

Nudge Nudge

Daily Express, Sunday Express, Daily Star NU chapel newsletter

July 2002

The bare minimum

The chapel met on Wednesday 19 June and reluctantly voted to accept a draft document thrashed out between union representatives and the management over casual pay.

It gives very little, if anything, in the way of a rise for many casualls but at least it lays down a structure of minimum rates.

The chapel committee is hoping that it may form the basis for negotiations for a proper pay increase for casualls in the next staff pay round.

The full resolution: This

The minimum rates are now

Production

£100 for six hours
£115 for seven hours
£130 for eight hours
£145 for nine hours.

Reporters

£100 for eight hours
£115 for nine hours
£130 for ten hours
£145 for eleven hours

Saturday rates:

Production

£130 for six hours
£145 for seven hours
£160 for eight hours
£175 for nine hours.

Reporters

£130 for eight hours
£145 for nine hours
£160 for ten hours
£175 for eleven hours

chapel reluctantly accepts the draft document on minimum casual rates and the assurance that casualls currently enjoying higher rates will remain unaffected. The

chapel determines to improve these minimum rates in future in line with the annual salary negotiations.

Thankfully some casualls will benefit directly from

this year's agreement. The new rates came into operation on 24 June so make sure you claim your dues.

Casualls who have been working at Express Newspapers for more than a year, can claim the minimum rate plus £2.

These are by no means generous rates of pay.

Magazines often pay better. For instance £120 is the rate at The Bookseller and at Tower Hamlets Council own local newspaper.

Reporters get £18.75 per hour at Metal Bulletin.

More staff needed for Sunday Star

The chapel is concerned that the management is trying to launch the new Sunday Star with insufficient staff and resources.

At its meeting on 19 June, it passed the following resolution:

This chapel says that no Daily Star / Express Newspapers / Northern and Shell staff will work for the Sunday Star in any capacity. Furthermore, this chapel says that no Daily Star / Express Newspapers / Northern and Shell staff will change their working practices and rotas to cover Saturdays.

A new title should mean new jobs for new people - not two jobs for few people. This resolution was carried with no one voting

against and only one person abstaining.

In a memo to the union on 6 June, the company set out its plans for the Sunday Star.

It said Hugh Whittow would be editor and additional executive staff are currently being recruited to cover the "extra requirements of the Sunday Star".

The memo went on: "In

order to utilise the expertise of the current Daily Star staff it is proposed that reporters on the sports, news and show-business desks be moved on to a seven-day rota and work on both the Daily Star and the Sunday Star. "Additional staff will be recruited to strengthen the rotas. For news and show-business reporters, this may mean an increase in

the number of Saturdays worked. For sports reporters, the principal difference will be a requirement to file copy for the Sunday Star in addition to the Daily Star.

The designers will be expected to work on a seven-day rota across the Daily and the Sunday Star. Additional designers are being recruited to strengthen the rotas but designers presently on the staff of the Daily Star will be expected to work some Saturdays.

"The company is setting up a remote subbing operation in Broughton, Lancs, to sub the Sunday Star. It is therefore envisaged there will be no change to the working patterns of sub-editors."

Other problems to be resolved

■ The introduction of an Irish edition, involving around 10 extra pages a night, in the past few weeks has put intolerable pressure on the already-over-worked news sub-editors of the Daily Express. More staff are needed.

■ The management has at last bought some new chairs for the production department of the Express.

■ New mice have also been promised.

Give us the tools and we can do the job.