

COMMUNICATION WORKERS UNION
LONDON REGIONAL COMMITTEE AGM

**Minutes of the London Regional Meeting held on Friday 19th January 2007,
Community, 324 Grays Inn Road, WC1**

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1. Adoption of Standing Orders:

Agreed.

2. Attendance & Apologies:

Attendance:

John Denton (Secretary), Kate Booker (Assistant Secretary), Steve Bury (Chair), London City West, London Parcels & Stations Amal, London West End Amal, London RMT, Central London, London South West, Croydon & South London, Simon Crisford (Union Learning Regional Project Worker), West London, West London Postal Branch, London NW C&C, London Postal Engineering, East London Postal, North East London, NHC Postal, London South East, N/NW London, Mount Pleasant International, Harrow & District, Brian Lee (Retired Members Committee), SE London Postal & Counter, N.W London, Huw Davies (TCR Eastern Territory/London North Western C & C), Graham Henson (TCR Eastern Territory/London North Western C & C), Ray Walsh (CWU HQ).

Apologies:

Pat Clouder (Croydon & South London), Steve Browett (Croydon & South London), Nick Darbyshire (London City West), Garry Woodman (London City West), Paul Moore (Central London), Mick King (Central London), John Humphries (London Postal Engineering), Alan Kingett (North East London), Andy Furey (National Officer), Steve Granville (London South East), Peter Groom (East London Postal), Fred Jepson (Retired Members Committee), Roy Vargerson (SE London Postal & Counter), Barry Nelson (SE London Postal & Counter), Nick Bury (N.W London)

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings & Matters Arising.

Meeting held on 27th August 2006 – Minutes **AGREED**

Matters arising-NONE

John reported that he had received a letter from Steve Baguley advising that he is not standing for re-election and he thanked us for our support.

Invitation received from the Construction Industry in London to a Diversity Seminar on 15th February 2007-let John know if anyone interested in attending.

Letter received from Venezuela Information Centre asking us to affiliate-no fees listed so John will contact them for further information and cost.

4. Election of Regional Officers

Regional Chair-nomination received for Steve Bury from NW London Branch.

No further nominations so Steve Bury elected unopposed.

Regional Assistant Secretary-nomination received for Kate Booker from London South Central Clerical.

No further nominations so Kate Booker elected unopposed.

5. Guest Speaker – Graham Henson

Graham gave a presentation on the Counters Dispute. He gave a background on the Post Office Network and details of the Serving Quality Campaign. Briefing packs will be sent out and there will be a lobby of parliament on the 20th February 2007. Graham encouraged people to write to their MP's.

Guest Speaker – Steve Turner, TGWU

Steve Turner from the T & G gave a presentation on “Reorganising our union to win” which outlined their strategy over the next 10-15 years.

6. Regional Report

6.1 Section 1 – to be noted

6.2 Section 2 – to be noted

6.3 Section 3 – to be noted except below

4.2 Unite Against Fascism

The annual conference will be held on Saturday 17th February 2007 at the TUC. We can send delegates from the region or from branches. Cost is £10 and you can apply on line. John has already registered as a delegate from the region.

Love Music/Hate Racism-The UCU & GMB along with the UAF & LMHR have taken up SERTUC's proposal to set up a united union lead on the campaign in Barking & Dagenham. Alan Tate and John Denton will attend the meeting on February 8th at Barking Town Hall.

5.1 London Regional Committee Fund

Figures in Regional report incorrect as interest not added in to closing balance. Payment of £200 was made to LMHR for Poster printing-Ratified by the committee.

6.1 Equality Officers Committee

Inaugural meeting held on 17th January 2007. Officers elected Marcia Ewan as Secretary, Duncan Strivens as Chair and Michelle Laidlaw as Assistant Secretary. The next 2 Equality meetings will be held in Dallington Street on 3rd May 2007 and 1st August 2007.

6.3 Equality Database

Following branches have still not provided details of equality officers. City & NE London Clerical, London City West, London SE, N/NW London, SE London Postal & Counters, SW Middlesex, Watford No 1. These branches have confirmed that they are in the process of compiling the list and will send to John shortly.

6.4 CWU Youth Conference

Details have been circulated to branches-we can send motions and a delegate from the Region. No motions received. Delegate to the conference will be Katrina Talbot from London West End Amal.

8.1 London Night at Conference.

Alan Tate reported that the committee have met and consequently, he has booked the Carrington Hotel on Monday 4th June 2007 and a Jam tribute band. The band will be paid for by Edwards Duthie. The venue and disco will need to be paid by branches in the Region. This will cost about £700. John Denton will arrange the levy of branches on a pro rata basis. All London Branches and delegates will be expected to attend and sell tickets for the event. All proceeds will go to CWUHA.

General Conference motions need to be at Head Office by Friday 16th March 2007. We are entitled to send 3 motions of which 1 should come from the Women's Committee. Branches to send motions to John by Friday 23rd February. He will circulate on Monday 26th February and we will hold an extra-ordinary meeting on Friday 9th March to discuss and select motions to General Conference.

7. Committee Issues

7.1 Regional Women's Committee

There was no officer present as they are travelling to Bristol for the Women's Conference which is being held tomorrow.

7.2 Regional Political Committee

AGM was held on Tuesday.

Had a discussion about the UAF with regard to the issues between Searchlight and the UAF. There is a great threat from the BNP in Major elections and many problems in Barking and Dagenham. We cannot allow members of the far right to be elected into any positions. If branches or individuals are affiliated to the UAF, write to the General Secretary or the UAF asking them to co-ordinate with Searchlight as mixed messages are coming out from both and we need to be united in the message against the BNP. Gerry advised that there will be a by election in Croydon on 8th February 2007 and if people can help in any way, please contact Gerry.

7.3 Regional Safety Forum

The AGM will be held on 28th February 2007 at 11.00am at Community.

John reminded delegates that Dave Joyce's report is contained in the Regional report and should be brought to the attention of their Health & Safety colleagues.

7.4 Retired Member's Regional Council

Brian Lee gave a report. The AGM was held on 11th January 2007. The Retired Members Conference will be held on 8th March 2007. Mick Ryan from Central London Branch is standing for the RMAC and is counting on our support. The next meeting of the London Regional Council will be on 19th April 2007 at Dallington Street where the guest speaker will be John McDonnell.

7.5 Union Learning

Simon Crisford gave a report. There was a successful ULR conference in November and we were well represented from London. There are now 141 ULR's in London. Networking meeting was held last Thursday. All courses at all learning centres will be sent out to branches shortly. There will be a further networking meeting in April.

8. Motions & Amendments

Motion received from North East London Branch.

"The North East London Branch moves that the CWU has been largely successful in developing its lifelong learning project through the union learning fund (ULF). A key figure in this has been the Regional Project worker, who is also funded through the ULF. In order to make the project sustainable in the long term it needs to be managed via a Regional structure of ULR's that is properly accountable to the Branches. As the committee will comprise of properly accredited and trained ULR's carrying out their duties as defined under the ACAS codes.

In this way the learning centres that are now being set up will be embedded in the CWU structure and a sustainable resource for the CWU in the long term.

It is essential that this committee is established now as it enables the Regional project worker to assist in a managed transition from the current ad hoc structure to a properly defined structure fit for the future."

This motion was moved by John Ballard, North East London Branch.

It was opposed by Croydon & South London Branch as they are happy with the project worker running on an ad hoc basis.

North West London supported the motion as if no structure in place, the union learning fund will not give any money to ad hoc committees. He asked the Croydon branch to re consider.

Mount Pleasant International supported the motion as there will be problems if we do not set up the committee. He asked Croydon to discuss again as the branch is holding the rest of London back. The ULR's need the support from the committee.

Croydon branch said that it is their branch policy and they do not have a branch meeting until February.

As there was opposition, the motion did not reach consensus and therefore falls.

John suggested that the motion be re submitted to the next Regional meeting to give the Croydon branch chance to meet and reconsider. John said that we have an extraordinary Regional meeting on 9th March 2007 to discuss motions to conference so it could be discussed there.

Central London Branch suggested that Simon Crisford speak to Croydon Branch to outline the need for the committee.

9. Any other competent business

Letter received from the organising department with regard to the Regional Youth Committee. The constitution is contained within the Regional report which was issued in late December.

The election procedure for the committee is to elect Chair, Secretary and Assistant secretary. Only 2 branches have Youth Officers at present so we need to encourage more young people to get involved.

10. Dates of future meetings.

9 March 2007 at 33/41 Dallington Street

2 May 2007 at 33/41 Dallington Street

7 August 2007 at 33/41 Dallington Street