH because of his feud with IAN PARK who likes to be known D H PARKY. Both are barking.

PARKY has once again failed to get elected to one of the contested Health Group Officer positions but he has been successful in obtaining the new group's Organiser post on the grounds that he was the only candidate. PARKY tried to get onto the DH GEC, an august body consisting of 4 seats but was pipped by 3 votes by his sidekick MALO HARVEY, who was on the same slate. Following a recount. MALO got 170 votes to PARKY's 167. It's blindingly obvious that HARVEY told some of his mates to only vote for him to decrease IAN's chances and ensure his own rightful place on the board.



PFLCPSA NEWS

This season we shall be mostly wearing a hung parliament grin. Round 1 of the revolution has been a clear victory for the forces of indecision and we expect no less from our traditional jamboree here in sunny Brighton.

You'll have to work at it of course. All debates must at least look like at least one of you takes the issue seriously. Partisan politics, passion and points of order all help. We'll be doing our best to provide relevant ammunition and the all important back-story. But it's down to you to keep us informed in the usual way. Sidle up to any of the Imams loitering around our discreet stall in the marketplace coffee bar, drop a token tenner in the pot and whisper your sweet nothings into our shell-likes. We'll do the rest.

For another token tenner, fashion conscious delegates will be keen to snap up the hand crafted limited edition **2010 PFL T Shirts** with their trendy web-oriented design and for those who like the more traditional touch, we still have one or two of last year's popular production at a special price which we'll haggle on demand.

Deep cover agents and stringers should use their private channels to feed stories to us by no later 2 am. Mere mortals can buy us a drink at the daily debriefing in the OLD SHIT from about 10-11pm. Then, while you lot fuck off for a good night's sleep, we'll get down to the serious work of making the week bearable.

PFL Anoraks can download copy from the web (www.pflcpsa.com) some time after noon as long as the technology is co-operating.

Reality is hereby suspended until Friday lunch time. Conference is now in session.