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# **By Judas Iscariot**

It was almost like the good the old days when the spirit of CPSA's Conference Past returned to haunt the first session of main conference on Tuesday afternoon, where the emergency motion on Pay was the only thing that really mattered. It was a packed house. Upstairs, one of the side galleries had to be opened up to accommodate the overflow observers.

As we've come to expect, MARK SERWOTKA made a decent enough fighting speech in support of our legitimate demands and general trade union rights. He pledged solidarity with the struggling Palestinian people and called for mass opposition to DONALD TRUMP when he comes to London next month. But his oratory failed to overcome the organised opposition from the ad hoc axis comprising INDEPENDENT LEFT and the SOCIALIST PARTY. As we explained only yesterday, they have differing strategic analyses on the Pay battle and these were reflected in two rival motions that would only have been moved had the NEC motion been defeated.

But it was not to be. The alternative pay plans fell when the NEC motion was eventually carried, though it only scraped home by the skin of its teeth; on a card vote – an historic PCS first (for a Pay motion) – that was narrowly carried on what looks suspiciously like it must have been a minority vote. Now, pay attention, this is going to hurt.

The votes we know about were 62,676 in favour and 60,991 registered against the NEC's motion. (A292 in case you missed it) That's a total of 123667, and that's out of a total card vote (possible) of 167996, i.e. 73.6%. And if that also represents the percentage (by card vote) of branches who are attending this years shindig, that would imply zero abstentions. But by all informed guesstimates, this year's turn out is significantly higher. And, if, for example, it is actually about 80%, that implies no less than 10,729 registered abstentions, meaning that, in card numbers alone, the motion was carried by fewer than 50% of the available vote. And if we can't even rely on the support of more than 50% of the activists, it doesn't bode well for the level of support we're going to get from the members. Yes, this is speculation, but the facts will solidify when the Branch attendance list is published - as it is required to be - as soon as possible, following conference. And the speculation only got going because of the 30 minute delay in announcing the result of the count. They probably had to double check that

the abstentions really were abstentions and that's only a problem when there are such a lot of them.

Standing Orders leapt into the breach and brought forward the PCS Parliamentary Group Report by CHRIS STEVENS MP. His tedious presentation, focussed largely on Scottish Nationalist concerns over Brexit, did nothing to resolve the democratic tension.

The GREAT LEADER also used his moving speech to praise his protégé, LYNN HENDERSON, whose defeat in the AGS elections - he subliminally suggested – could be seen as an example of the chronic under-representation of women among PCS activists at all levels. And he also took the opportunity to clear the air about his own future in the union.

SERWOTKA announced that there would be a

General Secretary election in the Autumn and that he looked forward to a further five years working with JOHN MOLONEY. What Mark didn't (and, to be fair, couldn't) say



is that his re-election is another shoe-in. BOFF isn't going away and has already confirmed he'll be in the race. And some argue that MORONEY might want to ride the wave of his recent triumph and complete the double. Others argue that, as an alleged man of principle, he'll want to display his integrity and learn the AGS trade first.

BOFF, we understand, is not going to be turfed out of FALCONCREST. But a usually reliable source has told us that "space is at a premium at HQ these days" and the new AGS will need LEON's old office immediately after the end of conference. Even the broom cupboards are in demand. For his part, he has suggested that he might usefully negotiate representation rights for the ECB staff based at Lords and hopes to spend most of the summer there, deep in negotiations.

Rumours are circulating that IAN ALBERT might not be at conference to pick up his DLM. He has been in sunny Aya Napa, a Cypriot resort aimed at Essex girls and lager louts. For the past 10 days he's been on the lash with retired colleagues STEVE COMER, GARY WINDER and ex Detective Constable MIKE DERBYSHIRE. The former Cop found himself in a bureaucratic nightmare, when he was arrested by the Cypriot police. He'd recently applied for Spanish citizenship, in order to escape Brexit related injuries, and had been rejected.

For reasons not known to your correspondent, the Spanish authorities had retained his British passport and issued him with temporary Spanish travel documents - in the name "Miguel Darbishure" and with restricted travel rights. The Spanish bureaucrats can be blamed for the misleading name but it was his own fault that he travelled beyond the restrictions. *Miguel* had cajoled one of his mates from the Costa del Crime to lend him his yacht for a trip to Aphrodite's Isle, (for tax avoidance purposes some say). ALBERT was on board sleeping off an extended session in Linekers when the ASTYNOMIA staged their morning raid. It required COMA's intervention via the good offices of the Liberal Mayor of Aya Napa, who, by happy coincidence, happens to be COMA's current boss.

Rumoured suggestions that conference might be held there next year turned out to be wishful thinking. But the Mediterranean option is not entirely scotched. KEVIN McHUGH is travelling to nearby Paphos as soon as next week and we understand that incoming AGS MORONEY is a regular at the resort and is attracted to the idea of holding NEC meetings there. Coincidence? Probably.

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'Nazi salute' actually began as a reflex to block incoming milkshakes, confirm historians



The so-called 'Nazi salute' or 'Hitler salute' was never actually a greeting and was more of a reflex against incoming dairy projectiles, historians have confirmed today.

The gesture, in which the right hand is raised high with the fingers straight out and palm facing downwards, is traditionally associated with Hitler, but how it came about is only just being discovered.

Historian Simon Williams explained, "Rather than being a greeting to easily identify yourself as someone who leans to the far-right politically, it actually started off as more of a reflex action to block the torrent of incoming soft drinks being thrown at you by rational thinkers".

# ALL TRITE

### **Rev Alex J**

I'd like to offer my gratitude to all the delegates that offered their support after the scandalous attack launched upon us, by some secretary or other talking about the pay emergency initiative at the beginning of your national congruence yesterday afternoon. Welcome but unnecessary. Water off a duck's quack. Takes more than a fleabite from a lightweight like Mark Swastika to land a punch on Alex J.

**A32 SUPPORT** For the sheer chutzpah of their bland wording - which so cleverly disguises the intent to destroy the branch structure. Simple honest art.

**A41 SUPPORT** We too believe that the velvet glove sometimes has to mask the iron fist. Preventing all forms of collectivism is our key priority, so we're pleasantly surprised to see such open support for the occasionally necessary oppressive tactics clearly and fairly described by the authors of this motion.

A42 SUPPORT Astonished to see such open support for anti-semitism as well. I mean, we all know who's pulling the strings – right? But we're not allowed to say it out loud, not even down South! So high fives to the MOJ Associated Olive Branch for saying it like it is! You've helped me realise that I may have misunderstood what this whole trade onion business is all about.

## **PFLCPSA NEWS**

Welcome to the Middle of the Show. First time in PCS history that a Pay motion has required a card vote. Resulting in a minority victory. That must have been exciting, you'd have thought. Certainly in the days of the original union, such a result would have been accompanied by a certain amount of blood and passion, not just on the conference floor, but in all the streets and bars within crawling distance, together with fisticuffs at both preceding and postceding Socials. CPSA knew how to party. In contrast, the PCS version more closely resembled a disciplined morning assembly, with occasional powerpoint highlights, all under the watchful eye of the Prefects. Tediously wholesome.

Agent Oranges. Agent Oranges. The light is in the West. Again. The light is in the West. This is not a drill.

Still time to get your tittle or tattle to the imams. Deadline (for tomorrow's communique) is 3 am tonight (23rd) but now that we've got you acclimatised to communicating with us <u>d</u>igitally through standard email, we want to take it up a notch and offer the more secure option for those with serious secrets to share and – till now - reserved for our deep cover agents. As a consequence and with immediate effect, General Order 1278 is rescinded and the following field instructions (GO 5879) now apply to both existing and *aspiring* deep cover agents:

For the most sensitive disclosures, if you haven't already got a protonmail account, get one (protonmail.com). (More secure than routine PKI and as easy to use as gmail) Make sure you only ever access it using a trusted VPN (such as PIA <u>privateinternetaccess.com</u>) or, if you're really paranoid a chain of same. If protonmail is not an option, still start with the VPN, and send product in encrypted attachments (encrypted with strong passwords using trusted free (and simple) tools such as aescrypt from aescrypt.com) and using one of the "one time email account generators" such as guerrillamail.com or mailinator.com. Whichever secure base you choose, send the product to pflcpsa@protonmail.com.

If you're **not** sending from protonmail, and **are** using one time accounts, you have two/four added problems. 1) you'll never get a reply (which may be exactly what you want) 2) you need to send us the password for the attachment through a different channel (eg text to a mobile). And if you really need to hide your identity, then 3) that's going to have to be from a burner phone. Oh, and 4) if you intend to use that route, make sure you get a mobile number from at least one of the imams, before you leave town. As you can see, Protonmail and a VPN is by far the easiest.

Of course, if you've nothing to hide, use any old email address and send it <u>dropbox@pflcpsa.com</u> though it goes without saying, we're going to be much more interested in those messages landing in the protonmail acount.

Did I just say that?

<insert subtle demand for dosh here> Harry the hat says thankyou to all contributors (metal, paper or direct debit) to the
PFL preservation society but wants to know "can I have some more please?"

Just the rest of today and half of tomorrow to struggle through, then we can all go home to our Bovril and pets and tell our grandchildren tall tales of what we did in the war.

Ask me never so much dowry and gift, and I will give according as ye shall say unto me: but give me the damsel to wife. Genesis 34:12 KJV