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GENERAL COMMAND MAY 2016

Rearward Battle Group Halfbrain

COMMUNIQUÉ # 1121 MAY 2016



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

NORMAL SERVICE WILL BE RESUMED

Round & About

By Judas Iscariot

This communique is being distributed by the OLD GIT because our usual A TEAM has been grounded due to circumstances beyond their control. COLONEL ISLAM was hospitalised with a chest infection in March which later developed into full-blown pneumonia. ISLAM was discharged early April but he's still recuperating. Two others could not get leave to come to BRIGHTON but bulletins will continue to be posted on our website and we all expect the A TEAM to return to conference in 2017. We certainly hope it will again be in Brighton regardless of the self-serving motion calling for the ADC to be relocated in a more central location (A55). While the PFL has no objection to Conference in any town as long as it begins with a B the only cheaper venue is BLACKPOOL and that is a non-starter until the WINTER GARDENS is modernised.

Don't forget to give the OLD GIT some dough to keep us going and in the meantime send all union related news to us at: dropbox@pflcpsa.com. OR TXT only, phone calls will be ignored, to our phone 07903056983.

It comes as no surprise to see the BIG TENT once again sweep the board at the National elections. LEFT UNITY is already crowing about the "tremendous achievement" of getting JANICE GODRICH re-elected as President for the 14th time though the grandees have little to boast about given the miserable 9.4 per cent turn-out and the absence of any organised right-wing effort at a national level.

In fact the only real opposition, apart from the handful of independent no-hopers who only stand to get their names in print, came from the perennial INDEPENDENT LEFT which surprisingly won three seats on the incoming NEC and the DWP executive committee. BEV LAIDLAW, CHRIS MARKS and TOM BISHELL will now jostle with the great and the good on the DWP GEC as well as the TOP TABLE – TOM BISHELL (drum roll) even got the DWP VP!

The grandees gloated over the death of the right-wing which ceased to have any organisational existence when HOWARD FULLERSHIT departed to join PROSPECT a couple of years ago and reserved their venom for their IL rivals, who left the BIG TENT some years before, who are dismissed as “irresponsible” and “opportunist”. Or as the latest LU statement put it:

“Those who did stand against the leadership did so on the basis of attacking the union leadership and not the Tories for the attacks on members terms and conditions, and offering only a strategy of selective action i.e., paying small groups of members’ to take action for everyone else, and using the legal system. By selling the idea there are easy ways to defend our members’ interests in this period of unrelenting attacks is totally irresponsible and plain populist opportunism.”

Populist or not there’s little doubt that most of the IL’s votes for the NEC positions came from the DWP. Basically members pissed off about the “Employee Deal” have only one alternative to the DEMOCRACY ALLIANCE and that’s TROTSKY’s INDEPENDENT TRADERS. Another 401 votes and BEV would have had FRAN HEATHCOTE out as DWP President. There is clearly huge disgruntlement with the Big Tent amongst DWP activists (they’re the ones who bother to vote). Some even voted for INDIES like DAVE VINCENT and the highly entertaining TIM MEGONE (he did come bottom of the poll, but he writes very amusing election addresses, lives in Tooting and supports the always struggling Tooting & Mitcham FC.) He’s not in DWP.

LUNITY biggies are naturally playing down the IL come-back. They tell us we “have survived an attempt to smash our union but we not only survived but are growing stronger – a testament to a campaigning socialist leadership”. Winning the check-off campaign and seeing off a determined attempt by the Government to cripple the union is, undoubtedly, a major achievement. Winning our case in the High Court, which declared the DWP’s scrapping of the “check-off” system for collecting subs as unlawful last week was another. We’ve given the DWP a bloody nose. Whether we really are “growing stronger” nationally remains to be seen...

One thing’s for sure and that’s there certainly going to be a renewed effort to push PCS back into the big league of the union movement that is dominated by UNITE and UNISON. Last year CORBYNMANIA pushed MARK SERWOTKA on to the centre-stage of media attention. These days our great and glorious leader is lucky if he gets on QUESTION TIME or a sound-bite in the GUARDIAN while the dinosaurs led by Messrs McCLUSKEY and PRENTIS roam around looking for more easy meat to gobble up. UNITE’s greedy eye has fallen on UCATT, the ailing construction industry union, and even the high-caste scientific grades’ union, PROSPECT, is joining in the fun with plans afoot to merge with BECTU, the media and entertainment union. But not all is lost. Rumour has it that our offer to let part of Falconcrest to NAPO (the tiny 9,000-strong probation officers union) is the opening shot in a PCS take-over bid.

Old-timers, and that’s most of the membership nowadays, will be pleased to note that LEE ROCK has finally won his unfair dismissal ET, but not because of discrimination against him being a union rep. LEE, a PCS rep at the Sheffield contact centre and leading light in the INDEPENDENT LEFT, was sacked for “unsatisfactory attendance” on 22nd February 2013.

LEE was supported in his ET by PCS. The two-year delay in having his case heard was due to awaiting the outcome of another, similar case in the Appeal Court.

A remedies meeting has now been scheduled for the summer. If the Tribunal recommends reinstatement, The DWP will negotiate an additional package on top of the compo the Tribunal awards. He will anyway be entitled to back pay from the date he was unfairly dismissed, less any welfare benefits paid. Though LEE won’t be back at his desk – the ET has no powers to order reinstatement though it can recommend it -- he has a clear case for retirement on medical grounds which will now have to be considered.

I will return and I will be millions
Eva Peron