



NATIONAL UNION OF RAIL, MARITIME AND TRANSPORT WORKERS

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

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 6th August 2009

Present

Name	Branch	
Mark Beresford	Bedlington	Present
David Bickerstaff	Euston No. 1	
Lesley Bush	Cardiff Rail	Present
Karl Davies	Blackpool & Fylde Coast	Present
David Edwards	Dorset Rail	
Elizabeth Fraser	North Clyde	Present
Ceri Goode	Cardiff Rail	Apologies
Trevor Green	Bristol Rail	
Peter Heyes	Stratford No. 1	Present
Mathew James	Blackpool & Fylde Coast	Apologies
Martin Lambert-Atkins	Andover & Salisbury Rail	Present
Andy Melvin	TfL No. 1	
David Miller	Aberdeen No. 1	
Joanne Parry	TfL No. 1	Present
Shaun Plume	Plymouth No. 5	Present
Adrian Rowe	Bakerloo Line	Present
Russell Wolfe	Doncaster	Present
Adam Wright	Waltham X & District	
Richard Veitch	Edinburgh No. 1 & Portobello	Present
Bob Potts	Council of Executives	Present
Nick Quirk	Council of Executives	Present
Pat Wilkinson	Equal Opportunities Officer	Present

The Chair opened the meeting with a tribute to Bro. Andy Melvin, a longstanding member of the Committee who had sadly died shortly before the meeting:-

“We will always remember the man with the big smile and even bigger heart. His passion for the RMT and its members will not be forgotten. Andy was a fantastic Rep and our Advisory Committee will be a weaker place without him. Rest in peace Brother.”

A minute’s silence was held.

The Chair, Bro. Rowe, said that Pride Events would be dealt with under Item 7 and that Item 10, Member’s Views and Queries and Item 11, Any Other Business should be added to the agenda.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from the General Secretary and President in addition to those listed above.

2. Minutes of Meeting Held on 25th February 2009

The minutes were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Item 8, page 2 Sister Parry was pleased to inform the Committee that the resolution was carried by the Council of Executives.

4. Equal Rights Sub-Committee Report

Bro. Potts gave the report on behalf of the Equal Rights Sub-Committee. This was a brief report as the only resolution dealt with by the LGBT Advisory Committee in February was the recommendation that a motion submitted by TfL No. 1 Branch be sent to the BTUC LGBT Conference. The Council of Executives agreed that the resolution *Stop the Deportation of LGBT Foreign Nationals* should be submitted. The report from the Conference is given under item 8.

That same resolution was carried at the RMT LGBT Conference and submitted to the Annual General Meeting, along with a resolution on *Proud Heritage – Addressing Nationwide Institutional Homophobia*. Both resolutions were carried and listed on the previous day's agenda for the Council of Executives. A decision on how best to implement the resolutions had still to be taken and would be reported at the next Advisory Committee meeting.

5. Resolutions – None Received

A brief discussion took place about the absence of resolutions on the agenda. It was agreed that a training session on drafting resolutions and their importance for the policy making process should be held prior to the next meeting.

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

It was confirmed that the Holiday Inn Belfast had been booked for the Conference on 14th May 2010. This would coincide with the Biannual Shipping Grades Conference which is to be held in the same hotel during that week. There was some discussion about whether the General Secretary would sanction a visit by the Liaison Committee to vet the venue, social and accommodation arrangements.

The amount of expenses paid by Branches was spoken about. It was pointed out that Branches could claim £35 per delegate, up to a maximum of seven, to attend Grades Conferences. If there were still insufficient funds Branches

could seek assistance from their Regional Council and if there was still a problem, assistance from Head Office could be sought.

The Conference would be advertised slightly earlier than usual to allow for delegates to book flights or make other travel arrangements. Members of the Committee were asked for input for an article to appear in the October edition of *RMT News* advertising the Conference.

Members of the Committee were asked to think about speakers to be invited and the subject for a workshop, if wanted, by the end of October.

7. Pride Events

The Chair thanked Brian Haughian, Pete Heyes and Steve Hedley for their work and support at London Pride.

Bro. Beresford gave a report on London Pride. He said that the General Secretary spoke and that the usual protestors were there. There had been a good showing of RMT members and the day was successful and enjoyed by all.

In respect of Brighton Pride, Sister Parry spoke of how she and members of Brighton Branch had wanted to attend but had not managed to secure funding from Head Office. She had been told by the organisers that they could not take part in the parade without paying the fee. This resulted in not participating. The Equal Opportunities Officer explained that given the decision of the February meeting to concentrate on London Pride, RMT had not been registered for Brighton. Whilst debate had taken place at the Conference on events, no one had actually come forward to organise anything. Given the view of the Committee, it was suggested that the members should seek support from their Branch.

Sister Parry wanted the Committee to decide in advance on what Pride events they would attend. She also suggested that members could be texted as they are for the Tolpuddle event.

Bro. Lambert-Atkins agreed that the consensus at the February meeting was that the Committee could not do Brighton. He said that commitment was needed from members of the Committee and for people not to back out at the last minute.

Bro. Wolfe said that he had put a lot of work into organising attendance at Doncaster Pride but was then told there were not enough people interested in attending. It was a missed opportunity.

Bro. Heyes suggested that the Committee needed to assess the number of volunteers before picking which Pride events to attend. Sister Bush spoke of how expensive it was to actually attend Brighton Pride. It was also pointed out that organisations had to pay a fee to participate. Bro. Davies thought that the

Committee should favour events that give something back to the community rather than the more commercial events.

Bro. Plume informed members of the Plymouth Pride on 22nd August 2009 and how the involvement of the Regional TUC could assist with such events. Bro. Beresford spoke of the forthcoming Manchester Pride event.

Bro. Heyes asked that the Committee arrive at some conclusion to the discussion. Bro. Quirk suggested that the Committee concentrate on one event only.

It was decided that Pride Events be listed on the agenda for the next meeting.

8. Report of the TUC LGBT Conference 2009

Elizabeth Fraser presented the report on behalf of delegates. The Conference began with the usual welcome from the President and General Secretary of the TUC and LGBT Committee Chair, followed by keynote speakers.

Day 2 started with an informal plenary session on hate crime in particular as it applies to LGBT people. The panel consisted of invited speakers from the Crown Prosecution Service, Metropolitan Police and Galop, a London LGBT community safety charity.

The conclusion of the session was that as LGBT hate crime now has a better clear up rate than before and that they are now recorded as such instead of, as previously, with other assaults etc. As all three speakers were London based they could not speak for other places but said that they should all be working to the same plan.

On the Conference itself, one motion was rejected. This motion was on legal rights etc for LGBT people and although generally regarded as being a good motion with good intent, it was likely to have the opposite effect as it was wrongly worded.

Sister Parry proposed RMT's motion on not repatriating LGBT people to countries with homophobic governments. This and all the other motions were passed. One motion on racism and homophobia was passed on to TUC Congress. If passed by Congress it will call on the TUC to publicise not only the BNP's racist and fascist policies but also their sexist and homophobic attitude, it also puts pressure on the Mayor of London to stop his attempts to derail anti racist initiatives.

9. Organising

No matters were raised under this heading.

10. Member's Views and Queries

- i. The draft leaflet drawn up by Bro. Heyes was to be emailed to Bro. Rowe.
- ii. Posters for Advisory Committee Members were to be produced.
- iii. LGBT Reps badges were to be chased.
- iv. Sister Parry made it known that she was willing to assist those in other Regions who did not have representation on the Committee.
- v. More propaganda, a newsletter and a web page were wanted.
- vi. The minutes of meetings to be placed on the members' only section of the website.

11. Any Other Business

Members were advised that the training for LGBT Reps had taken place in Doncaster at the end of June.