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Forward Battle Group Volodmyr Zelensky

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

GAME OF THRONES

ROUND AND ABOUT

By Judas Iscariot

If you think this has a happy ending, you haven't been paying attention

Ramsay Bolton

It's been a funny month. Near victory in the Pay ballot ushered it in. The usual drubbing in Eurovision will help us see it out. English Clubs pwn European football just as we're about to leave the joint. Some of them even featured English players. Parliamentary stasis continues to thrill the world and here we are again to put it all in perspective and add our weight to the ongoing arguments.

This time last year JANICE GODRICH, you'll remember, stabbed CHRIS BAUGH in the back when she declared her rival candidacy for the AGS post coming up for grabs in 2019. Backed by MARK SERWOTKA and most of LEON BOFF's one-time grandee comrades JANICE was expected to trounce BOFFY at the LEFT UNITY primary and then cruise to victory at the membership poll. As usual, they said it was time for change; that BOFF was useless and JANICE would do the job far better. We revealed that the GODRICH candidature was merely a cynical manoeuvre by SERWOTKA himself to ensure a malleable replacement when he yields the General Secretaryship, possibly later this year, in response to his health and ambition. SERWOTKA has already (2018) sold his mansion in COULSDON to return to the Land of his Fathers'. There he could continue to potter around as a Radio 4 panellist or seek election as a Labour member of the Welsh Assembly. He was expected to announce his PCS retirement soon after elections that the grandees believed would end the BOFF threat once and for all.



Mr Baugh

The NEC schisms were obvious. SERWOTKA and most of the grandees favour full support for LABOUR while BOFF's SOCIALIST PARTY, a direct descendant of the old (80s) MILITANT TENDENCY, is robustly dismissive of the CORBYN project.

JANICE duly won the LUNITY nomination but resigned the next day on health grounds (*cf PFL passim online (pflcpsa.com)*). BOFF, as runner-up, following decades of precedent, automatically expected the LUNITY rubber stamp, but the grandees demanded a second chance to keep him out and put STELLA DENNIS up against him. But the fix was not in and she lost the re-run. In political desperation, BOFF's former "comrades" - mostly former



MENDICANTS now elevated to the grand heights of union leadership - happily abandoned all pretence of actual LEFT UNITY to sing praises of LYNN HENDERSON in her bid for the post. HENDERSON is a long-established full-timer north of the border and though a non PCS member, she spends enough of her time in FALCONCREST, to have become a valued aide to MARK. Which was nice. This led to a three-horse race with LEON BOFF and JOHN MOLONEY, the always up and coming leader of the INDEPENDENT LEFT. The grandees were confident that our great and glorious leader's prestige would swing it for LYNN. But in the immortal words of the great RABBIE BURNS, *"The best laid schemes o' mice an' men / Gang aft a-gley / An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain/For promis'd joy!"*

Prescient little prick! MORONEY topped the poll with a glorious 6,211 votes. BOFF came a not too distant second with 5,796 and LYNN HENDERSON trailed with 5,588 in a 10.5 per cent turn-out, slightly less dismal than the 7.5 per cent who bothered to vote last year. (Just emphasise the 30% increase and it almost looks encouraging.)



Ms Henderson

In any case, BOFF's future is now uncertain. Though he's lost his job, under the terms of the well negotiated senior Full -Time officer contracts, he retains the salary and, under normal circumstances the union would be obliged to find him some sort of official work suitable to his status as a senior negotiator. But it looks more likely that, having shafted him at the ballot box, they'll try to freeze him out of the workplace. He can expect an assignment to review the union purchasing policy on staples and sundry stationery products, or similar, which might persuade him that his fortunes lie elsewhere. (Remember AMANDA FINGELSON – *pfl passim*)

They're also trying to freeze him out of this year's conference, as this message to relevant group presidents reveals:

'Dear colleague,

Your Group has invited the Assistant General Secretary to address the Group conference. You'll be aware that in the recent election Chris Baugh was unsuccessful and his term office has ended. Please confirm (to Paul O'Connor) that your group wishes for the new AGS, John Moloney, to address the conference.

Mark Serwotka

General Secretary'

Feedback on "PCS Union Members" Facebook page suggests the GPs are pushing back.

MORONEY, meanwhile, is a long-standing member of the Labour Party and veteran leader of TROTSKY's INDEPENDENT TRADERS - a maverick PCS faction dominated by an obscure sect called the ALLIANCE for WANKERS LIBERTY. In the long tradition of leftist hair shirt pledges, he has vowed not to draw the juicy £90,000 plus pay-packet that goes with the AGS job. Unlike COMMISSAR printers who heroically stuck to the "party wage" instead of the bloated Fleet Street norm in days of yore at the *Daily Worker* and the *Morning Star*, precedents set in our own union, by the likes of BOFF and SERWOTKA, suggest that this undertaking is strictly time limited. We will watch with interest to see how long this admirable restraint lasts on this occasion. JOHN, who knows that all eyes are on him, espouses the INDEPENDENT LEFT principle of "workers reps on workers' wages" and promises to confine himself, like MARK didn't before him, to the EO max. GMB, PCS' full-timers union, will bleat that this will undermine existing agreements and the "rate for the job". They will block any attempt to change the AGS contract. The savvy way out for MORONEY is simply to covenant the difference to the union fighting fund, and demonstrate his commitment with a direct debit mandate.

The INDEPENDENT LEFT now hold three seats on the NEC, one more than the SOCIALIST PARTY, as well as the AGS post. They will need to use their increased presence on the Executive to argue the case for an alternative pay strategy and a union run by the rank-and-file rather than the full-time officers and their cronies. Good luck with that. A useful first step might be for MORONEY and his cadre to push for the reintroduction of NEC publication of their meeting minutes – suspended without explanation since September 2017 and replaced with the insubstantial and seldom

seen “Informed”. This, you’d have thought, is a precondition for transparency and any hope of the membership following what goes on at the union’s governing body.

Though MORONEY’s victory might have been seen as sub-optimal, the signs are that the grandees can live with it and there are certainly no signs that SERWOTKA’s departure has been put on hold. Which means that a new General Secretary race is in the offing and the only realistic candidates are the same trio who competed for AGS with MORONEY in pole position.

If he plays his cards right, support for MORONEY can only grow in the next few months. Ms HENDERSON, has nothing to lose and everything to gain. But her core support barely ventures south of Hadrian’s Wall. She can rely on the support of the COMMISSARS, the SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY and some other fringe groups but they are in no position to mobilise the votes that count in the leadership race. BOFF on the other hand can at least expect to get what he got this time round. That’s assuming he’s allowed to stand; see the anti-HENDERSON motion – A31 due for debate on Wednesday Morning – which, if passed will knock them both out of the race. Er... hang on. It will also knock MOLONEY off the ballot, as he’s neither the incumbent, nor, any longer, an “ordinary member”. Might it be that this hasn’t been thought through?

There’s still some life, however, amongst the SP loyalists. AUSTIN HARNEY, the well-known Irish publicist and former LUNITY icon, was venomously denounced by BOFF supporters on FaceBook for his support for Ms HENDERSON. Revenge took the form of a focused get-Harney campaign which successfully booted him off the NEC.

However, it’s still business as usual back at FALCONCREST – though not much of it involves PCS members these days. Half the building is now let to outsiders including MARSHA de CORDOVA, the local Labour MP, NAPO and the GMB. Branches and regional committees now have to fight over the shrinking accommodation available for their meetings while the old gits pensioner associations are often relocated at the last minute to suit the whims of the new tenants – who pay. The NHS has opened a Clap Clinic on the ground floor. Trade is brisk.

Back in the real class struggle, Ministry of Justice workers in London have been taking strike action all year in a campaign for the London Living Wage. Management called in scabs and the police, but United Voices of the World (UVW) strikers remained solid backed by PCS support staff, making similar demands, who joined the action at the nearby Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) HQ. This was the first co-ordinated strike in Britain between a TUC and a non-TUC union, and the first co-ordinated strike between outsourced workers in government departments.

Workers in the main civil service union, PCS, and UVW, a “street union” founded in 2014 to represent the mainly outsourced migrant workers of London, picketed the Ministry of Justice and the BEIS office in January in support of striking cleaners, receptionists and security guards who are demanding the London Living Wage of £10.55 per hour and parity with civil servants for sick pay and annual leave

The cleaning and catering contract staff at BEIS are on pitifully low wages and a lot of them have joined PCS. They have been on one day strikes 3 or 4 times in the past couple of months to try and force the contractors and BEIS to increase wages. MARK SERWOTKA visited the picket line 3 weeks ago and the union has been providing emergency relief for the strikers. Who’d have thought we would live to see a PCS Branch having to provide a food bank for members. Shame it can’t run to strike pay.



ALL TRITE

We'd like to thank our friends in the union newsletter for letting us share this platform, once again, with all you hungry truth seekers. Later in the week, we'll be launching our arrows of truth to help you make the right decisions on all the main motions.

It's been a good year for the Trump resolution. We've improved our standing in the World by standing up to the intimidation of the axle of evil (North Korea, Eyeran, and Venezuela) and China is caving on Trade. Just look at the Wall Street index. The wealth creators have never had it so good. Back home we're finally getting immigration under control now that we've stopped that liberal appeasement policy of keeping the invaders' kids in the same cages as the rest of their families. We've wupped congress into submission on The Wall and fended off the Witch-hunt. Now we've got the Christian states finally creating the laws to overturn the Roe Wade scandal. America is on its way to becoming Grate Again.

But we're not a loan. Conservative forces are on the ascendant around the World. Viktor Orbán, Benjamin Netanyahu, Narendra Modi, Jair Bolsonaro, Rodrigo Duterte, Matteo Salvini, Michał Marusik; all leading or close to leading their respective nations and we've even seen the revival of free thought in Germany's "Alternative for Germany". The prospects for human freedom have never looked better.

PFLCPSA NEWS

Well, so much for falling off the Brexit cliff as we expected this time last year. Apparently mere falling wasn't challenging enough, so we're looking for a higher cliff and we're going to take a good long run-up then propel ourselves as far out into the void as we can imagine. Ramsay's words were obviously prescient. There can be no happy ending to this clusterfuck.

Of course this esteemed gathering has its own problems, and though they pale in comparison, the Breckshit debacle provides no excuse for us neglecting the deckchair rearrangement duties on our own sinking ship. In this context, the role of the PFL is clear. We have become your palliative care team, here to cast a rosy glow and masking scent over the steaming ordure of our terminal decline. In this regard, it is, perhaps, a happy accident that team PFL is morphing into the characters from Last of the Summer Wine. We're mostly fighting to avoid drawing the Compo straw. Ser Woy, of course, remains the unchallenged Nora Batty.

To business. Our stringers made good use of dropbox@pflcpsa.com last year and we demand more of the same this time round. We don't just make up this shit. Some of it is inspired by "the facts"; occasionally almost as much as the "alternative facts". So get your thumbs and other available digits busy, find a convenient anonymised link to the interweb and send us your snippets. Alternatively, sidle up to an imam of your choice and pour your poison into his shell-like. And if all else fails, pop along to the Old Ship a few hundred yards east of the conference centre and join the 10 pm debriefing session. Late arrivals will be named in despatches.

Those of you who ~~have nothing to contribute~~ remain information poor can support our ongoing insurgency with donations of almost any size, though, to keep the noise down, we do prefer the folding stuff. We used to do T-Shirts, badges, self-immolation match-boxes and other shit. But frankly, after a hard night at the coal-face, it's too much like hard work and we can't be arsed. Just give us some fuckin dosh.

~~Exciting~~ week ahead. President Heathcliffe will be running around trying to explain how this year's glorious defeat on the Pay vote is just the beginning. Chris Boff is running around trying to rally his supporter and Jerry Corbyn will be putting in a very late bid on Thursday morning to persuade anyone still awake in the Conference hall that supporting their EU Labour Candidate in the election that day is nowhere near as futile as it looks. A la recherche du cause perdu...

So go to it. Good clean fight please, no biting, scratching, butting or kicking and may your dog have mercy on your soul.

Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter.

Revelation 1:19 (Exxon Revised)