



RMT National Conference of Station
and Associated Grades

29th and 30th April 2011

Rhyl

Conference Minutes

(When reading these minutes, please accept my apologies if I got anybody's name wrong or miss-spelt them.)

AGENDA

FRIDAY 29 APRIL 2011

2011 Conference Officers.

President-Chris Riley
Vice-President-Linda Wiles
Secretary-Mike Llewellyn
CofE-Pete Marsh
Officer-Pat Sikorski
Publicity-Del Kotz

Conference opened at 09.30 with president's address.

Harassment Policy was read out and Harassment officer –Linda Wiles was elected unopposed

Assistant Secretary- President advised conference that Chris Cuomo was ill and unavailable to attend. Conference sent its best wishes to Chris. Conference elected acting assistant Secretary-Ross Marshall unopposed

Tellers-Tony Jakeman and Doug Oxer elected unopposed

Standing Orders Committee-Elected unopposed

Kenny Stafford
Dennis Connor
Michelle Rogers
Jim Levy

Motions

President advised conference that motions 2, 8, emergency 2 and emergency 3 were ruled out of order by the executive committee

Address by AGS Pat Sikorski.

Pat spoke on-

Conference
Bank Holiday Pay for royal wedding
Abuse of staff
Gap between rich and poor
Jarvis Workers
LUL Victimised Reps Arwyn Thomas and Eamonn Lynch
Manchester Victimised Rep Chris Smart
East Coast
Condem government attack on health and safety
Privatisation of the Track
Western isles ferries
Bullington Club Bullies wrecking the country
Labour party not up to much.

Questions and answers followed.

Pat was thanked by the conference in the usual way.

Tea Break

Conference restarted at 11.50

RESOLUTIONS

1. STATION STAFFING – RALLY & CAMPAIGN.

Submitted by Central Line West Branch

“This conference notes the huge attacks on station staffing. The grade is the worst hit under the recession

This conference requests a political rally and campaign highlighting the value and essentialness of station staffing in customer service and safety on the railway”.

Moved by Central Line West Branch

Seconded by Jubilee South

Votes for 28

Votes against 1

Abstentions 0

Motion Carried

3. LUL.

Submitted by Central Line West Branch

“This conference notes that LUL and TOCs are increasingly using non operational staff with little or no training to cover staff on strike or at other times. This conference also notes that the process that companies use is murky.

The conference demands an investigation into this practice with findings to be sent to the O.R.R and published. This conference also demands an end to this practice.”

Moved by Central Line West Branch

Seconded by TFL

Votes for 29 Votes against 0 Abstentions 0 Motion Carried

4. INADEQUATE STAFFING LEVELS.

Submitted by Central Line West Branch

“This conference notes that management continually make up rules and bypass safety in order to hide inadequate staffing levels and to keep figures up.

This conference requests that each regional council is asked to write and produce a know your rights booklet for the station staff in their area. LTRC did this sometime ago and it was very successful.”

Moved by Central Line West Branch

Seconded by Gloucester

Votes for 23 Votes against 1 Abstentions 2 Motion Carried

Presentation by John Rooney, Thompsons legal team, on services for members.

Questions and answers followed.

John was thanked by the conference in the usual way

13.30 Lunch

14.15 Conference re-opened

Address by CofE Member Pete March

Pete spoke about strike laws
Locking out workers
Changing of legal and tribunal law

Pete then gave a presentation on motions from last year's conference including

CCTV
Staff taxis
Cleaning tokens
BTP response
Service information
Agency staff
Hepatitis injections
Station staffing campaign

Questions and answers followed

Pete was thanked by the conference in the usual way.

Address By Victimized Rep, Chris Smart, Manchester Piccadilly branch.

Chris spoke about his struggle against his company after being sacked for trade union activity's. Conference heard that Chris has been a 20 year RMT representative and officer, and is now fighting for his Job.

Conference thanked Chris for coming down and gave him ever support in his struggle.

5. ASSAULTS / CRIME ON STATIONS.

Submitted by Central Line West Branch

“This conference notes the increasingly alarming way that revenue protection inspectors and station staff are having to deal with assaults and crime on stations, owing to depleted police resources.

This issue must be dealt with head on.

This conference requests a meeting with the Chief Inspector of the BTP to discuss our concerns with him and press for a solution.”

Moved by Central Line West Branch

Seconded by Watford

Votes for 26 Votes against 0 Abstentions 1 Motion Carried

6. STATION STAFF UNDER ATTACK

Submitted by Central Line West Branch

“Central Line West notes that station staff are now under attack in a way never seen before.

Central Line West request the GGC recall the National Station and Associated Grades conference liaison committee to a meeting at Unity House in Jan 2012 for a comprehensive report on the national situation and the strategy going forward. ”

Moved by Central Line West Branch

Seconded by Gloucester

Votes for 26 Votes against 0 Abstentions 0 Motion Carried

Presentations by Mike Conway, Transport Benevolent Fund

Questions and answers followed.

Mike was thanked in the usual way

7. HEPATITIS B VACCINATIONS.

Submitted by Gloucester Branch

“Last year Gloucester Branch submitted a resolution to Conference regarding Hepatitis B vaccinations being made available to the work force. This resolution was passed and taken to the AGM where again it was carried unanimously.

To date this has not been implemented by First Great Western, and we are unaware of any other TOC or LUL offering this important opportunity.

We are very disappointed and want this Conference to exert pressure on the relevant companies to ensure this policy is carried out.”

Moved by Gloucester Branch

Seconded by Paddington

Votes for 29 Votes against 0 Abstentions 0 Motion Carried

9. LACK OF INFORMATION

Submitted by Gloucester Branch

“Gloucester Branch is concerned about the lack of information our front line colleagues receive in times of serious disruption. We are disgusted that action has not been taken after this resolution was passed last year.

Nearly two years ago we were assured that at such times Network Rail and our Control would liaise and inform us:

What had happened?

What was being done about it?

If replacement road transport was being arranged

Expected time delay

They would frequently update information

We would be able to relay this on to awaiting passengers, offering an easy ‘no jargon’ explanation.

This does not happen!

We are left totally in the dark and have to face the anger and criticism of the public who are as dissatisfied as we are by this situation.

Passengers get cross and take it out on us resulting in a conflict situation, causing stress and unhappiness all round.

We are disillusioned by these 'promises' that never materialise. After all this time is it not time Control and Network Rail can get their act together and pass this information on to us as soon as possible.

We want action on this matter. We want action NOW!"

Moved by Gloucester Branch

Seconded by Reading

Votes for 21 Votes against 2 Abstentions 0 Motion Carried

Conference venue 2012 (Southport, Liverpool)

Michelle Rogers addressed the conference on behalf of the 2012 organising committee. She advised us that owing to the Grand national being held in Liverpool on the same weekend, conference venues, hotels and function rooms were unavailable or over-priced.

Conference president re-opened nominations.(Hosting branch in brackets)

Blackpool (Manchester south)-Nominated by Central Line West
Seconded by TFL

Teighmouth (Gloucester) Nominated by Deptford branch
Seconded by Gloucester Branch

An election took place.

Blackpool-9
Teighmouth-15
Abstentions-3

2012 Venue-Teighmouth

Reception Committee Report-Michelle Rogers

Conference adjourned for evening at 1700

Saturday 30 April 2011.

09.30. President opened days proceedings

Auditors Report. -Tony Jackman

Tony gave a report into the conferences finances.

Tony was thanked by conference in the usual manner

10. REVENUE PROTECTION TEAMS.

Submitted by Gloucester Branch

“First Great Western has recently recruited additional members to its Revenue Protection team. We wholeheartedly agree that their role is necessary and that persistent fare dodgers with no intention of paying should be heavily penalised. We are, however, at times perturbed by their heavy handed approach of the enforcers to some customers.

We would have thought that their main advantage was being ‘human beings’, capable of reason. There are times when passengers are genuinely unable to purchase tickets before travel and have their money at the ready and willing to pay. However, their explanation is ignored or disbelieved and are issued with unpaid fares notices.

These are the people who are ‘easy targets’ who are being penalised through no fault of their own and are not being listened to.

Surely the RPIs’ could use their intelligence and discretion to recognise the genuine cases from the regular abusers of the system. As it is we the platform and booking office staff receive the backlash from these very irate and dissatisfied customers as they disembark. This is another situation which results in stress and disillusionment all round which could be resolved by a change in approach and attitude.

We want these changes to be implemented within the Company’s training policy.”

Moved by Gloucester Branch

Seconded by Paddington

Votes for 7 Votes against 13 Abstentions 3 Motion fell

11. PAID TRAVELLING TIME.

Submitted by Deptford (0423) Branch

“Since the start of the ‘first to last’ franchises in the London Travelcard zone area, it has been the case that some existing staff on Southern have been told it is their responsibility to get to and from their place of work – even though there is no train service to get them there. This also applies when leaving to go home as there is no service train from their place of work.

The staff have not signed up for these new arrangements, but they have had them imposed on them since the change in the franchise and rosters. This is to meet the DfT demand of having every station staffed five minutes before the first service train until five minutes after the last service train.

These new arrangements mean that some of the existing staff, at the stations where new rosters and working arrangements have been introduced, have to use their own transport or other public transport which they have to pay for as an additional cost which they did not have before.

This is unacceptable. Existing staff should be given travel expenses or time to cover the additional costs that have been imposed on them, and not have to be out of pocket themselves by having to pay for these new arrangements. Therefore we are asking the General Secretary to write to every company where this has happened.”

Moved by Central Line west

Seconded by Paddington

Votes for 18 Votes against 2 Abstentions 3 Motion Carried

12. INDUSTRIAL ACTION ON LONDON UNDERGROUND.

Submitted by Jubilee South & East London Line Branch

“Following Four days of strike action on LUL, this conference can take on board the real power that station staff hold, with over half of LUL’s stations closed, and numerous stations being opened and operated illegally and outside of section 12 regulations, or just left completely un-staffed. However, LUL have gone ahead and displaced hundreds of station staff, making them ‘spare’ and doing anything they can to wreck any work/life balance our members had. This conference therefore resolves to fully support our station staff members on LUL, and offer any assistance that we can give.”

Moved by Jubilee South & East London Line Branch

Seconded by Central Line west

Votes for 29 Votes against 0 Abstentions Motion Carried

13. CONFERENCE VENUES.

Submitted by Jubilee South & East London Line Branch

“We note that on several occasions conference has been held at venues where the branch covering that area have not sent any delegates, not only on the year the conference is held, but also in previous years.

We therefore believe that when venues for conferences are being proposed, areas whereby branches who have, or are attending conference, should take priority over those that haven't, and that standing orders be amended to reflect this.”

Moved by Jubilee South & East London Line Branch

Seconded by TFL

Votes for 4 Votes against 19 Abstentions 0 Motion Fell

14. DATES OF CONFERENCE.

Submitted by Jubilee South & East London Line Branch

“Whilst we note that conference takes place on the first weekend after Easter, we also note that this changes every year, sometimes with conference being at the opposite ends of different months.

We believe that, like other conferences we could benefit from having a fixed date, such as the first Friday and Sat of XXXX or the last Fri and Sat of XXXX, and, if this motion is passed, that the EC of the conference make recommendations as to when the best dates would be, for conference to make a final decision on.”

Moved by Jubilee South & East London Line Branch

Seconded by TFL

Votes for 10 Votes against 10 Abstentions 2 Motion fell on casting vote

15. CONFERENCE PUBLICITY.

Submitted by Jubilee South & East London Line Branch

“Despite this conference representing all grades of station and associated staff, it is very rare for grades other than station staff to attend, such as cleaners. We therefore propose a publicity poster to be designed, aimed at all grades represented by this conference, encouraging them to attend. Such poster to be distributed to all branches, for display prior to next year’s conference.”

Moved by Jubilee South & East London Line Branch

Seconded by Glasgow 5

Votes for 29 Votes against 0 Abstentions 0 Motion Carried

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

‘SOS: STAFF OUR STATIONS’ CAMPAIGN.

Submitted by Stratford No.1 Branch

“This conference recognises the full-scale onslaught by employers on station staffing levels. This is a threat to station staff jobs, to safety and service standards, and to the help available to other grades.

We request the union to launch and run a national campaign entitled ‘SOS: Staff Our Stations’, to include:

- Industrial action against any attacks by employers on station staffing
- Co-ordination of action across different companies
- ‘SOS’ merchandise e.g. badges, stickers, T-shirts
- Regional rallies
- A national press launch

Having asked for a national campaign on this question in several previous years, we hope that the union will now run a serious, high-profile campaign on this vital issue.”

Moved by Central Line West

Seconded by Manchester South

Votes for 26 Votes against 0 Abstentions 0 Motion Carried

ELECTIONS OF COMMITTEEs / OFFICERS FOR 2011-2012

Various elections took place for various jobs. The elections were carried out within usual union rules. The following were elected.

President-Chris Riley
Vice President-Linda Wiles
Secretary-Mike Llewellyn

Executive Committee

The executive committee meets once a year, on the eve of conference, to scrutinise the agenda, motions and conference arrangements.

Chris Riley (president)
Linda Wiles (Vice president)
Mike Llewellyn (Secretary)

Steve Evert
George Falzon
Doug Oxe
Tim Wilkinson
Sonia Smith
Dennis James
Ronnie Hardyman
Kenny Stafford
Dennis Connor
Michelle Rogers
Jim Levy

LIASON COMMITTEE

The liaison committee meets at least once a year with head-office officials to discuss progress of conference.

Chris Riley (president)
Linda Wiles (Vice president)
Mike Llewellyn (Secretary)
Ross Marshall
Michelle Rogers
Dennis Connor

Pat Sikorski advised conference that the first Liaison committee meeting would be at unity House on Wednesday 1st June at 11.00

AUDITORS

Louisa Williamson
Jim Levy

Conference venue 2013

Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. (Hosted by Central Line West)

Moved Central Line West
Seconded TFL

No other nominations were received, Huntingdon chosen as 2013 venue

Conference venue 2014

Blackpool (Hosted by Manchester south)

Moved Manchester south
Seconded Central Line west

York (Hosted by York and district)

Moved Deptford
Seconded Paddington

An election took place.

Blackpool 17
York 5

Blackpool chosen as 2014 venue.

Vote of thanks and presentation to Gavin, club manager for the welcome his staff gave to us, and the wonderful social organised the night before.

Presidents Closing remarks

President thanked everybody for attending and making the conference a successful one. He wished everybody a safe journey home and closed conference.

Conference closed 12.00