



WILDCAT!



Local newsletter of Liverpool Solidarity Federation | October - November 2010

Why we need to look beyond the TUC



At the TUC's annual conference, union delegates backed joint industrial action if "attacks" on jobs, pensions and public services go ahead. The gathering backed a motion which included calls to build "a broad solidarity alliance of unions and communities under threat".

However, we will not see "hundreds of thousands of workers take to the streets" under the TUC's leadership.

The fact that trade unionists had to stage a protest outside the conference "lobbying" the TUC to call a national demonstration says it all. We need to be taking the initiative on the streets, not begging for piecemeal protests to be authorised from above.

The TUC and the unions under its banner are essentially massive bureaucracies which mirror corporate structures. At a rank-and-file level, there are a lot of committed and extremely effective activists, but the people at the top are long-detached from the realities of life as a worker, the bureaucrats are unelected, and decision making is done from the top-down.

Union officials will refuse to fund unlawful solidarity or wildcat actions, and use official backing and strike pay to turn action on and off like a tap. With funding and resources centralised, they will hang workers out to dry rather than violate repressive and unjust labour

laws.

As part of that system and those structures, all the mainstream unions, are constrained.

Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers' (RMT) leader Bob Crow has called for a campaign of "civil disobedience". However, whether Crow – or the other union leaders who backed his words – can do anything which will have a lasting impact is questionable at best.

He is right that waving banners and placards will not be enough. It will take direct action to defeat the cuts agenda. But he has shown no sign that he has anything to offer but bluff and bluster.

In the face of which, workers need to take matters into our own hands.

Where officials deny action, mass meetings should force it. When bureaucrats cut off strike funds, local whip-rounds and benefit events should replenish them. And if full-timers concede to management or government to bring an action to an end, the rank-and-file should ignore them.



Photo: Anarcho-syndicalist trade union demonstration

Most importantly, actions that are legal, such as one-day strikes, should be overridden by those that are *effective* – occupations, wildcat and indefinite strikes, sabotage, etc.

If Bob Crow really wants "direct action" and "general and co-ordinated strike action," then he should lead by example.

Give up your perks and boss-sized pay packet, Bob, and come agitate at ground level.

Barcelona: General strike 2010

Two members of Liverpool SolFed recently visited Barcelona to show solidarity during the Spanish general strike of September 29th. They report:

«During our stay in Barcelona we visited the Banesto building on Plaça de Catalunya which had been occupied for several days by anti-capitalists. They used the derelict space to celebrate resistance, as well as freely exchange information and radical ideas. However the building was later brutally repossessed by riot police.

On the day of the general strike, we joined a lively demonstration of several thousand organized by our sister organisation, the CNT, who put forward a much more militant message of resistance compared to that of the reformist trade unions.

While a one-day general strike is unlikely to halt the Zapatero government's attacks on working people, it will hopefully prove to have been an important staging post for the long struggle ahead.»

Read more about the CNT (in English): www.cnt.es/en/node



Griffin sent packing in Liverpool

BNP leader Nick Griffin's surprise visit to Liverpool recently was met with anger and resistance from locals. Within minutes of the word getting out, 200 people had gathered to oppose the fascist presence in the City Centre. Cowardly Griffin fled with his minders, leaving other party members to take the flak.

What began as an impromptu protest became a war of attrition, 18 fascists refusing to leave despite massive opposition. However, over time the anti-fascist crowd only grew even as some people had to leave.

Eventually, local people watched and jeered as the fascists packed their gear into two cars and drove off, protected by a flank of police.

Not only does this show the potential of people power and mass organisation, it proves that Liverpool remains an overwhelmingly anti-fascist city.

Read more on local class-struggle anti-fascism at: liveraf.wordpress.com



Radical Workers Bloc calls for class war against capitalism & ConDem cuts



Solidarity Federation members, along with like-minded comrades including members of the Anarchist Federation, joined a trade union demonstration against the Lib Dem conference in September.

Together, we formed a Radical Workers Bloc putting forward the message that not only must we fight the aggressive anti-working class agenda of the government, but we must also organise to abolish capitalism, wage slavery and all forms of exploitation and hierarchy. From a specifically anarcho-syndicalist point of view, we in SolFed believe this will best be achieved through a libertarian working-class movement based on the principles of **solidarity, rank-and-file control, internationalism, mutual aid and direct action.**



Victory will not come through the ballot box, in parliament, by signing countless petitions, or by relying on the leadership of union bureaucrats or central committees. It will be won on the streets and picket lines, and in our local communities, through the self-organisation, initiative and combativeness of our class.

Crosby 1 Sainsbury's 0

Local opposition has led to plans for a Sainsbury's superstore in Crosby village being rejected by Sefton Council.

The 50,000 sq ft plan would have seen the demolition of 23 existing shops paving the way for more than 400 parking spaces. The rejected proposals have spilt local opinion with supporters believing it would provide much-needed regeneration for the town. Those in opposition however believe the plans were far too big and would have resulted in Crosby losing part of its heritage and local character.



Angry residents attended the crucial planning committee meeting to voice their opposition to the ultra-commercialisation of their town.

To loud applause, campaigner Mary Earnshaw told the meeting: "We are a community and we object."

The superstore giant may appeal, which, if successful, could result in a public inquiry. Whatever they decide to do, they can expect to face further opposition from local residents.



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Mini Sudoku

		4	
1			
			3
	1		

The Stuff Your Boss

does not want you to know
A quick guide to your rights at work
- by workers - for workers -
www.stuffyourboss.com

Working-Class History

October 1st 1984

40 Cammell Laird ship workers are jailed for a month in order to end a sit-in at the shipyard.



WILDCAT! is printed and distributed by the Liverpool Solidarity Federation, a local of the UK Solidarity Federation. We are an anarcho-syndicalist group based on the idea that through class struggle, solidarity and direct action, we have the power to improve our lives and bring about radical social change.

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