



NW/1072 Thomas Cook Branch

Meeting held 27 October 2011

June Knox (JK)
Martin Browne (MB)

Branch Secretary
Branch Chair

Chair's Welcome and Introductions

The Chair explained the reasons for having Branch meetings. The Chair stated that there are two separate Branches within Thomas Cook, our ex TGWU Branch and an ex Amicus Branch.

The Chair also welcomed two colleagues as observers but explained that they would not be eligible to vote on any matters that may arise.

The Chair outlined the business to be covered at today's meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Janet Thorpe
Matt Irish
Laura Gray
Alex Garcia-Cobo
Nichola Faiers
Dougie Kirk

Minutes of Previous Meeting – 11th October 2011

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated via our Branch website TCX Unite. They were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

Hayley Browne advised that a date had now been set for a meeting of the Health and Safety Committee - 3/11/11.

Treasurers Report

The Branch Secretary reported that branch admin funding had been recovered from the Union as a result of a previous system error. We now have a healthy balance. The Branch Secretary also outlined what funds could be use for, and the books were available at the meeting for viewing by members.

Committee Reports

NW/CAT RISC

JK gave her apologies as she was unable to attend the last meeting therefore no report was available. It was however noted that the recent NW election to the RISC had been rendered null and void owing to a procedural error. Martin Browne indicated he will seek a nomination at the appropriate time, once the re-election process has been finalised.

Manchester Area Activists Committee

JK explained the role and function of the committee.

Workplace Reports

Health and Safety

A meeting has been set up on the 3rd November to discuss the setting up of the H&S Committee.

Still on-going is the issue of Malaria and the taking of Malerone. There is conflicting advice between the company doctor and the drug manufacturer, more clarification/evidence has been requested from the company.

Issues raised at the Base Meeting

Fire and evacuation procedures for the crew room at MAN and other bases.

Lack of insulation/warmth from new female uniform raincoats.

Lack of male washroom facilities at MAN

A330 Crew Rest Area – Facility has been 'lost' and needs to be re-introduced.

Consultation Update

MB gave recent consultative ballot result, and confirmed the strong turnout and result. At the recent Pay Claim meeting the Company asked for clarification on what the consultative ballot had been for. Unite Officer explained the three areas of contention and made it clear that any future meetings must be meaningful, and the Company should not return to the table 'empty handed.' MB emphasised that the members needed to remain strong together. Thomas Cook has put all reps that they grounded for the

consultation back on flying rosters as a reaction to the consultative ballot going out.

Pay Claim

This meeting took place on the 26th October. It was confirmed that a claim of 2.5 % on basic pay, back-dated to April, and holiday pay and all other duty allowances to increase by PRI (as per the harmonisation document) was presented to the Company. Company to formally respond. The pay claim is relevant and important to redundancy payments.

Motions

JK proposed that NW Branch 1072 be affiliated to the Labour Party, and explained the benefits this would provide in having a voice. The motion was seconded by Hayley Browne and was carried forward unanimously by a show of hands. Jk to apply for the relevant paperwork.

100% Campaign

The importance of attracting new members wherever possible was discussed. This campaign needs to be supported by all. Membership forms given to those present with the aim of each person trying to get them completed and returned. Every little helps! It was emphasised that joining on paper instead of on-line was the preferred way as on-line applications were sometimes 'lost' in the system, with the member not automatically placed into a Thomas Cook allocation.

Any Other Business

None.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting to be arranged, and a more suitable, permanent venue to be sourced.