



STRIKE SUPPORT GROUP

Bulletin of the Strike Support Group

Who we are - What We Do

The 'Strike Support Group' was founded at a meeting in London on 14th December 1998. It arose from the particular experience of five months of the Rail Strike Support Group, based on the developments of such groups over a period of 14 years from the time they first came into existence during the great Miners's Strike of 1984-85.

Experience over the years showed that such support groups came into existence only after workers took strike action in response to the employers' attack. Those trade unionists and activists returned to 'normal business' once the dispute had ended, and the lessons learnt are often lost for the next battles.

All of us, regular participants in the meetings and activities of the Rail Strike Support Group, decided at a meeting on 4th December 1998 to formalise our organisation and membership. The aim and purpose of this development was to ensure the continuation of and preparation for financial and active solidarity with all workers' struggles, and we specifically included a clause in the rules with the aim of achieving unity, that members must not make sectarian remarks within meetings of the group.

The main Aims were agreed as:

- - To give financial aid to workers in struggle.
- - To give striking workers resources to print and publish their own leaflets, etc.
- - To physically support pickets and other demonstrations of workers in struggle.

To ensure a serious approach to these aims, members pay £2 per-week (£1 for low pay and 50p for non-earners) and are expected to attend at least two meetings a month. Failure to keep his/her dues up to date or to attend the two meetings means that members will forfeit the right to vote at meetings in the subsequent month. An annual affiliation fee of £5 gives labour movement organisations the right to be on the SSG's mailing list.

In London members of the SSG have supported the picket lines of the victorious Jubilee Line electricians and provided

them with the technical support for their *Flying Picket* bulletins; we have supported picket lines at Belway Homes in Rotherhithe, and will be helping the new unified rank and file builders group, at the heart of these two disputes, in all their struggles. We have visited and support the Hillingdon strikers. In London we are also supporting the tube workers campaign against privatisation and have helped in getting started the Triple Alliance - a rail, bus and tube rank and file workers group.

We have visited various parts of the country drumming up support for struggles and in each place spreading the idea about setting up workers' strike support and solidarity groups in every locality. Recent visits have been to Hull Trades Council, Avesta steelworkers in Rotherham, Tameside Careworkers Support Group, Liverpool Dockers, Hillingdon strikers, Sky Chefs at Heathrow. We want to build a network of such groups.

Further, in the tradition of the Liverpool Dockers dispute we are international in our outlook, and aim to raise support for any crucial international workers struggles as resources allow. Hence our important slogan 'Workers of the World Unite!'

**The Strike Support
Group
Meets every
Monday
at 7.30pm
at the Cock Tavern,
Phoenix Road,
Euston.**

SSG - 145 Imperial Avenue, Victorian Road,
London N16 0403-767 386

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE
STRIKE SUPPORT GROUP**

Please complete the whole form in capital letters and send to:
The Treasurer
2 Stapleford House, Northwold Estate, Upper Clapton, E5 8RT

RULES AND AIMS of STRIKE SUPPORT GROUP

(Agreed at the founding meeting on 14th December 1998 at the Cock Tavern, Phoenix Street, Euston.)

Name: Strike Support Group

- Aims: (i) to give financial aid to workers in struggle
(ii) to give striking workers resources to print and publish their own leaflets, etc.
(iii) to physically support pickets and other demonstrations of workers in struggle
(iv) to support all strikes except when they are reactionary

Rules of membership:

- (i) Each member in employment shall pay £2 per week subs (£1 per week for low paid) by Direct Debit into an existing bank account (where applicable). For unemployed/students/OAP, unwaged the subscriptions will be 50p per week.
(ii) A member must attend at least two meetings held in any one month, subject to circumstances if apologies are received by the Secretary.
- (i) Members will be assessed on a monthly basis and those members who have complied with Rule 1 (i) and (ii) will have voting rights in the next month's meetings. Those who have not complied with Rule 1 (i) and (ii) will be regarded as supporting members until they have fulfilled the conditions set out in Rule 1 (i) and (ii).
(ii) Individuals have the right of appeal to a full meeting.
- All members and supporters to actively recruit new members and supporters by word of mouth and by distributing our publications.

Organisation:

- The Strike Support Group will meet every Monday evening from 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. at the Cock Tavern, Phoenix Street, Euston. The quorum will be six full members.
- The following officers, organisers and others with particular responsibilities are essential for the smooth running of the Strike Support Group:
 - Secretary - elected every six months by full members (to write to members and supporters - distinguish those who can vote per rule.)
 - Vice Secretary - as above
 - Treasurer - as above - to maintain bank account
 - Two Auitors - as above
 - A rotating Chairperson chosen weekly from a list of volunteers
 - An Organiser of telephone communications
 - A Press Officer
 - A Photographer
 - A Fund Raiser
 - An Events Co-ordinator
 - A Minute taker

All the above to be given legitimate expenses as agreed by members (on production of receipts) and to give weekly reports to members and supporters.

The Bank account to have three signatories: Secretary, Treasurer and Fund Raiser. Cheques and other transactions to be signed by any two of the three.

An annual affiliation fee of £5 gives labour movement organisations the right to be on the Strike Support Group's mailing list.

- We shall produce a weekly bulletin explaining our organisation and its activities to workers. Its contents will be presented to a full meeting of members before publication.
- In order to achieve the unity necessary to succeed members must not make sectarian remarks or act in a sectarian manner within meetings of the Strike Support Group.

Agreed correct by meeting of Strike Support Group on 21st December 1998 Signed Terry Dunn Chair

Name:

Address:

Telephone number(s):

Trade Union:

I have read, and agree to abide by the Rules and Aims of the Strike Support Group as a condition of my membership.

Subscriptions

Employed.....£2 per week.....£9.00 per calendar month
Low waged...£1 " "£4.50 " " "
Unwaged .50p " "£2.25 " " "

BANKERS ORDER FORM

Date:.....

To The Manager,

.....Bank (Code:.....)

Address:.....

Please pay £..... on theday of each month, starting on

From my Account No:

To: Strike Support Group Account no: 20067654

Unity Trust Bank (Code: 08-60-01)
4 The Square,
111 Broad Street,
Birmingham, B15 1AR

Signed:Name in capitals.....

Address:.....

Please return to treasurer above not your bank