



## Unite British Waterways Shop Stewards

### Briefing Paper

30 British Waterways shop stewards representing all the Business Units met in Birmingham on the 7<sup>th</sup> September to discuss and agree the union's response to BW's Strategy proposals for the next 10 years.

There was a genuine and strongly held view that the Board's plans would be detrimental to maintaining the UK's canal network as a vital part its heritage and would result in the an increased threat to our members jobs as a result of increased outsourcing of bank side work and the increased use of volunteers to carry out work normally carried out by our members.

Stewards voiced their concern that the increased use of volunteers was linked to the Board's plans to investigate moving BW into the "Third Sector".

It was agreed that Unite would arrange meetings with MPs and other interested parties to ensure that our members concerns were fully taken into account.

A series of outer steps were agreed by the stewards to ensure that Unite's voice is heard.

September 2009

