



Road Transport & Logistics Go Live @ Unite

This is our 2nd edition of 'The Highway' and we hope our members found issue 1 useful. We are now able to make circulation of your newsletter much easier to get access and in time make a contribution to.

From mid - July our union's web site has now 'Sector or Trade Group' pages for your use. Simply go to www.unitetheunion.org from there to the 'Sectors' section and select RTC, Logistics & Retail Distribution. From there you will access information from the Regions and Sectors of our trade group. If you want to know who represents you in your region or group simply click on the relevant section and your there.

You will find available both regional and national reps, shop stewards combine information that you will be able to use.

Regional web pages are all currently being built to include your nearest district union office along with the union's full time officers contact details and shop steward information of some of the largest transport / logistics companies not just in the UK but worldwide.

In addition there are and will be information pages both dealing with news and information for both drivers and workers in warehousing, hubs, clerical and other grades dealing with Health & Safety and legal obligations both of workers and the bosses.

We will of course also keep our members up to date around those national campaigns being run by your union both in Road Transport & Logistics and the union as a whole.

We will of course be required to keep information updated and that is where you our shop stewards and members are vital. Contact your reps give them any information you may want our people our members to know about and it can be posted, providing it is legal and does not slander anyone.

www.unitetheunion.org stay in touch with your union

YOUR UNION TO ORGANISE WITH YOU!!!

Your union's Executive Council at its July meeting was informed of its plan to make our members more of a force both in our union but more important in the **workplace**.

At the July meeting of your National Committee, detailed plans were agreed with National Lay Representatives, National Secretaries (Ron Webb and Paul Davies) our Regional Lay Chairs and Vice Chairs and the Senior Transport Officers from each of the Regions of Unite.

The plan includes a mapping of our membership in all the workplaces where Unite had membership. We have also agreed to make sure our shop stewards and lay member representatives know who the servicing officers are and what's happening across our industry and in each company Unite has members.

The principle to get our shop stewards, our branches, our members, organised and in touch with each other, to establish proper combines for our members to be sure their union is there for them when required.

Last year conferences in each region elected your reps, it is intended to recall those conferences this year to involve you, our shop stewards, in our programme to grow Unite in Road Transport & Logistics and grow our union's influence with the bosses.

Professional Drivers, Professional Workers in a Professional Industry The 3 P's in UNITE.

DESERVE PROFESSIONAL TREATMENT!!!

TRUCK STOP UP-DATE

Just in case anyone thought this issue has gone away "WELL ITS HASN'T" We are able to report that your National Committee reps have been engaged with a number of other interested parties concerned with this subject. Bill Gilfoyle along with our National Secretary Ron Webb have met with Local Authority Representatives, RHA, FTA and private investors interested in developing proper secure facilities for Lorry Drivers. Further this matter has been raised with Labour MP's and the Chair of the Transport Select Committee, who has requested a detailed analysis of the current standing of Truck Stop Facilities in the UK, It's safe to say that won't take long they are amongst the "Worst in Europe" Louise Ellman was told by Dave Williams (Executive Member) and Ron Webb our National Secretary.

Unite's policy: Tired drivers are dangerous drivers and the law should eliminate the long hour's culture that exists in road transport.

Proper Rest Facilities for Professional Drivers.

TRANSPORT WORKERS IN ACTION! / NEWS!

'DHL' Howden's Kitchens.

Nearly 100 drivers and other transport workers at Howden Kitchens at its Runcorn site in Cheshire were balloted for industrial action as a result of the company's intention to select and dismiss 10 drivers including our shop steward.

Our members made it clear that this was totally unacceptable and by a massive majority 97% voted for industrial action.

We are pleased to report that there were no sackings or dismissals of any of our members and that things are now back to normal at DHL the contractor responsible for Howden's transport. Its clear transport workers sending a clear message to any company have the strength to say **NO!**

CAR DELIVERY.

8 sacked drivers in the North East have been re-instated after attempts by employers to ignore their responsibilities under TUPE. Those drivers working on the Nissan contract at Washington (some for nearly 20 years) were all either transferred to incoming contractors or re-instated.

TANKER DRIVERS.

Our membership across the whole of this section of our membership are currently considering the potential of balloting for industrial action as a result of definite intentions by the employers in the section to attack our members terms and conditions and employment security. Our shop stewards and National Secretary Ron Webb have made our union's position clear 'we won't be bullied'.

WAREHOUSE / HUB SECTION.

To date we have a big influence within ASDA now on board with the **minimum standards agreement**, although still at the meat end of the industry. ASDA have now approached the Union Organising team to discuss further where next to implement the **minimum standards agreement** within its supply chain.

The Grocery Retail Logistics Committee has agreed to implement this agreement within the industry that we have organised and have trained well over 100 reps throughout the industry. This should help with the implementation when delivered to companies involved.

With the likes of Eddie Stobbart and Culina now being organised within UNITE can only be seen as positive.

Some DCs have introduced the new time and motion system "Red Prairie". DHL has run this in some of their DCs and M&S have now introduced this too.

M&S continue to move forward with their plan for mega DC's in the UK looking for four or five within the next few years.

This will have an impact upon regional DCs and with less stock being held this in turn could lead to closure or reduction in the workforce as these sites become Hubs and Cross docks for the stores.

One such example is the NDC at Thornecliffe which is now holding all Kids wear from Hyde Park DC in Belfast, about 20% of its hanging stock and 10% of its boxed stock, and has taken all bedwear and cards from Westfield DC in Scotland. This is currently resulting in job losses.

Drivers in Rochdale are now in consultation for re-location to Hardwick.

Another such DC is West Thurrock that is now increasing its departments that it services.

With all the above happening we have seen a more aggressive nature from regional management on tackling attendance and disciplinary matters at sites; withholding company sick pay and disciplining for the most trivial issues.

After last year's pay freezes and bonuses we are now seeing companies offering 1.5% to 2% on pay for 2010.

Currently within the Dhl Combine they are set to discuss this and how best to tackle it. There will be a meeting with other unions that are within the DHL chain so that we can use this to get the best deal for all concerned.

UNITE for TRANSPORT WORKERS AROUND THE WORLD.

Our union had a strong voice heard at the 42nd International Transport Federation Congress in Mexico City in early August. All of our Transport sectors made up our union's delegation including Tony Woodhouse Chair of our Executive Council (RTC member), Dave Williams our Executive council member with Unite reps from Docks, Civil Air Transport and Passenger Transport representing Unite.

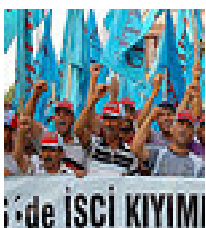
The Congress covered all of those things we deal with in the UK every day of the week, poor pay, long working hours, and fatigue and in most cases dealing with the same employers, UPS, FED Ex, MAERSK, and WINCANTON. "It's amazing we can't believe sometimes those double standards that operate by some of the same companies that we have good relationships with", Dave said.

Health & Safety standards were a major concern for both Drivers and Dock Workers in particular around un-safe loading of cargos and container traffic passing through ports and then on to the road. Contact with other European unions in particular is planned along with our own dock membership in Unite. Our cabin crew membership at British Airways received unanimous support from Congress.

We are pleased to report that the new President of the ITF 'Paddy Crumlin' was elected, Paddy is a member of the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) a docker from the port of Sydney, he received overwhelming support of the Congress and has made workers in transport coming together the priority to deal with our common issues and problems. Reports and detail of the business of ITF Congress can be found on RTC, Logistics & Retail Distribution web page www.unitetheunion.com

UPS TURKEY.

Unite and our shop stewards are currently attempting to persuade UPS in the UK (where we have a reasonable relationship) that the Company needs to directly intervene in a dispute in Turkey where the main Transport Workers union TÜMTİS are attempting to organise workers into the union. The Company's response has been to sack 156 workers who work for both UPS and some of their sub-contractors; their only crime is wanting a union to represent them. Representatives of Unite attending the ITF Congress in Mexico were horrified to hear that as well as workers being sacked that a manager had used a gun against striking workers. Transport workers across the world have responded by organising solidarity events with TÜMTİS on the 1st September. John Boodle our convenor and Chair of the RTC, Logistics National Committee made it clear, "double standards can't and won't be tolerated, if UPS can treat other transport unions elsewhere in Europe where they operate with respect then why not in Turkey?" UPS is a big and respected name in Transport & Logistics and also a major sponsor of the London 2012 Olympics; this attitude to unions won't help their image! Our shop stewards will hand letters of protest to their respective management and the union will formally raise this with UPS senior management in the UK.



UNITE insist UPS



DELIVER JUSTICE