

**The Reports of Party Officers and Executive Committee  
for the Conference on**

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2009      times: 10.30 to 5.30**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2009    times 11.00 to 5.00**

**Ad Hoc Committee on Party Decision-Making. No further developments**

**Ad Hoc Committee on Pooley legacy. No further developments.**

**Advertising Dept.**

**Archives.**

**Assistant Secretary.**

**Audio & Visual Dept.**

**Ballot Committee.**

**Blog Dept.**

**Campaigns Dept.**

**Central Branch report.**

**Central Organiser.**

**Education Dept.**

**Election Dept.**

**Enquiries Dept.**

**General Secretary.**

**Head Office Organiser.**

**Internet Dept.**

**Library Committee No report received.**

**Membership Applications.**

**Media Vacant.**

**Premises Committee.**

**Production for Use Committee. No report received.**

**Publications Dept. No report received.**

**Socialist Standard.**

**Standing Orders Committee.**

**Treasurer (including Accounts January to November 2008).**

### **Advertising department**

The Advertising Department continued with its policy of placing classified adverts in selected journals. As from Spring 2009 our advert will appear in London Listings Community Guide. This guide is prominently displayed in over 1000 London venues.

The cost of advertising was: £544 for classified adverts in the Big Issue.

J. Lee, M. Browne, J. Vein

### **Archives department**

The archive is now in good working order again. Over the last year we have concentrated on the Party's photographic collection especially putting names and dates to unidentified photographs. In relation to the latter task I should especially like to thank Comrades Pat Deutz, Peter Newell, Janet Carter and Phyllis Hart and ex-Comrade Robert Barltrop. Despite reservations, we have cooperated with Jane Stevenson of the Archives Hub (a national service for archives) in further widening web publicity for the SPFGB archive. Over the next year we intend to concentrate on re-packaging the collection and reducing further the amount of loose material.

Donations. Many thanks to the following for donations received:

- Comrade Howard Comber: rare Party pamphlet of 1907
- Comrade Derek Deutz: additional West Ham Branch minute book.
- Comrade Adam Buick for various material including from the late Les Cox
- Comrade Phyllis Hart for material from the late Pieter Lawrence.

Howard Comber, Keith Scholey

### **Assistant Secretary**

I was reelected to the position of Assistant Secretary this year, a post I have held since August 2006. In the absence of a General Secretary this year, I have taken over the duties of that post. This includes preparing the agenda and taking the minutes for the Executive Committee meetings, and handling official internal and external Party correspondence. In January I was on holiday overseas, and so these duties were handled by the 2008 General Secretary, Cde

Janet Carter, whose help I greatly appreciate.

Following renewed calls for nominations to the position of General Secretary, Cde Simon Wigley and myself were nominated, and after some consultation with him I decided to decline my nomination in favour of his. At the time of writing the election is underway and, with no other nominees on the ballot, Cde Wigley is expected to be acclaimed.

Cde Wigley informs me that he expects to take a "hands-on" approach with respect to the secretarial duties, so as Assistant Secretary I will most likely have a reduced role in the administration of the Party infrastructure. However, I will, of course, remain available to assist him in whatever manner he requires, and to fill in for him at EC meetings and other events should he be absent.

Tristan Miller

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### **Audio Visual Department**

Membership of the above has recently increased, and several projects are in hand.

Video –

The 'Poles Apart?' DVD produced for the talk with Glenn Morris has sold around 35 copies so far. Conference might like to discuss the issue of whether other filmed talks and debates should automatically be made available to buy in DVD format. Online viewing seems to be more popular in general, but we're aware that many members do not access the internet and may like to buy a hard copy. If not produced as a matter of course, the DVDs could still be made available as and when requested, with availability being advertised in the Standard. 'Poles Apart?' is also linked on the Party website, youtube, and the socialist-tv blogsite. Since ADM, films of the talks at last year's Summer School have been put online at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and other sites. The same applies to the debate held with Ian Bone in September 2008. Other debates have also been filmed. These include the debate in Glasgow with Hillel Ticktin, (re Trotsky), the Brian Morris Forum, (environment), the Terence Kealey> debate, ('have we evolved to make money?'), and the debate with UKIP.

Audio –

The talks on 'Religion' from last year's Summer School are linked on the Party website. Audio versions of the 'Poles Apart' talk and the Ian Bone debate have been made available for download elsewhere at free-hosting site [www.mediafire.com](http://www.mediafire.com)

Sadly, having informed ADM that a start has been made on the project to transfer old Party talks from cassette tape to digital, the project soon ground to a halt! The initial transfers were not as high a quality as it's possible to get. Transferring tapes to digital can be done easily enough providing a decent tape deck and soundcard is used.

However, the cleaning-up and editing requires more specialist knowledge and training.

Comrade Darren Poynton has recently joined the Committee, and has a contact skilled in sound editing who can offer his services at a very low price, (with the comrade also able to work under his supervision). This would be a much cheaper option than having all the work done professionally, but would take longer.

Conference may like to consider:

- what priority should be put on this project?
- should tapes be allowed out of Head Office to be worked on elsewhere?"

Robert Whitfield, Dave Chesham, Vincent Otter, Darren Poynton, and Stair

### **Ballot Committee**

The committee carried out the ballots as required for Conference and the annual elections. The last eight ballot figures returns are given below, the five ballots since Conference 2007 have been secret ballots.

	Dec 06	Jan 07	April 07	Nov 07	Dec 07	April 08	Dec 08	Feb 09
Sent out	358	358	346	339	332	328	326	326
Returned	121	109	102	144	130	113	120	118

K Scholey, B Johnson, M Browne

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### **Blog Department.**

The Blog Department is failing to provide "daily socialist analysis and commentary of the latest news as it breaks" but usually posts topical items two or three times a week. The Department currently has four members, but not all have been able to make regular contributions due to computer hardware and other problems. Comrade Alan Johnstone's help with the work of the Department is likely to be invaluable.

Sadly, Comrades have yet to respond to our appeal to send a "blogsite submission" or two. Needless to say, capitalism provides plenty of grist for Socialists to grind. Indeed, such material is collected and sent to Comrade bloggers at least twice a week. On a more positive note, three members are now in a better position to scan relevant articles from pre-1998 Socialist Standards which are not, alas, as yet available online. SOYMB does have regular readers, but it is true to say that only a minority of posts receive any comment.

(Graphics for graphs and tables could not be successfully imported – will be circulated separately)

### **Campaigns Dept.**

The Campaigns Department continues to build upon the sterling work started during the previous year; we acknowledge the contributions made by various members in invigorating the department. We very much appreciate the contribution and enormous engine of enthusiasm introduced by Comrade, Brian Johnson, "on which we are building" . . .

The current department inherited an already agreed program/schedule of proposed events for the first part of the preceding year, and have basically been engaged in seeing this through to a satisfying conclusion. At the time of writing; we have three film nights remaining, concluding on Saturday 28 March, with a second helping and by popular demand - "Judgement Day; Intelligent Design on Trial".

#### Meetings and Debates:

The department is focusing currently on two major party events calendared in for the very near future. First up is a public debate on 23 April, 'Should Capitalism have a Future' with Dr John Meadowcroft (Lecturer in Public Policy) Kings College, London, his adversary Comrade, Richard Headicar, will represent the party. We have embarked on an ambitious, aspirational and challenging target of contacting and publishing this event in every University and College in the London catchment area. Kings College will be heavily leafleted and a Standard sales pitch will be organised along with an informative letter dispatched to its student's organisation, by time conference considers this report we will be in a position to provide a progress update.

#### Day School:

Preparations for the Day School to be held 2 May, 'Capitalism in Crisis' are well in hand with what we consider to be a complement of a well balanced and very strong exciting panel of speakers. The school promises to be informative, thought-provoking and uplifting, examining what is being described by some as the worst economic crisis for a hundred years. We hope that comrades who attend will be able through examination, personal experience; discussion and debate, able to go away rearmed with a better understanding, reigniting amongst fellow workers the urgent need for 'Socialism'.

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The Day School follows on very closely behind (a week latter) the Meadowcroft debate, and therefore places a wee bit of pressure on the department; fortunately we have been able to farm out work to other comrades, who are only too willing to give advice and practical help, a practise we're intent on developing, giving a whole new meaning to that old adage and the departments new byword; 'a problem sheared, is a problem halved'.

By the time conference convenes it is hoped, we will have been able to produce a quantity of printed posters and sufficient leaflets, widely distributed and circulated with the desired effect of attracting interested non-members a possible

stimulant to debate. An update will be provided at conference.

#### Head Office Open Day with a Twist:

Following department discussions along with the sought after views and ideas of other party comrades, we are committed to holding an Open Day, some time during this coming summer, as yet no date has been fixed. This is still very much in the planning stage of development, and under consideration is what form this would take, how best this would assist the propagation of the party case, and what goals if any do we set ourselves. One idea is to have a combined political and social fundraising event, possibly a barbecue with some form of party based entertainment; any ideas or suggestions would be most welcome.

#### Future Activity:

By the end of May and beginning of June; the department will have to arrange and put in place a new round of central party activity, which builds on from both our strengths and weaknesses of past endeavours. We visualise more attractive wholesome and relevant political socialist propagation, aimed and directed at a whole new audience, who are now coming into the firing line as the current world economic crisis deepens with all its rampagous ramifications for workers the world over. We intend to develop and put forward an interesting, stimulating, informative socialist educational programme of debate and discussions, and welcome any ideas and contributions that help to carry the party case forward in this respect.

#### Film Nights:

The film nights have proven to have been a huge success, drawing in occasionally an audience of over thirty and many new faces amongst them, in fact on some occasions visitors have almost been in the majority. But what really is worthwhile noting is that there has been a regular contingent of local visitors who have been attending our events for over a year.

Clearly these film nights can be built upon and like almost anything else we do improve with experience. One such avenue that needs further investigation and consideration is being able to show films that are under license, this will enable us to have more scope and choice and offer far more interesting titles from a larger available pool. The Motion Picture Licensing Company (International UK) limited, currently offers such a facility that would cost the party £50 annually.

However there are specific drawbacks to this, such as we would not be allowed to advertise publically any film that we're intent on showing and which is covered by the license, but we would be permitted to show it, if that makes any sense.

#### Socialist Party Rapid Response:

The department from time to time is called upon to supply an accredited party speaker to say a university debating society; when such requests have been made as indeed they are; we endeavour to match such calls and will continue to do so in the future.

One other aspect of our work has been ensuring that the party is able to respond to a given situation of political significance, such as the Banking Crisis.

Two comrades were able to distribute a leaflet conveying and carrying the party position in regard to the economic crisis at a demonstration, at the end of last year outside the Bank of England. The upshot was that the press got hold of our leaflet and the party got a mention. We produced a leaflet for the recent Gaza demonstration held in Central London and distributed 600 to participants on a very cold winter's day along with setting up a literature stall.

Being able to respond to given developments that effects and involves workers whether it is war, unemployment or recession must be a priority whenever possible; putting all things into a true socialist context as only this party is able to do, laying out before workers our stall as compared to the many distortions that time and again, let's capitalism off the hook and shunts workers on to another track. We therefore will compile and put together a list of comrades who are willing and capable of providing appropriate text and wording for leaflets at relatively short notice. We will then try to make use of every opportunity available to persuade others to look in our direction; to join with us, as the only way and answer, to rid the world of the profit system.

#### Socialist Standard and Literature:

During the course of this year the department is very keen to hold and organise street literature sales; in particular the promotion of the Standard' being a primary objective, under consideration is the possibility that we use the summer months and select a numbers of locations throughout London, such as the Elephant & Castle or the Angel in Islington, set up stall with the necessary and see what fruits this yields. It may also be an idea to commission a new glossy leaflet that could be used not only just in London, as an introduction to the Socialist Party. In addition the department will establish in the very near future Standard sales regularly at both Tube Stations nearest HO.

#### Head Office the Venue:

Head Office is simply proving to be a priceless party resource. It's neither cheep nor easy these day's to find a suitable venue in Central London. Tavern's and pubs once a popular venue are fastidiously disappearing and the remaining options' are indeed pricey, a meeting held last year cost the party £ 195 and the Meadowcroft (Conway Hall) debate will cost us £ 143. Sometimes it will be unavoidable as it is with the Meadowcroft debate, and we'll have to spend party funds. However the department is of the view that Head Office is now following the recent improvements and refurbishment, a much improved comfortable venue able to cater proficiently for any sizeable meeting/event. Incidentally feed back from visitors has always been complementary in regard to improvements'.

The department is in the process of working out the logistic assessment of that which will enable the provision of having the building open at least 3 days a week; with someone able to meet and greet and generally assist members of the

public with any specific enquiry about the party and its case, this will also involve literature sales with sometimes in fine weather conditions; an outside stall.

Finally and eventually: The department wishes to record its thanks to Comrades, Adam Buick, Brian Gardner and Dave Chesham for much help, support and advise.

Marie Chesham, Fraser Anderson, Jim Lawrie,

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### **Central Branch report**

According to the database membership of Central Branch currently has 70 UK members and 44 overseas members, making a total of 114. According to the previous Secretary's records, only 17 voted in the 2007 Conference ballot, which seems to indicate a disproportionately low level of interest in party matters. I note that we have some members who live in areas where the party has functioning branches - notably, 6 in London and 4 in Manchester. I wonder whether it would be worth writing to those members who are close to a branch, to ask them to transfer out of Central. I would welcome delegates' views on this.

Paula McEwan

### **Central Organiser**

There are now three regional branches, as branches that meet during the day on a weekend once every two or three months (as opposed to one or more times a month on a weekday evening): East Anglia, West Midlands and South West England, which are participating in Party activity and decision-making like the other branches. However, one unintended consequence of not meeting once a month has been that these branches don't take bulk supplies of the Socialist Standard, even if some individual branch members take more than one copy.

I have still been trying to transform the North East branch, which has been unable to meet for quite a while now, into a regional branch as party activities are still being carried on in the area by members and sympathisers. It is essentially a question of helping them to organise themselves.

Conference last year decided to relax the ban on any new members in Britain being admitted to Central Branch though the conditions for acceptance into the branch are stricter than they previously (basically new members in reasonable distance of an existing branch can't join). No newly joining members have yet

been admitted but, hopefully, the problem will arise this year as more applications are dealt with.

The proposal to amend branch standing orders to take into account modern means of communication is still in limbo, though one of its provisions (to allow the setting up of all-electronic branches) has effectively been shelved while some of the others (such as consulting members unable to attend branch meetings) have continued to be applied anyway. The provision for branches to consult their members by a poll has not been implemented.

Adam Buick

### **Education Dept.**

In the first half of 2008 an updated "New Speakers' Handbook" was produced. In the second half of 2008 "An A-Z of Marxism", dated November 2008, was issued. Anyone who has an earlier version of this document is recommended to download this version. Both documents, in various formats, can be downloaded from the files section of the spintcom web page.

Lewis Higgins

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### **Election Dept.**

Last year the Party contested the Lambeth and Southwark constituency in the elections in May to the Greater London Assembly elections. The campaign was a success in terms of the number of members, up to 20, who participated in it one way or another, mainly by keeping the office open and distributing 18,000 or so leaflets (there was no free postal distribution). The number of votes at 1588 was also not derisory (the SWP 's front candidate got 1956). The cost was printing the leaflets (□758) plus a □1000 deposit.

A breakdown of the votes by ward revealed that we had done best - over 2 per cent, i.e. over 1 in 50 of those who voted - in two wards near head office in Clapham. We recommended, and the EC accepted, that we should contest these 2 wards in the May 2010 London council elections. Leafletting the wards in connection with this has started and will continue every 3 or 4 months in 2009.

The Dept has also investigated the possibility of contesting London in the European Parliament election, already fixed for Thursday 4 June. We would have to present a list (though it could be a one-person one) and would have to pay a deposit of □5000. The advantage here is that, unlike a general election, the date is known in advance so that proper preparations can be made, and, unlike the GLA elections, there is a free postal distribution. In theory we could cover the whole of London if we were prepared to pay for 3 or 4 million leaflets. As the Dept considered this would cost too much (it is only the distribution not the printing of the leaflets that is free) we circulated London branches to ask which areas they

would like covered. Central London and West London replied and, adding Lambeth, we estimated that 200,000 Leaflets would be required, at cost of £6000, making the total cost £11,000. An inter-branch committee to plan and manage the campaign has been established.

No final decision has been made because there has to be a general election sometime before May 2010 and may be we want to conserve resources for this (when we would contest Vauxhall again).

Adam Buick, Tony Gluck, Bill Martin

### **Enquiries Dept.**

Summary report by source:

Big Issue	31
Web	26
MySpace	13
Socialist Standard	11
Phone	5
Unknown	3
Election leaflets	2
Leaflets (other)	3
Email	1
New Internationalist	1
New Statesman	1
Other	18
Total	115

J. Lee

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**General Secretary**

My report on the work of the EC last year may seem anodyne but is as accurate as I can make it. All meetings were carried out in a business like manner. We had full discussion and reasoned disagreement. We even managed some sort of record in completing the business and finishing at reasonable times.

I can only express my admiration of the work that many Comrades are consistently and determinedly carrying out for the furtherance of our ideas. Yours for Socialism,

Janet Carter.

### **Head Office Organiser**

During my time at HO the number of volunteers helping out with various tasks increased substantially and I would like to take this opportunity in thanking them all for responding magnificently in making sure the mail outs, preparation for events and other tasks were carried out efficiently and on time.

As I pointed out to the delegates at ADM the actual workload of the HOO is insufficient for the 3 days covered at HO. This situation has to some extent been rectified by changes to the Terms of Reference with the HOO now being responsible for organising the distribution of the *Socialist Standard*. Nonetheless, despite this positive step there will still be quiet periods when the HOO will have very little to do. Hopefully, once the changes to the front have been completed, this will bring about changes in the present situation with an increase in visitors making inroads on the time of the HOO.

One of the biggest problems I had was the dispatch of the *Socialist Standard*. With no fixed deadline when the journal goes to the printers from the layout team, this caused problems with ensuring someone was at HO to meet the delivery within the time agreed with the printer. This then caused further problems with the mail out. It would be far simpler for all concerned for the dispatch of the journal to take place on the last Friday of the month. Then things would fall into place for the purchase of stamps, preparation of envelopes, arranging the volunteers and most importantly allowing plenty of time for the correction of any mistakes made. Until such a system is put in place there will continue to be problems with the dispatch of the *Socialist Standard*.

Hopefully, the purchase of a new photo copier will take place in the very near future for the present one is costing us money when it malfunctions and with it not being user friendly. There has been an improvement in the availability of empty shelving in the basement with all of back issues of the *Socialist Standard* now being stored in the literature room. The petty cash book is no longer being kept by the HOO and all expenses (whatever their nature) now go through the Treasurer.

Brian Johnson

## **Internet Dept.**

### Website

The /spgb website is continually updated ,often on a daily basis,around 80 additional pages or updates to pages each month..This consists of the *Socialist Standard* in two HTML versions and the PDF version added and linked to, as well as updates to campaign department work,minutes from the EC and any other pages in need of updating ,i.e. Contacts, Meetings, News,Members.

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Comrade Lew Higgins has added our Compendium (A to Z of Marxism ) .

The WSM site is now being updated on a more regular basis,with some additional material being placed on the other languages section (Spanish) I must mention also that we are being assisted in this venture by Marcos Colome in the USA,whom some of you have seen online in the forum and spopen..The intention is in small steps, to do a Spanish language version of the WSM site.

□ [La Guerra en Georgia](#)

## Los trabajadores contra los Bolcheviques

### Sentando los fundamentos

### El mito de la sociedad transicional

### Una sociedad dividida en dos clases sociales

- Auges y recesiones económicas: ¿qué los causa?
- ¿De dónde vienen las ganancias?

(Swedish)

- Myten Om Övergångssamhället

We will keep this more current than it has been hitherto..We are just updating for the present. We are concentrating on a new layout for the /SPGB site as it is becoming untidy due to trying to keep it current and of interest to members in other departments. It is propose to use a modified style-sheet similar to the WSM site. This has already been implemented on the HTML and HTML image light Socialist Standard pages. Some other work will be done on this as soon as it is bedded in, to provide single pages for the Standard without the sidebar. This should provide for a more harmonised web presence with the /WSM and /SPGB still separate but sharing similar design features together on the same server .The banner image for the /SPGB site was done by Neil Windle.

Some concern has been expressed about whether we are putting too much up online with the PDF image version of the Socialist Standard.

The department ,will put up whatever material is sent. We do wish the site to be as attractive as possible and the excellent images done by the Standard publications team lend themselves to this purpose admirably.

The question of whether it is this which has a negative impact on the sale of hard copies of the Standard remains contentious .

It remains possible to do more,much more with the website and socialist Standard Online presence.

Matt Culbert, Tristan Miller, Robert Stafford , Dave Chesham. (Assistance from Alan Johnstone, Lew Higgins).

**Library Committee.**

No report received

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### **Membership Applications**

The period of this report was very quiet. The Department dealt with ten applications for membership only one of whom was recommended for membership of the Party.

Of the remainder two seemed very promising but failed to reply to letters requesting clarification or expansion of their replies to the Membership Questionnaire. Gentle reminders were sent but to no avail.

Gwynn Thomas, Paul Bennett

### **Media.**

Vacant

### **Premises Committee.**

The work on replacing the shelving in the library has continued and only one section on the right hand wall has now to be completed. In fact, the work would have probably been finished had it not been for the more pressing work involved with the installation of the internal fire doors. Some plumbing work is also required before the final section of shelving can be erected.

Altogether a total of seven special self-closing fire doors have been installed. Complete with intumescent strips on three sides of each door they provide a fire break of up to half-an-hour; but they must be kept closed, particularly when the premises are unoccupied!

The committee are greatly indebted to Comrades John Helps and Roy Beat for this work.

The roof-hatch exit has also been completed which will provide an additional fire escape from the upper floors onto adjacent flat roofs. Work still has to be carried out on the rear door (on office level) to enable it to be opened outwards. It will be operated by means of a crash bar.

The deaf loop system which was investigated towards the latter part of last year was not proceeded with and instead two additional microphones and a mixer have been acquired for use with the existing public address system. We hope this enhancement will prove to be an asset at Conference.

Three items were referred to the committee by the February EC meeting and these were:-

- 1) the possibility of new tiling around the cooker and kitchen sink.
- 2) the existing kitchen table may need replacing.
- 3) the tables in the conference room may need replacing.

The committee has already arranged for the tiling to be carried out by Comrade Roy Beat.

The other items will be investigated and by Conference we will have reported back to the EC.

A considerable amount of rubbish in the back yard which had accumulated from the work being carried out in the library, etc. has been removed at no cost to the Party.

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Cleaning is being carried out on a regular basis but we would ask members to ensure that toilets are left in a clean condition and that spilled drinks are cleaned up immediately.

The question of the new Shop Front was referred to Comrade Danny Lambert by last year's EC. He contacted several shopfitters and, at the time of writing, one estimate has been received.

The present committee has already arranged for a further estimate from Kingseal Windows who installed the replacement windows and rooflights and we hope to have something comprehensive to report at Conference.

Dave Chesham, Jim Lawrie, Jacqueline Shodeke

### **Production for Use Committee.**

No report received

### **Publications Dept.**

No report received.

### **Socialist Standard**

As we reported to ADM, the new 24-page □ 1.50-a-copy Socialist Standard has not, or at least not yet, led to an increase in sales or distribution. In fact last year we were compelled to recommend that the print run be reduced from 1500 to 1250. One reason is that branch orders are low, with some branches not taking

any (admittedly mainly the regional branches, which don't meet monthly) which suggests that there is scope for branches and members to promote it more. About 110 members subscribe individually; others of course will buy it from their branch or look at it on the internet.

The question of the January Standard (which, because the printers are closed between Xmas and the New Year, has to be printed before Xmas to meet the 1st of the month deadline, and so is more behind events than usual) is the subject of a motion before Conference. We can carry out whatever decision is made but, if passed, the January Standard will be published in the second week of January (e.g., this year it would have been in the week beginning 12 January).

Oliver Bond (distribution), Adam Buick (editorial), David Perrin (editorial), Paddy Shannon (design), Neil Windle (design), Simon Wigley (editorial)

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### **Standing Orders Committee**

The Agendas for Conference and Delegate meetings were prepared.  
Thanks for all the help is setting up the room for the meetings.

#### ADM 2009

Please can you note the dates of Branches returning items for discussion to HO for October's ADM agenda will be Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

#### Conference 2010.

Conference is to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2010.

Standing Orders Committee S. Wigley P. Deutz M. Browne

### **Treasurer.**

In the period reported on the Party spent over £58,000 but received only around £36,000 as income. (£29,000 from literature sales, dues and donations, plus just under £7,000 as bequests.) The shortfall was covered by transferring money from our deposit accounts.

We have some £280,000 in various deposit accounts. During this period and into the current year a number of new accounts were opened by the Party with a view to lessening our exposure to loss through banks defaulting and as a short term measure pending the party coming to a decision regarding the recommendations of the Committee set up to consider the future of Party finances.

The Party will in the near future need to replace the photocopier (cost about £8,000). There are plans to contest European Elections (cost about £5,000). There is an outstanding Conference Resolution to renovate the front of Head Office which is not yet costed.

I must apologise for having failed to set up the new Standing Order arrangements for the identification of income from Party dues separate from other income. I have had a number of attempts at identifying likely members and issuing new Standing Order mandates but each attempt has run out of steam. Perhaps a fresh attempt may prove more successful.

As to the future I must inform you that I do not intend to stand for the post of Treasurer next year. I have been Treasurer since 2004 and have now lost all enthusiasm for the work. In addition over the past couple of years I have experienced an increasing inability to carry out the duties of Treasurer in as effective a manner as the Party might wish them to be. I am therefore asking for a Comrade willing to be shown the ropes to come forward and to undergo whatever training they might need in readiness for a smooth hand-over in 2010.

Gwynn Thomas