

## REPORT FROM THE SA NEC SAT FEB 17th

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Gerry Byrne; Pete McLaren; Mike Davies; Terry Liddle; Dave Church (DLP); Liz Peck (Rugby RGA); Ricard Collins (CAWSA); Steve Freeman (RDG)

**APOLOGIES** – Phil Pope; Lesley Mahmood; Toby Abse; Peter Morton

### CORRESPONDENCE

A number of items were circulated. The AGS had agreed to affiliate if the SA affiliated to the AGS. It was agreed to circulate AGS materials and ask the membership to decide whether or not the SA should affiliate to the AGS, irrespective of the AGS response. The RDG offered to pay the £70 room hire cost for the SA Day school in March in turn for the SA waiving their £25 affiliation fee.

### ESTABLISHING AN SA PUBLICATION

It was agreed that we produce an initial 16 page printed bulletin, priced at £1 each, with a 33% discount for bookshops. 500 copies would be printed at a cost of £300 – this would include some colour. Members would be asked to suggest a title for subsequent editions. It was hoped to have the publication ready by March 10, and a flyer would be produced to advertise it at the STWC Demo next Saturday. An assessment would subsequently be made about the cost and frequency of future editions

### REPORTS

**Membership** – 11 members had paid nationally so far for 2007. It was agreed to chase up renewals individually, and to use the new SA publication, and the flyer promoting it, to encourage membership

**Finance** – Treasurer *Terry Liddle* reported a balance of £455.34

**Communications** – a report from *Phil Pope* was circulated. A new elist for NEC members had been set up, together with officer addresses. The web site had been tidied up. It was agreed the web site should distinguish clearer between branches and individual members. It was also agreed to submit the SA red flag emblem to the Electoral Commission for use on ballot papers.

**Local Socialist Alliances** - *Peter Morton* had received reports from most local SAs. This was ongoing. There was some discussion about local involvement in anti health cuts campaigns, with concern expressed about the lack of trade union support for such campaigns, especially at national level. A Day of Action on Health was planned for March 3.

**Council Elections 2007** – Members were delighted we had secured the ‘Socialist Alliance’ electoral title. It was agreed to further advertise its availability to local alliances and groups of socialists. It was agreed to appoint local representatives for the Nomination Officer wherever possible. Separately, *Pete McLaren* reported briefly from the SGUC. Provisional estimations of candidates indicated around 50, as last year. It was noted that Green Party councillors had voted for cuts in Lewisham, and for an incinerator in Leeds. Respect had responded for the first time to suggestions about discussions to avoid clashes. The SGUC Press Launch for the 2007 Campaign would be in Birmingham on March 10 to coincide with the CNWP Steering Committee meeting.

**Campaign for a New Workers’ Party** – *Pete McLaren* reported from the recent CNWP officers meeting. The campaign was being stepped up. A political programme, presented as a charter with bullet points, would be developed and presented to the follow up national conference, confirmed for May 13<sup>th</sup> in London. A pamphlet would be produced on how the attacks on public services showed the need for a new left party. All individual supporters would be contacted by email or post. There would be further local launches. Plans had been made to hold fringe meetings at all the main trade union conferences. Use of the media would be further developed, building on the excellent coverage recently in the Liverpool Echo. The next Steering Committee would be in Birmingham on March 10, and this meeting would determine the conference agenda. During the discussion, a variety of views were put forward about the likely development of the CNWP. It was agreed to hold a SA Members Meeting on the CNWP, and decide strategies for the CNWP conference, on Sat May 5<sup>th</sup>, 3pm, Carrs Lane, Birmingham immediately following a shortened NEC meeting that day. Toby Abse was elected to represent the SA at the Steering Cttee meeting

**Developing a perspective of campaigning for working class political representation** – *Steve Freeman* reported on the SA Day School ‘Democracy and working class representation’ organised for Mar 10, 1pm, at South Bank Univ. Speakers would include Peter Tatchell, Terry Liddle, Chris Jones and Mike McNair

*Pete McLaren 21/02/07*