



NATIONAL UNION OF RAIL, MARITIME AND TRANSPORT WORKERS

NATIONAL LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER MEMBERS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 24th February 2010

Present

Name	Branch	
Alan Bell	Hammersmith & City	Present
Mark Beresford	Bedlington	Present
Andrew Dale	Dorset Rail	Present
Karl Davies	Blackpool & Fylde Coast	Apologies
Margaret Driver	Plymouth 5	Apologies
Elizabeth Fraser	North Clyde	Present
Dennis Gallagher	Kings Cross	
Peter Heyes	Stratford 1	Present
Matthew James	Blackpool & Fylde Coast	Present
Martin Lambert-Atkins	Andover & Salisbury Rail	Present
Colin Lunnon-Masters	Reading	Present
Steven Moule	Birmingham Rail	Present
Joanne Parry	TFL 1	Apologies
Shaun Plume	Plymouth 5	Apologies
Adrian Rowe	Neasden	Present
John Shackleford	Bristol	Present
Stephen Smith	Wolverhampton	Present
Bianca Thompson	Edinburgh 1 & Portobello District	Present
Richard Veitch	Newcastle Rail & Catering	Present
Russell Wolfe	Doncaster	Present
Stephen Woodland	Surrey & Hants	Present
Pete March	Council of Executives	Present
Oliver New	Council of Executives	Present
Mick Thompson	Council of Executives	Present
Pat Wilkinson	Equal Opportunities Officer	Present

The meeting commenced with one minute's silence to commemorate the late Carolyn Siddall of the Organising Unit who had sadly died in December.

1. Apologies

In addition to the apologies shown above, the General Secretary and President also submitted their apologies.

2. Minutes of Meeting Held on 26th November 2009

Moved by Bro. Veitch and seconded by Bro. Beresford, the minutes were agreed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

Item 6, line 7, Bro. Beresford asked that 'wanted' should be deleted and page 2 'had been asked' be inserted. This was agreed.

4. Equal Rights Sub-Committee Report

The following report was given by Bro. New:-

i. Proud Heritage – Addressing Nationwide Institutional Homophobia

It was reported at the last meeting that a decision had been taken to donate £500 to Proud Heritage, with the proviso that we receive a draft copy of the toolkit before publication. An email was sent to Jack Gilbert on 8th October, asking that assuming the above was acceptable, could he kindly confirm the details regarding the cheque, etc. Two such emails have been sent but to date no response has been received. Bro. New asked that anyone in touch with Jack Gilbert should give him a nudge.

ii. Election Of Vice Chairperson

The resolution was considered by the Equal Rights Sub-Committee on 16th February and the following report was to be placed before the Council of Executives scheduled to meet the next week:-

“That we note the resolution and endorse the proposal of the Advisory Committee that the Conference should elect a Vice Chairperson in addition to a Chairperson. Nominees must be members of the National LGBT Members’ Advisory Committee.”

Bro. New said there was no problem regarding a Vice Chairperson.

5. Resolutions – none received

6. BTUC LGBT Conference 2010 – Resolution (not more than 200 words)

Moved by Bro. Heyes, seconded by Bro. Veitch

“That this Conference believes that no public money should go to schools, including faith schools that discriminate or apologise for discrimination against LGBT people. All political parties should be asked to support this policy before getting support from the Trade Union movement.”

Carried Unanimously.

7. R.M.T. National LGBT Members' Conference, 2010

Bro. Beresford advised members of progress made. Bro. Heyes raised concerns about the safety of delegates at the social as it was to be held in the dockers' club. Bro. New commented that we should all have open minds. This sentiment was supported by Bro. Wolfe who said that people should go with a positive attitude and no preconceptions. Bro. Lambert-Atkins reminded members that when the vote was taken to hold the Conference in Belfast, it was done because they wanted to give a message to LGBT people in Belfast that they were supported.

Bro. Heyes said he would contact someone from Belfast Pride to address the Conference and suggested that someone from Sinn Fein should be asked to speak on LGBT issues.

8. Organising & Regional Reports

This was to be a standing item on the agenda as it was imperative that the Committee give input on what the Union needs to do to get LGBT people into RMT and encourage activism. All agreed that more should be done to promote the Committee by using *RMT News*, producing newsletters and something for RMTV.

Bro. Wolfe Spoke of the difficulties in getting people interested. There was no problem in giving out information but we could not force people to join. *RMT News* was an ideal tool for reaching all members.

Sister Fraser Suggested that a red stripe be used to easily identify where LGBT issues were in *RMT News*.

Bro. Heyes Said that people should show more commitment by stopping after meetings to write things for *RMT News* or newsletters rather than whinging.

Bro. Stack Suggested that a short ad on homophobic bullying appear stating the RMT is here to help. Possibly an interview with Stonewall could take place.

Bro. Rowe Sought volunteers to assist with a newsletter. Bros. Lambert-Atkins, Wolfe and himself put themselves forward.

Bro. New Suggested that an electronic ad to all Regions and Branches be sent out.

Bros. Heyes, Rowe, Woodland, Lambert-Atkins and New volunteered to work on a theme for RMTV.

9. Pride Events 2010

Sister Parry had sent information about Birmingham Pride and suggested that an application be made as a walking group at a cost of 250. For those wanting to stay over, the Central Hotel had a few rooms left at £250 a night. Sister Parry said she was happy to stay as the contact.

Bro. Lambert-Atkins confirmed his willingness to be the contact for the Manchester Pride. So far he had three definite and four possible volunteers.

It was agreed that these events should be advertised in *RMT News*.

10. STUC LGBT

Bro. Veitch was pleased to inform members that the STUC were to establish an LGBT Committee.