

...or at least one of them. SOCIALIST CAUCUS supporters are celebrating over pulling one over their LU GRANDEE rivals in a tussle over who was going to get a TUC biggie at one of their fringe meetings which the CAUCUS clearly won.

There is little love lost between the Grandees and the CAUCUS within the Big Tent. The Grandees are sick of the sniping over pensions and the DWP dispute and they're determined to cut the CAUCUS down to size. Verbal exchanges began at the DWP Group conference on Monday and they've continued all week. The latest skirmish unfolded in the BELGRAVE HOTEL early yesterday evening.

The CARCASE had invited BOB CROW (GS of the rail union RMT) to speak at their fringe meeting, due to start at 5:45. BOB's train was on time (!) and he arrived just before 5. At 5:05, meeting organiser JANE RODGER received a text message from CROW to the effect that "Mark's Office" had decided that it was "inappropriate" for the railman to address the meeting. The text is believed to have emanated from DAVE WILKINSON, a Socialist Party Grandee.

Mark was addressing another fringe meeting and had his phone turned off, so GILL WHITTAKER was despatched to find SERWOTKA and get him to OK the speaker. Meanwhile CROW waited in the bar with JANE and NICK DIAMANTIS, both of whom he knows, His phone rang – "Janet? Janet who?" It was JANICE GODRICH who tried to convince BOB that he was surrounded by loonies and that he should not address the CARCASE meeting, but instead the LU fringe meeting at 7:00, although she omitted to advise him of the location. CROW realised this was a blatant attempt to pull him off and was having none of it and refused, demanding to speak to MARK. Some while later SERWOTKA, having been finally put in the loop, rang CROW and said he could address the CAUCUS meeting as long as he came along to the LU meeting afterwards and spoke there. BOB agreed to this and finally gave his speech to the CARCASE audience of 120 at 6:40. At the end he remarked that there was no way he was going to speak at the LUNITY meeting, indicating they couldn't run a whelk stall, and promptly fucked off home to London.

Confusingly, before conference, CROW'S name had appeared on LU fliers for their meeting, but due to communication cock-ups by LU organisers, the booking was never confirmed. The CAUCUS had been trying to get BOB as a speaker for 3 years and although not amused by the LU attempt to hijack him, it's clear on this occasion that they completely outwitted the Grandees. The Socialist Party, the Grandees political wing, has been preparing to re-launch themselves as the "New Workers Party" later in the year and they've been seriously wooing the RMT, which disaffiliated from Labour two years ago. Now the chances of CROW having anything more to do with this project are zero.

McDONALD and his mates have a lot to answer for as far as the Grandees are concerned. Serious political blood-letting is just around the corner...

We got a taste of it at the SOCIALIST CARCASE fringe meeting on Wednesday. The fun began when MARTIN JOHN, an expelled SWP turncoat, arrived to spy on the event for his new grandee masters. The meeting was chaired by JOHN BALONEY in front of the strange RED banner the CAUCUS have dragged round Brighton all week. While JOHN listened politely to the RAUCUS ravings and the contribution of the guest speaker from the French CGT union federation he sprang into action when the CAUCUS mantra against SERWOTKA and the GRANDEES began over the pensions deal. JOHN told them they were an "embarrassment" to the movement which provoked howls of protest from the pack led by CHARLIE McDONALD who opposed the Chair when he granted JOHN the right of reply. The Frenchman, who had been clearly lured onto the platform under the misapprehension that the CAUCUS represented a major trend in left union opinion watched the proceedings with increasing bemusement.

JOHN, however, is no innocent lamb. All through the week he has been the source of a whisper campaign against ROB BRYSON, SWP PCS fraction London organiser, because he's got a downer on *all* his former comrades cos they kicked him out when he sided with the grandees over the pensions issue. According to JOHN, BRYSON has missed every SWP fraction meeting this week in order to spend more time in the METROPOLE swimming pool. This incidentally, is largely true. Yesterday BRYSON'S bag, which contained his black swimming trunks, went missing in the Conference Centre. ROB immediately pointed the finger at JOHN. The bag, including the swimming trunks, mysteriously re-appeared some hours later.

Panic has also set in amongst a number of regional conveners in the Young Members Network after motion 121 was passed yesterday. The opposition was from a coordinated campaign orchestrated by the current incumbents to delay the democratisation of the network. Nonentities like JOANNE BRAY in Yorkshire know their cushy little numbers will be over and so wanted the motion opposed. This reached a head when a screaming match broke out in the observers gallery between EILEASHA MULLANE and one of the regional convenors. This ended in STEVE RYAN (HMRC GEC LU VP) breaking up the fight and the stewards electing the PCS full-timer much to her embarrassment.

The 4TM "secret" meeting did finally take place at the HILTON METROPOLE yesterday with some 40-odd has-beens and no-hopers trouping in to hear the likes of PRIESTLEY and WILDE explain away the poor performance of the new faction in the polls and why neither of them could organise a fringe meeting or even one faction leaflet during Conference week. A series of policy statements was agreed:

Pay: they approved of pay.

Cuts: they were against cuts.

Campaigning: they should so some.

And it was agreed to hold a "major email debate" on all these topics in the months to come.

CPSA has-beens and the usual riff-raff gathered in droves for BARRY WOODBURN'S retirement bash at a seedy back-street dive called the *Fiddler's Elbow* on Wednesday night and the jolly revellers were enlivened, to say the least, by the whirlwind arrival of ANN JARVIS and DEBI BLEINES. The "Left Wing Programme" group who were trying to hold a meeting there were forced into the furthest corner of the pub to avoid the noise and mayhem of the dishevelled revellers who had taken over the floor.

Highlights of the evening included COLONEL HARDING attempting to waltz DEBI around the packed bar while spilling drinks and setting fire to comrades with his lit cigarette. LES MORGAN bought a round, or at least two Attempts to secure drinks. overnight accommodation for ANN and DEBI were made by a variety of drunken bums so it is a matter of conjecture as to where they ended up. The evening then moved on to the "Scottish Night" at the Queens Hotel which was succinctly described as a "crock of shite". Most of the surviving revellers ended up in Weatherspoons by the time of the "Financial Report". BARRY WOODBURN was not amongst them. Watch out for a repeat performance when JARVO gets sacked from PROSPECT in the very near future.

Ousted DCA Group Chair and DCA TU Side Chair ROB JAMESON was seen having intense discussions with Pensioners' Supremo BRIAN STURTEVANT at the OLD CODGERS STAND on Thursday. ROB'S 30-year old battle to stave off the REDS has finally ended in ignominious defeat and now that he is out of a job he is obviously anxious to secure a wellpaid sinecure with the Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance. Doubtless he is calling in a few favours from BRIAN, who as some of us will recall was the LCD full-timer until his retirement. Curiously enough, KEITH MILLS, one-time CPSA National Treasurer during the REAMSBOTTOM era, has also joined the Pensioners' Alliance even though he was never ever a civil servant.

LESS MORON, another victim of the DCA purge, has been asking anyone who can be bothered to listen to him whether it is better to seek early retirement, severance or redundancy. Meanwhile PHIL GREEN, the newly elected DCA Group President and designer socialist with his brand-new Mercedes and personalised number plate is checking out the cost of flights from SOUTHPORT to LONDON as there's no way he's going to commute by train for four hours a day each way. Not expecting to be elected, GREEN will be holidaying in his Merc for the next 3 weeks and will miss chairing the inaugural GEC.

FATHER McGARRY has more than one string to his bow. He's a karaoke fanatic he's been hunting down all the local karaoke bars in his zeal to perform "Purple Haze". He's 57 and he's a member of 4TM but keeps it quiet. Don't they all?

A momentous act of comradely solidarity took place at the DH Group Conference on Tuesday. Tension was high as the thorny subject of how to allocate reduced facility time following management cuts was up for debate. The present allocation enabled three AGSs to remain in post, with two based in Leeds and one in London following the recent Group election. Many expected a heated debate over how the new allocation of two whole time equiv. posts would be shared amongst the two branches. Leeds with the highest number of votes cast for their candidates in the recent Group elections (and a mandate from their members) proposed that their two AGSs should have all the time based on first past the post. The Chair then asked London if they had a counter proposal. A deathly silence fell across the meeting.

As the Leeds proposal was thus the only one up for discussion the proposal was put to the meeting. The Chair asked if the London delegates had any objections. No was the answer with only a slight, quite weak murmur by one of the London delegates that London be offered some cover. The vote was taken with the majority voting in favour (and all the London delegates abstaining - gets stranger by the minute???) of the motion and like a flash of lightning a whole time post in London disappeared into the ether possibly never to return.

The position taken by the London delegates will probably come under some scrutiny at the forthcoming London DH BEC where the branch was under the impression that their delegates would have some game plan to at least offer up some arguments to defend the need for a London based AGS. The members may be even less sympathetic as they had no say in the rather strange tactical position (or lack of position) taken by branch delegates on their behalf. The fact that the bulk of the industrial relations meetings are in London, as well as almost two thirds of the overall membership could make for an interesting future with all the AGSs now based in Leeds. But we're sure all their union colleagues will understand. Leeds members will express their gratitude at least an act of true solidarity with a sister branch. Not sure we would want these people negotiating on our behalf though...



## Our Conference Guide for the righteous - Friday

## Motion A159-Support

It is a blessed relief to find at least one motion on the agenda to which God-Fearing folk can offer wholehearted support. Some people accuse us of gloating over UKUSA's difficulties since 9-11 but it is a sin NOT to take pleasure in the wrathful outpourings of God's justice on these nations. "The righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance: he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked" (Ps. 58:10). That's not an invitation, it's a directive.

Just as ancient Israel and Judah chose to ignore the simple "repent or perish" message of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and the other prophets, UKUSA has chosen to ignore our simple guidance. God told Jeremiah to stop praying for the good of his nation (Jeremiah 14:11), and we have done the same. You can prance around yelling about fag marriage all you want, it won't make a difference. You let it happen and now you can't fix it. The bell has been rung. Deal with it.

## Motion A160-Abstain (Prayer Break)

The real issue in the Public Sector is hardly fear of Islam, but of Christ's true word. Of course we can hardly endorse the behaviour of a bunch of fag-loving Scandinavians so, all in all, we recommend that good Christian folk leave the hall for this debate and adjourn to the Conference Chapel for a few moments of contemplative prayer.

NB: this is the first year since 1988 that we've gone through conference without mentioning Ralph Groves.

## **PFLCPSA NEWS**

Well done, conferees, you've sustained the illusion of commitment to the democratic process and intelligent decision-making for yet another year. Some of you even managed to stay awake for most of the debates; which, on occasion, has been a particularly impressive feat. But some of those debates might, one day, matter. So try to remember which way you voted and why.

Next year will be the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PFL (though not the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our first conference – that's the year after – don't forget a card). Over the decades, many of you have asked what the PFL is all about and why we do this. The simple answer: Because we can and, therefore, must.

However, we are establishing a People's Commission to examine this question in more detail and there is a danger that by this time next year, we'll have worked it all out. Watch the web site for details (pflcpsa.com) but the end result is going to be a significant wikipedia entry.

Until we meet again in May 2007, you can send us your revelations through the web site. What you can't yet do – on the web - is donate to our desperately drained coffers. So the best way to support our efforts is to bung us a donation before you shuffle shyly away from this annual seaside romp . All negotiable currency is appreciated, but the folding stuff is appreciated more than most. If you're too embarrassed to be seen giving us such substantial donations, why not mask the gift by buying the last of the T-Shirts. About 6 left, first come first served.

So its bibi conference. The blue pill is about to wear off. When you wake up in your own bed tomorrow morning, all this will seem like a drug or alcohol induced dream. And, for the most part, it has been.

Thanks to the stringers and deep cover agents who have kept us informed throughout the year and the week. Thanks to STUART and his team at ARTWORKER for delivering the copies on time. Thanks to Kevin McHugh for being a personal fucking alarm clock during the week. And thanks to all of our readers for proving that you still give a shit. Goodnight and Good Luck

I shall return, I shall be millions - Eva Peron