

CARMARTHEN BRANCH NEWSLETTER

ISSUE3 27TH FEBRUARY 2009

FEBRUARYS BRANCH MEETING

February's meeting again saw a good turn out of members. The most encouraging aspect was the mix from different companies and grades in attendance. Network Rail, At Seat Catering, RMT, Arriva and cleaning company ICG all had representation at the meeting. We hope to build on this for future meetings to ensure a diverse range of members are given the chance to interact and receive information, advice and assistance from the Branch Officers and from other Branch members. Two Network Rail Reps have made contact via the Reps Questionnaire (Kevin

Chivers & Gary Rees) many thanks for sending back the forms as this helps us decide where we need to target information and resources. A reps recruitment rucksack has been given to Kevin and one will shortly be on its way to Gary. A meeting has been arranged for Kevin to attend the Regional Office in Bristol to gain more information on terms & conditions to assist him in his LDC role. It has been revealed through these questionnaires that Health & Safety Representatives are required at Network Rail Haverfordwest and Whitland depots. We would urge any member that has had thoughts about

taking one of these positions to give it serious consideration. H&S reps are a vital part of the workplace and the union, they are protected by legislation and are legally entitled to paid time off to attend training courses, meetings and investigate accidents. The branch will also help with travel costs and expenses to attend training courses. A letter advising of these vacant positions will be sent to the depots concerned. The election for these two positions will be included in the agenda for the next meeting in Haverfordwest.

We hope to see you there.

BRANCH MEETING ON THE MOVE!

In direct response to the feedback from the Branch questionnaires, the next Branch meeting will be held at the Mariners Hotel, Mariners Square, Haverfordwest on the 19th March at 19.00hrs. All members are welcome. February's Branch meeting decided that a buffet should

be provided in Haverfordwest for the close of the meeting at about 21.00hrs. The Branch Secretary will be contacting all members living and working west of Carmarthen inviting them to attend and input into the meeting. It is essential that we get a good attendance at the meeting as this would

add weight to the call for Branch meetings to be split more evenly between Carmarthen, Haverfordwest and Llanelli.

All Branch members have a say in how this Branch is run, and all voices in this Branch are equal.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- *The next Branch Meeting will be held on: Thursday 19th March 2009 at the Mariners Hotel, Haverfordwest at 19.00hrs.*
- *A buffet will be provided after the meeting has closed.*
- *Minutes for Februarys Branch Meeting are available by email on request from the Branch Secretary.*
- *Agendas for future meetings will now be sent out by email to those members who have supplied their email addresses.*

BRANCH MEMBER BREAKDOWN

ARRIVA TRAINS WALES	55
NETWORK RAIL	38
NETWORK RAIL (CARILLION)	38
AT SEAT CATERING	10
DB SCHENKER	2
FASTLINE (JARVIS RAIL)	1
ICG	1
CARILLION (GTRM)	1
FIRST GREAT WESTERN	1
SERCO RAIL	1

ATW DRIVERS – INTEGRATION OF CARDIFF DEPOTS



“ASLEF Company Council Reps agree to productivity giveaway”.

Arriva Trains Wales have stated that they intend to integrate two Driver Depots at Cardiff. The Company, with agreement from a majority of Driver Company Council reps (ASLEF), will implement integration without agreement from the two LDC's and without agreement from the RMT. This has caused a lot of concern regarding this issue from our Driver members in the two ATW Cardiff depots. There is growing opposition from our Driver members in Cardiff who see no real

benefits in integration for the vast majority of staff. There are certainly productivity benefits for ATW which are being given up for nothing and this has raised concern of the Drivers as to the real motivation for the change. RMT is committed to safeguarding the democratic rights of their members as well as defending PT&R and jobs against these types of productivity giveaways. The General Secretary has written to ATW asking them to withdraw the proposed Depot Integration at Cardiff and give

an assurance that they will not to proceed with integration without the agreement of the RMT, which will be ratified by a vote of drivers at the affected depots. If no response is received from the company then a dispute situation will exist and the RMT will be forced to ballot all train driver members at Cardiff, Rhymney and Treherbert depots for strike action due to this breach of collective bargaining procedures.

SISTER SONIA JONES WAS ELECTED AT BRANCH AS HEALTH & SAFETY REP FOR BOOKING OFFICE STAFF AT ARRIVA TRAINS, WEST WALES AREA

HEALTH & SAFETY REPS' INDUCTION COURSE

For newly elected reps.
Aims:
-To introduce representatives to the ways in which the RMT, at Branch, Regional and National level, supports the work of Health & Safety Representatives
-To help H&S Representatives tackle problems with confidence, using a variety of methods, including agreed procedures.

Please apply to your manager for paid release to attend this course. In case of difficulty, contact Regional Office on 0117 925 5018
Tutors: Phil Boston (Recruitment & Organising Unit), Glen Burrows (Secretary, Bristol Rail)

COURSE PROGRAMME

-Introductions
-The role of the Health &

Safety Representative
-Dealing with health & safety issues
-RMT structures, resources & contacts
-Course Review
Course to be held on Tuesday 17th March, 10.00 - 16.00 at RMT Regional Office, Transport House, Victoria Street, Bristol.
Contact Branch Secretary for application form and details.

Application for Reduced Rate Contributions (P60) for 2008/2009 Tax Year



‘Earning under £15000 and paying full time contributions?
A reimbursement could be yours!’

The Branch Secretary now has for distribution the current version of the Application for Reduced Rate Contributions (P60) 2008/2009 tax year. It includes all the details regarding completion of the form and the documentary evidence that must be provided in order to qualify

for reimbursement. It contains additional updated information not included on the form distributed for last years' tax rebate so please discard any older copies that you may still have. Copies of this new form have been supplied to all **branches,** **regional**

councils, and **regional offices** and are in a format that allows for duplicates to be easily reproduced.

If there are any queries or if you require copies of the form then please contact the Branch Secretary or the membership department at union headquarters.

DE-STAFFING OF STATIONS – USE OF CCTV

Following the successful resolution carried at last year's Annual General Meeting with regards to the above matter, I can now advise you that the matter has been placed before the General Grades Committee and the following decision has been noted:

"That we note the concerns of our Conference and that CCTV should be an aid to passenger and staff security, not a replacement

for union organised directly employed station and booking office staff.

We note that this union is currently in dispute with First Capital Connect, NXEA, South West Trains, LOROL and South-eastern over threats of job losses, manning levels, replacement technology and compulsory redundancies. We remain vigilant in all TOC's, TFL and PTE's in these issues."

In this regard, I should be pleased if you could give your attention to this matter and ask that all Branches and Regional Organisers remain vigilant to any perceived abuses of the use of CCTV and that all such problems are raised at Company Council Level or with the Lead Officer accordingly.

Yours sincerely
Bob Crow
General Secretary



'We all need to remain vigilant to any perceived abuses of the use of CCTV.'

PTR&R ARRANGEMENTS – RE-SIGNALING SCHEME, COLCHESTER TO CLACTON, NETWORK RAIL

The General Grades Committee has instructed me to conduct a ballot for strike action of our signalling and associated supervisory grade members employed in the Anglia Area over the way that management is applying the PTR&R arrangements in relation to the above re-signalling scheme.

The whole way that the company has handled the Colchester to Clacton re-signalling scheme has been a shambles:-

- Management has insisted that all appointments to new positions will be solely on the basis of suitability and seniority will not play a part.
- The company has not issued a complete "closed list" of vacancies to displaced staff, preferring to merely issue a list of vacant positions.

- Management has not issued any information to the staff affected with regard to relocation packages.

NR has also insisted that there is no voluntary redundancy scheme on offer.

Despite the fact that the timescales for the Colchester to Clacton scheme commenced as long ago as 2006, we have now reached a situation where the company has failed in this time to find alternative positions for all displaced staff and has now issued **compulsory redundancy notices** to affected employees.

There are other schemes (such as the North London scheme and the Norwich area resignalling scheme) coming up in the next few years on the Anglia area which will result in job losses. I have written to members pointing out that if management get away with what they are doing now in the Colchester area, who knows who will be the next member to receive a compulsory redundancy notice. I have urged them to vote "YES" in the forthcoming ballot to defend the PTR&R arrangements and to support their colleagues facing redundancy.

I am in the process of finalising the ballot arrangements and will keep members advised.

Yours sincerely
Bob Crow
General Secretary

NETWORK RAIL
LDC REP KEVIN
CHIVERS WAS
NOMINATED BY
THE BRANCH
FOR PROJECTS,
ENGINEERING &
SUPPORT
FUNCTIONS
AREA COUNCIL



**BRANCH SECRETARY
CONTACT DETAILS**

Mark Snook
4 Dandorlan Road
Burry Port
Carmarthenshire
SA16 0RA

Phone: 07920493203
07825279299

Email:
carmarthen@rmt.org.uk

**RMT ON THE
WEB:
WWW.RMT.ORG.UK**

**BRANCH
CORRESPONDENCE**

If there is any item of the Branch correspondence you would like to read or obtain a copy of, please either come to the next Branch meeting or contact the Branch Secretary who will arrange for you to receive it by email or post. (RMT members only)

**BRANCH MEETING
MINUTES**

You can now obtain the February 19th Branch Meeting minutes by email. If you would like to receive a copy of these please email a request to the Branch Secretary and they will be sent out to you. (Carmarthen Branch members only)

UNION RULE BOOK

You can obtain a copy of the Union Rule book which governs how the Union operates and how the Branch is managed by going online to: www.rmt.org.uk

Date	Branch Correspondence Summary
29/1/09	Network Rail Area Council Elections
29/1/09	Election of Delegates to the Annual General Meeting
29/1/09	Distribution of On-Train Catering Grades' Charter
29/1/09	Update to RMT Directory
29/1/09	Cardiff Rail Branch Re Company Council Elections
29/1/09	Manual Collection of Contributions
2/2/09	Unity Trust Re request for pre-paid envelopes
5/2/09	Cover for Regional Organiser – Brian Whitehead
5/2/09	Confirmation of Branch Ballot Paper Re Station Company Council
6/2/09	Thompsons Receipt of instructions for David Jones
9/2/09	Distribution of Supervisory, Clerical Salaried Grades Charter
9/2/09	ULR Update January 2009
12/2/09	International Women's Day – 8 th March 2009
13/2/09	Thompsons Re Mesothelioma 'Trigger Issue' Test Case
13/2/09	January Leavers and Joiners Report
17/2/09	Unity Trust Re Branch Account Details
17/2/09	Disconnection of Previous Branch Secretary's' Internet Connection - Request for £137.17
20/2/09	LDC Election Result Platform Staff Arriva Trains Carmarthen

REPORTS

29/1/09	The General Secretary's Report To & The Decisions Of The Council Of Executives Including Those Of The General & Shipping Grades Committees – December 08
17/2/09	The General Secretary's Report To & The Decisions Of The Council Of Executives Including Those Of The General & Shipping Grades Committees – January 09

**No bonuses for cutting safety standards, says RMT
NR 'should restore renewals programme and end dangerous squeeze'**

THERE SHOULD be no question of paying telephone-number bonuses to Network Rail executives who are presiding over a massive and dangerous squeeze on track work and a lowering of track standards, Britain's biggest rail union said today.

Network Rail bosses have ordered the deferral of a massive 28 per cent of track renewals, threatening jobs throughout the industry and risking a potentially catastrophic undermining of infrastructure safety – and they must be reversed, RMT said.

The union welcomed a commons motion tabled by Stroud MP David Drew, and signed by 21 others to, urging the government to ensure that essential rail renewals work goes ahead, to put a moratorium on job cuts and to develop a strategy to manage the railways in a way which mitigates rather than exacerbates the effects of the economic downturn.

"What crazy system is it that contemplates rewarding bosses for putting off vital infrastructure upgrades, lowering track standards and cutting jobs?" RMT general secretary Bob Crow said from the union's health and safety conference in Doncaster today.

"There should be no question of bonuses for bosses when the people out there trying to do the work are being stretched to breaking point, there are cuts in frequency of track inspections and cuts in routine signals maintenance,

"Five years after four of our members lost their lives at Tebay we are also no nearer ending the steady stream of runaways and still do not have the secondary protection track workers needed by track workers who put their lives on the line.

"It is only a few months since Network Rail's inspection regime was handed an improvement notice after the Grayrigg tragedy and the last thing the industry needs is more cuts –

"It beggars belief that in the current economic climate NR should be allowed to contemplate a massive cut in essential renewals, but contemplating paying huge bonuses to the bosses carrying them out adds insult to injury," Bob Crow said.