

EAST MIDLANDS REGION

DERBYSHIRE AREA ACTIVIST COMMITTEE MEETING



**Held at Unite the Union offices, 2A Wentworth House
Vernon Gate, Derby**

Monday 4 October 2010

COMMITTEE

Attendees: Adrian Axtell, Robert Baldwin, Adrian Cowley, Bill Coxon, Dave DeLacy, Steve Froggatt, G Lowndes, Bob Mays, Tony Tinley, Jackie Williams, Ian Wilson and Joe Woods.

1 *Apologies for Absence*

Apologies were received from S Grant, Simon Hemmings, Steve Hibbert, and John McCallum.

NOTED

In the absence of Simon Hemmings, Ian Wilson was elected to Chair the meeting.

NOTED

2 *Minutes of Last Meeting*

These were accepted with the following corrections:

Omission of apologies from Bob Mays and Bill Coxon.

Policy & Rules Conference should have a heading on second paragraph, i.e. EC Elections.

Nomination for Young Member's rep – Oleg Kapesta.

ACCEPTED

3 *Matters Arising*

TNT and Women & Equality Report – contained in Jackie Williams report.

Jackie up-dated on these matters to report there had been an improved offer at TNT and the 100% campaign was run in support. Unfortunately only 3 new members had been recruited.

Jackie William's e-mail address would be detailed on the invitation letter so that apologies could be notified to her direct.

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Derby TUC

Tony Tinley up-dated the meeting on the Derby TUC Education Centre in that it had a years reprieve and urged members to highlight courses.

NOTED

4 *Strategy for Growth*

Adrian Axtell gave an overview of the process and Dave DeLacy gave the reason for raising the issue and the need to move the Unions Agenda to an organising approach and the role of Nationally led organising campaigns.

This had been successful in creating more activists and consequently more members. This is embedded into the Rule book and is the vehicle to support established workplaces in developing structures and providing training and supporting the Organisers in Greenfield sites.

Adrian reported that to date this had been Centrally focused but this was now being more Regionally led and identified East Midlands targets.

He also highlighted that Seminars were now set up in November to explain and engage activists in the strategy.

Dave DeLacy reported that we can recruit but due to attrition by closures we lose more.

A discussion followed on the role and responsibilities of Officers 100% campaigns and the benefits of good organised structures.

Jackie Williams highlighted the role of the Organisers and the need to develop non-organised workplaces and the impact of this on organised workplaces terms and conditions and pay.

Adrian highlighted the need for the Union to address the balance of representing individual members versus collectives.

Dave DeLacy suggested Jackie Williams give a presentation on the Easy Jet campaign.

ACTION

Jackie Williams to speak on the subject at the next meeting.

5 *Regional Industrial Report*

Written reports had been circulated to Delegates.

Adrian Axtell reported on the TUC European demonstration.

Ian Wilson was a Delegate and stated that this was organised and included a march through Brussels. The European Unions were well organised, there were over 100,000 attendees with 51 Delegates representing Unite and the demonstration passed peacefully.

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There will be a demonstration on 19th October in London and coaches will be arranged from Derby, Leicester, Nottingham, Northampton and Lincoln.

The Health & Safety conference should have some 280 Delegates in attendance.

Adrian Cowley questioned the reason for the removal of Asbestos workshops. Unfortunately this was down to lack of attendees.

NOTED

6 *Delegates Industrial Reports*

Bob Baldwin, Hansons

This Company have a big campaign to scrap earnings related pension and the Employees Forum was used to run this.

The Hansons pay and negotiating Committee is faced with a second year of pay freeze. Both sites were still on a 3 day week.

Adrian Cowley, Federal Mogul

Please see attached.

Malcolm Lowndes, Arriva Derby

Arriva is now owned by a German Company and there are concerns that they are only interested in the train side of the business. This causes concern for future ownership. The Government cutting fuel subsidies and the impact on routes. Turnover was becoming a problem and pay negotiations for double decker bus drivers was improved for Friday and weekend shifts. Pay structures had been changed and it took 3 years to get to the full rate, which was negotiated at a Regional level.

Bombardier

November would clarify the Thames Link order.

24 contractors were being laid off and concern was expressed on what the potential impact on 'blue collar' workers could be.

Rolls Royce

Repair and overhaul HR1 has been staved off and other jobs found for those at risk.

Notice had been given by removal of HR1 at the year end. Category 3 had been opened for colleagues to be protected from Hucknall RR staff 15% increase in workload requirements in 2011. Sir John Rose, Chief Executive was now leaving the business and John Ruston was awaiting appointment.

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Derby works – Hucknall redundancies resolved. Tony Tinley highlighted the issues with meeting in Rolls Royce.

Dave DeLacy – Executive Member

Dave reported there would be 6 meetings a year and progress was being made regarding industrial and Regional structures established and two final blocks required the General Secretary election and Executive elections, which were underway.

The Returning Officer had reported at the last Executive and the timescale of Executive Council elections was in place and nominations would be

The new Executive would have 64 Delegates and all members will elect Delegates. Currently veto is in place to stop issues, this will be removed following the election.

Dave expected that once this was completed then the integration would be resolved. Next year will be the first Rules Conference to be held in Liverpool from 13-16 June from Industrial Sectors on the basis of 1 Delegate per 4000 members with Regional adjustments. Substitutes would be allowed this time as 10% of Delegates failed to attend.

The review of the Policy Conference had taken place to allow the opportunity for Delegates to attend and not be held on Bank Holidays.

There were structure issues which needed to be addressed and the balance between Regional and National roles.

BA dispute – activists were under extreme pressure and facing dismissal and the Company refusing to accept arbitration. Outstanding issues are travel allowances and disciplinary issues. Another ballot was being conducted to support our members. Boris Johnson's call for tougher strike laws needs to be put into context with this.

The Political Director, Charlie Whelan was leaving and the Union's preferred candidate for the Labour leadership had been elected.

Dave expressed his concern regarding a double-dip recession and the impact on our members.

The Union will continue to campaign for our members.

The retired member's issue had been resolved and any member with 20 years service will retain their membership for free. Adrian was awaiting paperwork from head office to support retired members.

There had been two Resolutions from the Region.

0845 numbers will be changed to the old numbers.

The Executive has resolved benefit timeframes and dispute benefit now has some discretion.

PI claims – members will be able to put a claim in as soon as they join and the facility will be available for all accidents and members non working family members.

26 weeks membership will be required for convalescent and death benefit etc.

Tony Tinley highlighted the plight of our members at Parker Hamm who were under 90 days notice of redundancy. The Union was looking at how to support our members.

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Ian Wilson took the opportunity to highlight a rally in Derby on 23rd October taking place in the Market Place between 12 and 3 pm.

NOTED

6 *Any other business*

Attendance

Ian raised the issue of attendance at this meeting. Dave DeLacy explained that this had been agreed at the Executive and Committees would be open to all reps, which was generally accepted as a positive move.

Equalities Act

A training briefing was being prepared.

ACTION – Equalities Officer to clarify what briefing/training was being considered.

Adrian Cowley queried the pension rally that was taking place on the 6th October.

NOTED