

**Minutes of the 12th EC Meeting of the Socialist Party of Great Britain.
Held on the 6th of December 2008, at 52 Clapham High Street, London
(These minutes are not official until ratified by the EC)**

Present: A.Buick, J.Carter (Gen.Sec), P.Deutz, B.Johnson (Chair),
T.Miller, G.Thomas (from 1.20pm), N.White, S.Wigley
Apologies: H.Roberts and P.McEwan.

Meeting commenced at 12.40pm.

1. Minutes of the 11th EC Meeting of the 1st of November, 2008

(a) A deletion was proposed by Comrade White, to Item 4 Matters Arising on lines 5/6, delete 'though one still gets a distorted noise' as this a garbled account of what he said. As Comrade Wigley was absent from the last meeting he did not vote on this item. Agreed 7-0

(b) Correction proposed by Comrade Johnson to Motion 12, the Professor's name is Meadowcroft not Merrico. Agreed

It was agreed that the minutes, as amended, be accepted.

2. Matters Arising

(a) Notice of Motion (Thomas/Carter) "That the EC rescind Motion 9 of its October meeting". Deferred until Comrade Thomas present

(b) Ballot Committee Report by Keith Scholey, Nominations for 2009 EC and Party Officers.

Party Officers: Asst. Sec. T.Miller; Auditor B.Martin; Central Organiser A.Buick; Treasurer G.Thomas; Trustees; H.Moss and S.Wilcox.

There are vacancies for the posts of General Secretary and Assistant Treasurer.

Nominations for the EC are as follows: F.Allen; M.Browne; A.Buick; J.Carter; M.Chesham; P.Deutz; B.Johnson; T.Miller; G.Thomas; S.Wigley.

326 Ballots have been sent out, 287 inland and 39 overseas.

Motion 1 (Deutz/Miller) "That a call for nominations for a General Secretary and Assistant Treasurer is made with a returning date of the 16/1/09". Agreed

Motion 2 (Deutz/Miller) "That a call for nominations for members of Departments, Subcommittees and Head Office Organiser be made with a closing date of the 16th of January 2009". Agreed

(c) Audio Visual Report on the use of additional microphones. Comrade D.Chesham gave a verbal report. Comrades Thomas, White and he had met at Head Office and experimented with the public address system we already have with the loudspeakers positioned on the balcony. The system worked well but they all thought that the acquisition of a couple of additional fairly directional balanced mikes would be of benefit. This also involves getting a microphone mixer to use with the existing amplifier. The EC will receive another report at the January meeting.

(d) Fire Safety Report. Deferred until Comrade Thomas able to deal with this.

(e) Premises Committee: (i) Resignation of Comrade Comber from the Committee

Motion 3 (Wigley/Miller) "Move the acceptance of the Comrade Comber's resignation with thanks for his work". Agreed

(ii) Call for nominations for this Committee: None received.

(iii) Report re: the Front of Head Office. None received. Matter deferred until January 2009

3 Forms A and F

- (a) Form A for Darren Poynton, East Anglia Regional Branch Motion 4 (Miller/Wigley) "Moved acceptance" Agreed
 - (b) Form A for Jacqueline Shoedeke, South London Branch. Motion 5 (Wigley/Miller) "Moved acceptance". Agreed
 - (c) Form F for Martin Fletcher of South London Branch resigned due to disagreement with the Party. Acceptance agreed
 - (d) Form F for Kathleen Deutz resigned, disillusioned with the working class. Acceptance agreed
 - (e) Form F for D.V.Ford of Central Branch, deceased. Noted.
- See item 8 for further Form A (R. Field, South London branch),

4. Accounts: None

5 Reports of Party Officers and Committees

- (a) Campaigns December Update (As seen on spintcom)
 - (i). Campaigns Review: A meeting of members of the Committee has been arranged for the evening of Wednesday the 10th of December.
 - (ii). January Meeting. Some EC members thought that a meeting /social so early in the year was not likely to attract many people, and that light refreshments would be sufficient.
 - Motion 6 (Deutz/White) "The EC does not agree the Campaigns recommendation for paid advertising for the January 10th Meeting"
 - (iii) The UKIP debate. South London Branch recommend that this be held as soon as possible.
 - (iv) The debate with the International Union of Sex Workers will not go ahead as not all members of the Dept were in favour.
- Report from Comrade Fred Allen re outstanding books. 85 are still overdue; some have been for 8 or 9 years. Should names be published in the Socialist Standard? Suggests finding current prices of the books and billing members for the cost of replacement.

. Another suggestion is that members be written to just before Conference and ADM. as this is when most books are borrowed. Another that a £10 deposit be required.

Motion 7 (Miller/Deutz) "That the Library Department send borrowers of library books more than one year overdue, a bill for their replacement cost". Carried 6-2.

6. Correspondence from Branches, Members and Companion Parties.

- (a) South West Regional Branch 16/11/08.
 - "SWRB meeting on the 8/11/08 discussed their Motion sent to the EC and dealt with by the EC at the October meeting when Motion 22 of that meeting was drawn up. Motion 22 referred SWRB to Motion 4 of the EC September meeting which was a reply to Manchester Branch writing on the same subject. The branch do not agree with the EC statement. The branch would like to know why are Question and Answer and Interview type meetings not permitted due to the hostility clause? The EC response raised another question for SWRB upon which they would like clarification. Motion 4 of the EC September minutes states "that branches are allowed to have guest speakers provided that there is also a speaker to present the party case". The question SWRB have is: does this mean that there has to be an accredited party speaker present? If the answer to this is yes why would the members present not be capable of responding to any points of disagreement raised by the guest speaker?"
 - Motion 8 (Wigley/Buick) "That SWRB be informed that it is established policy and practice that a Party Speaker has to be present when an

opponent is speaking at a meeting. The EC can't change this. It can only be changed by Conference". Carried 7-0 1 absent.

(b) Central London Branch 17/11/08

"At their meeting on the 12/11/08 Central London Branch with six members present passed the following resolutions:

"Be it resolved that Central London Branch supports the EC Notice of Motion to rescind Motion 9 of the October 2008 EC; in other words, the Branch wishes the EC to further investigate options for replacing the photocopier" Agreed"

"Be it resolved that the Branch endorses the floor resolution moved by its ADM delegate, to wit, 'This ADM recommends that the EC resolution regarding the purchase of a new photocopier be rescinded and that further investigations be made on this matter'". "Agreed"

Noted

The EC then reverted back to Matters Arising and dealt with:

(2a) Notice of Motion (Thomas/Carter): "That the EC rescind Motion 9 of its October meeting : "That the EC purchase the photocopier from Xerox as per their proposals"" Carried 5-1-3 abstentions

Comrade Wigley proposed that we move to the vote. Notice of Motion: Agreed 5-1 2 abstentions

Motion 9 (Buick/Thomas) "That any new photocopier the Party acquires be not a colour one". Carried 7-1

Motion 10 (Buick/Miller) "That Comrade Stair be asked to negotiate three estimates for a black and white photocopier". Carried 6-0 2 abstentions

(2d) Fire Safety Report. Comrade Thomas reports that he has asked for a quote, so far without response. The fitting of the fire doors by Comrade Helps has been delayed due to illness, though the material has been ordered. Comrade Thomas will inform the Insurance company of the reasons for the delay in implementation.

Resuming Correspondence:

(6) (c) Matt Culbert Webmaster, 30/11/08. Comrade Culbert, Internet Dept, wrote that he gets requests from companion party members to access our Spintcom list, which he has to deny as we only permit SPGB members on this list. Following a request from Canada he sees that he can allow access but deny posting rights and he proposes doing this. Spopen is available for postings by these Comrades.

Motion 11 (Miller/Wigley) "Move that the EC endorses this suggestions". Carried 7-0 1 absent

(d) Michael Muchinshi 26/8/08. The recently lapsed Comrade is applying for readmission. Difficulties in receipt of his post has meant he was not aware of his lapsing.

Motion 12 (Buick/Wigley) "That the member be reinstated". Carried 6-0 2 abstentions

Motion 13 (Thomas/Buick) "That Comrade Wigley Chair the next item". Agreed 6-0 2 abstentions

(e) Three members of South London branch, Comrades P.Hart, G.Thomas and N.White wrote complaining of the disruptive, abusive and threatening behaviour of Comrade Chris Robinson at their branch meeting on Tuesday 2 December at which they were present. Appalled at this incident, the EC demanded an explanation from the Head Office Organiser. Comrade Johnson gave an explanation on the presence of Comrade Robinson at HO. Comrade Johnson realised back in October and November that there would

be a lot of work to be done at Head Office, with the Campaigns Department, four mailing-outs, and a demonstration at which it would be useful to leaflet. When Comrade Robinson said he wanted to visit London, Comrade Johnson suggested that he do work at HO including cleaning, and helping with the large mail-out, and the climate change demonstration. They had an understanding that Comrade Robinson would do some Party work.. Comrade Johnson was extremely shocked at his behaviour at the South London branch meeting. Comrade Robinson did clean the kitchen and cooker and handed back the keys to HO, but on Friday morning Comrade Johnson found the kitchen much decorated with stuck up offensive notices and a message scrawled on the wall near the cooker. Comrade Robinson threatened him when he was told that he wouldn't be allowed back in. Comrades Johnson, Browne and Scholey removed all his stuff to the courtyard and he settled down there for the night.

The EC still needs clarification as to which branch Comrade Robinson is in. HO records show him to be a member of Edinburgh Branch and that he joined in 1994 though does not seem to have attended branch meetings or paid dues. EC members said that there were several issues to deal with, why had he been allowed to stay, why had HOO who had said at ADM how little there was to do at HO not asked London members to help with the work, why had Comrade Robinson been given a key, and his behaviour. The HOO responsibility for keys was quoted: "2. To be responsible for the keys to Head Office, maintaining a log book detailing keys on loan to party members, and the issue and return of any Head Office keys be dated and signed for. To loan keys to members only so long as they fill an official party post, the HOO having the authority to decide which posts need their holders to have keys to the building."

Chris Robinson requested and was allowed to speak but would not stand away from the table, restrict his gestures or his language and so his speaking right was rescinded.

Motion 14 (Johnson/Thomas) "In view of the behaviour of Comrade Chris Robinson whilst at Head Office during the week of 29/11/08 to 6/12/08 he remove his belongings from HO forthwith and he be excluded from the premises. And that a full account of his behaviour be referred to his branch for any possible disciplinary action".

Amendment to Motion 14

Motion 15 (Miller/Deutz) "Insert after 'the week of 29/11/08 to 5/12/08' "he immediately turn in any and all keys to the Premises he has". Carried 7-0 1 absent

Amended Motion: Carried 7-1. A division was called for:

For: Carter, Deutz, Johnson, Miller, Thomas, White, Wigley. Against: Buick

Motion 16 (Deutz/Johnson) "That the Central Organiser be asked to liaise with Edinburgh Branch in order to find out whether Comrade Chris Robinson is a member of that Branch and report to the EC in January". Carried unanimously

Motion 17 (Miller/Thomas) "That the EC censures the HOO for, contrary to Conference rulings, having neither sought nor obtained permission from the EC before inviting Comrade Robinson to stay at HO and issuing him with a key". Carried unanimously

A discussion followed on the advantage or not of having a signing-in and out system. It is possible to be in the building and not know whether anyone else has entered or left. Suggestion that this be discussed at the next meeting.

(f) Veronica Clanchy 5/12/08. Comrade Clancy writes of the advantages of having two stalls at Tolpudde but that only one is allowed per

organisation so that they had booked one stall under the name of the WFA.
Motion 18 (Miller/Wigley) "That Comrade Clanchy be reimbursed £30 for a stall at Tolpuddle 2008" Carried 8-0

The EC thought it a mistake to use the defunct WFA title.

Motion 19 (Miller/Buick) "The EC authorises the disbursement of £45 for one stall at Tolpuddle". Carried 8-0

(f) Socialist Party of Canada Newsletter 4/12/08. Noted.

7. Correspondence

(a) Andy Kirkwood, MAD 28/11/08. Gen. Sec. reply

(b) Lambeth Planning 31/11/08 Noted

(c) R.C. Kirk 10/11/08. Refer to the SSPC.

(d) Paul Boyce 7/11/08. Refer to the SSPC.

(e) Southern Gas 5/11/08. Noted

8. Any Other Business

Form A from South London Branch for R. Field. Agreed

9. Next Meeting will be on the 17th of January 2009, starting at 1pm.
Comrade Miller gave apologies, he will be absent from this meeting.

10 Meeting ended at 4.20pm

NOTICES

There are vacancies for two posts:

The General Secretary and the Assistant Treasurer.

Return date for nominations: Friday 16 January

For the attention of Branch Secretaries, this is the first call for branches to submit motions and amendments to rule for the preliminary agenda of Conference 2009.:

The return date for motions and amendments to rules is Friday 23rd January 2009

Conference is to be held on the 10th and 11th of April 2009

Standing Orders Committee, 6th December 2008

A call for nominations for members of Departments, Sub- Committees and Head Office Organiser is made with a closing date of the 16th of January 2009.

Nominations must be made by branches. Nominees must signify their agreement to HO.

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