

Tuesday No 2

Scotland profile in public services debates

What an exciting morning! For a while it looked like we were going to get by without a motion being passed (*Team: not a problem your bulletin leader had on Sunday*).

We apologise for the delay in producing this bulletin but Bromley moved reference back half a dozen times. We wrote to the branch inviting them to appeal against our decision to publish anyway but the letter got lost in the post.

Malcolm Cantello came to our aid by getting the newsheet teams to vote for or against reference back depending on how you interpreted what he said in going to the vote.

So here we are...

Scotland speakers

The public service debates should see a number of Scottish speakers this afternoon and there is likely to be lively debate around some of the amendments.

Positions

Comp G covers the review of public spending and sets out UNISON objectives in the drive for efficiency. **Support.**

76 National Health Service

Gordon Brown may have said that he has red-circled health but PFI costs are still a draw on proper funding. Motion 76 outlines a

broad and detailed campaign involving key partners including patients, local campaigns and the voluntary sector to oppose marketisation. Also adds an international dimension to the campaigning. **Support**

76.01 and 76.02 add to the motion and cause no policy problems. **Support**

76.03 Ignores danger of giving Tories capital out of the campaign. **Oppose**

76.04 is withdrawn but amendments 05 and 06 want to set a date for the NHS demonstration. A date for a demo is being arranged with the broad NHS campaign and that will be in October (see 78.01). We cannot unilaterally set a date when we are working with others. **Oppose.**

32 Public Services: Scotland and Manchester LG have amendments to North West's motion urging continuation of the Positively Public Campaign and against 'creeping privatisation'. **Support 32 and amendments.**

31 Marketisation of Public Services:

This NEC motion sets out a detailed strategy against marketisation and should be supported. Newham's 31.01 urges work with

other unions in national and local demos and although probably superfluous, it can be supported. 31.02 adds the LabourLink dimension and campaigning. **Support 31.03** from London Fire & Emergency calls for a national demonstration. This is always a tricky one when Conference calls for a number of national demos (see the NHS one in 78). There are arguments that it is difficult to mobilise on such a generalised issue but more significant for Scotland is that there are devolution issues. Decisions about most public services in Scotland are made at Scottish, not UK, level and that's where our campaigning needs to be directed. **Oppose.**

Comp B Save our services:

This adds little more to the debate than 31 and 32 and probably doesn't do it as well. The NEC is supporting with qualifications so we'll hear what they are.

B.1 from Glasgow deals with the problem of the national demonstration issue in 31.03 by calling for regional demos. There is still the issue of whether a range of demonstrations is the best way forward and the best focus for the campaign.

B.2 calls for a national demonstration and should be opposed on the same basis as 31.03, ie not all roads lead to London. B.2 will fall in any case if 31.03 is carried.

"Don't mess wi us" message in new advertising campaign



"Lions, tigers and bears....lions, tigers and bears..." No not the Glasgow delegation! They're just pussy cats really!! But it is UNISON's newest advert for attracting members.

The images of lions, tigers and bears are being used to deliver a powerful message about the strength and security that UNISON can offer to its members in a "don't mess wi us!" kind of a way.

The first ad shows a lioness roaring fiercely in one shot then caring for her cubs in the next, to show the strength of our union but also its capacity to care for individual members. Awww!

General Secretary Dave Prentis said, "It shows the union as tough but caring. UNISON is second to none in looking after its members and their interests. We protect and represent them in the workplace and influence government policy on their behalf."

The ads will appear in the press and magazines over the coming weeks and in the Autumn.

Captain's log uncovered

*An anonymous delegate (Inez T**ce) of an anonymous branch (Ab*r*ee*sh*re) has been sending daily starship logs back to the branch. Our Bulletin investigative reporter has managed to tap into these and we thought you'd like to see them.....*

Star date 18th June the year God knows what....

The crew of the star ship Unishire encountered severe difficulties reaching their intended destination, the mode of transport could not cope with the unusual weather of fog rain and wind at the same time which resulted in delays, some of the party were unable to travel with us and eventually found us 24 hours later.

The planet Brighton appears to have an atmosphere capable of sustaining life but some of our crew have

experienced difficulties, perhaps related to the unusual brown water that is customary to drink from large glass vessels.

The native population seem to be friendly although they communicate though a strange language not understandable by the crew.

We have set up a meagre camp close to our base, we have only basic facilities but enough to survive for a few days.

Whilst we are here we have been trying to conduct experiments in staying awake, sitting looking interested and not fidgeting. Unfortunately we have not been successful to date but will continue to strive to achieve our aims.



Yesterday a local hobby of card votes was thrust upon us 3 times. We seemed to cope, we think we have managed to pick up the moves to this ritual although our 1st officer is still a little unsure over the numerical symbols that are used.

This is the captain logging off for today. Will attempt to communicate in 24 hours.