

Nudge Nudge

NUJ Daily Express, Sunday Express, Daily Star and Daily Star Sunday chapel newsletter

28 March 2008

Way to a fair deal

This issue of Nudge Nudge is to keep people up to date with the latest information on our pay dispute and to keep casuals who may not have access to the email system informed.

The management has failed to respond so far to our ballot result for industrial action or the official notice served on them that a 24-hour strike will take place from 6am on Friday 4 April.

There have, however, already been some reports of NUJ members being asked by their managers whether they will be prepared to work on our strike days.

NUJ members are reminded that they do not have to answer these questions and anyone who thinks they are being harassed or bullied should contact chapel officials.

Our mobile numbers are: Ray King 07960 010969, Michelle Stanistreet 07881 628043 and Steve Usher 07930 542266. Casuals are also welcome to contact us for advice.

The NUJ London chapel voted on Wednesday 26 March to stage three 24-hour strikes in pursuit of our pay claim. The first will be on Friday 4 April, followed by Friday 11 April and Friday 18 April.

The decision came after the ballot on industrial action resulted in 60.5% voting for action including a strike and 83.5% backing industrial action short of a strike.

At a meeting attended by about 130 people, chapel members discussed various options, including a work to rule and mandatory chapel meetings. The vote for strikes was overwhelming, with one member voting against and three abstentions. Broughton NUJ chapel voted unanimously on Thursday

27 March to strike at the same time as London. Glasgow NUJ chapel met on the same day and called for more negotiations involving ACAS. The Glasgow chapel will also consider what support it can offer the London chapel on the day of the strike.

Before the action takes place next week, there will be another chapel meeting in London – at 3pm on Wednesday 2 April in the canteen.

Members who take industrial action after a ballot are protected by the law and it is not too late for non-members to get that protection if they join quickly.

If you wish to join, please contact Ray King, Michelle Stanistreet or Steve Usher. Several people have already applied to join the NUJ and the NUJ membership department is on the alert to deal with applications quickly.

The decision to strike was taken after a ballot of all members of the NUJ and after five months of fruitless attempts to persuade the management to improve its below-inflation pay offer to meet our claim or, at the very least, match the retail price index so the pay “rise” is not in fact a pay cut.

We have carefully abided by the law and the democratic process but it is inevitable that individuals may well feel vulnerable in taking part in industrial action. We should all remember that each individual on his or her own can have very little influence.

Only by sticking together, can we maintain our self respect, support our colleagues and at the same time gain the strength needed to challenge unreasonable decisions by the management and achieve a fairer deal.

More information: www.express-nuj.org.uk

NOTE TO CASUALS: Please contact rayking@beeb.net with your email address (or give Ray or Steve your phone number if you are not on email) so you can be kept up to date with events