

Newsletter Number 40

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View from the Chair

Greetings from the depths of Hertfordshire! It feels like a long time since I wrote the last Chair's bit for our Newsletter, and I hope that you are all still well and healthy.

Our September RMG meeting will be something very different to any previous meeting we've had – it will be a "hybrid" meeting so that you will have the option of coming along in person or joining via Zoom. It's been a long time since we have been able to meet physically at an RMG meeting and this will give you the opportunity to re-connect with old friends and comrades. However, if you unable or unwilling to come for whatever reason, you can still join to hear the latest news or be part of any debate or decision making. The choice is yours – we only ask that you let the Secretary know if you are coming in person so that sufficient catering can be arranged – more of that later in this Newsletter

John Rees

STOP PRESS

As the newsletter is going to print, we have been told that the merger with IBB is off and the reconvened Conference session planned for 17 September, has been cancelled. More news will be circulated as soon as possible, initially by email.

Editor's Note

Since our last newsletter, a heck of a lot has happened. My MP for Tamworth Chris Pincher is responsible for the subsequent fall of Boris Johnson as PM. Nevertheless, he still remains the MP for Tamworth as an Independent MP, unfortunately for us.

At time of writing many of our TSSA members are presently involved in industrial strife on the railways. The inflation rate in June was 9.4% and still heading to double figures. The cost-of-living crises is still worsening especially with the current energy crisis and the pitiful lack of support from the Government. Other sectors of workers are also feeling unrest. In addition, the interest rate is also rising with a record number of people in debt. The significantly grown in use is the foodbanks and a high proportion of those who are using this are regular workers. Whilst praise for foodbanks helpers should be a given, it is still a badge of shame for Britain to hold when it is one the 5th wealthiest countries. Workers in Britain are worst off by £8k to £9k in comparison to France and Germany counterpart since the Tory's came into power, no wonder we are now seeing a lot of unrest in the ordinary workers.

On the 22nd September is our first ever RMG Hybrid meeting and in appendix iii, is the location map and form for you to let the RMG Secretary that you are turning up. This is important as we need to know how many mouths to feed. So, if you can email the Luke or if you are a postal receiver of the newsletter fill in the form and post it back. Those intending to use Zoom for the meeting do not need to notify us, just tune in on the day. Otherwise, I will see you there.

Please remember Covid is still around, so keep safe, wear your masks in crowds and keep washing those hands regularly.

Bob Bayley

Committee member.

RMG has a vacancy on the committee which we are in need to fill. Anybody interested or need more information please contact Luke Howard RMG Secretary via email retired@tssa.org.uk

Keep in touch with TSSA and its activities by subscribing via the TSSA website (www.tssa.org.uk) to the RMG My TSSA pages to see a wider range of information. In addition, if you contact Head Office you can arrange to receive TSSA News on the Go via email. However, if you do not have email access then there is very limited information from Head Office that you will be sent.

If you receive your RMG newsletter via post, we will continue to send it. So please make sure we have an up-to-date postal address.

Summary of RMG Meeting 28th April 2022

Another Zoom meeting was held on the 28th April with 25 in attendance.

The relevant committee officers gave a summary for their report. More details

can be found in the minutes on MyTSSA website.

There were no nominations for this vacancy and was deferred to the next meeting.

Anglia & London NE Divisional Council History.

To celebrate the Association's 125th year the Anglia & London Northeast Divisional Council has published its history. The Council emerged from the Southern Council but one of its branches, East London, was established in 1897 and played a prominent part in developing our union. The Anglia Council emerged from the Eastern Divisional Council after the EC approved the first six Divisional Councils in 1906. At this time the Eastern Divisional Council had nine branches including Peterborough. One of its members was Alexander Walkden who had just moved from Nottingham and within a few months, he became our general Secretary. His assistant was George Lathan, who founded the Norwich branch.

The book, Anglia & London Northeast Divisional Council - Our History 1897 - 2022 has 65 pages in A5 format and 58 photos. There are 20 copies left and if you are interested, they can be obtained for £5 a copy, including postage, from Bob Davies at maureenbob@live.co.uk Please contact him to ensure he still has copies available. He will then give you his address for the £5 cheque which should be made payable to M. Davies.

Malcomb Wallace

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Left Book Club

Many of you will be aware of the legendary Left Book Club; established in 1936, within three years it possessed a membership of 57,000, had distributed 2 million books and had 1,200 reading groups. It was also a major contributor to Labour's 1945 landslide victory.

Members of the new Left Book Club receive up to twelve selected books each year and I have found them all to be of excellent value. The latest is The Jakarta Method - Washington's Anticommunist Crusade and the Mass Murder Program that Shaped our World. I thought it was superb. It sets out how successive US governments interfered in the developing world, and toppled or influenced many governments, all in the interests of ensuring that their politics reflected the interests of capitalists, particularly, those of the USA.

It is so well written that you do not need to have any special knowledge of Indonesia, Brazil, Guatemala, Chile or indeed the Cold War. The book is based on declassified information, personal interviews, and a consensus from historians. The references are extensive for those who desire further information; most important of all, it is an easy read.

If you don't get it from the Left Book Club, see if your local library can help. at Conference in the normal fashion.

Malcom Wallace

RMG General Meeting 22nd September 2022

This next RMG meeting will be a Hybrid meeting utilising Zoom as well on 22nd September starting at 11 am and finishing no later than 15.00hrs.

The agenda includes

11:00 Welcome back to your first face to face meeting.

11:05 Minutes of the last meeting.

11:10 Officers and Delegate reports.

11:50 A committee member to be elected.

12:00 Report from Luke Chester.

12:30 to 13:30 Refreshment Break.

13:30 8) Proposed Merger and Reconvened Conference 17/9/22.

By 14:50 Motions from members/AOB.

By 15:00 Meeting End.

More information will be circulated by email nearer the meeting date: If you get the newsletter by post and want to take part in the meeting, please email retired@tssa.org.uk

Full details including the agenda and on how to **join the Zoom meeting** are in the Appendix.

Zoom Joining Details

Zoom meeting ID Passcode
536 628 7974 **636869**

Meeting link
[Click here to join meeting.](#)

Smartphone link [Click here](#)

Please let the Secretary know if you have any ideas for a visit to a future venue, bearing in mind we

have an ongoing pandemic so cannot go on visits at this present time. However, let's take this opportunity to plan these events for the future. Note:-if you want to help arrange these visits, please drop a line to the RMG Secretary Luke Howard.

Meetings in 2022

The dates of future meetings are shown below. Details of the agenda for each will be given in the relevant newsletter.

As you can see, we have our first hybrid RMG meetings on 22nd Sept 2022. If you know of any suitable locations where we can have hybrid meeting, please let us know. Note the following planned dates.

General Meeting Dates 2022 |

22nd September

17th November (AGM)

Committee Meeting Dates 2022

6th October

8th December

If you have any information for the officers to consider or required to be included in upcoming general meetings it would be helpful to submit it to the secretary before the Committee meetings.

Note: - 2022 dates were confirmed at the AGM but may still be subject to changes later. Any changes to these will be published in the Newsletter if possible and will also be placed on our website which you can access through "MyTSSA" on the TSSA website.

The RMG Secretary is Luke Howard, please contact via email at retired@tssa.org.uk or via text on mobile 07989 393210.

National Pensioner Convention (NPC) News.

The NPC is the campaigning organisation representing older people in the UK and addresses many issues of concern to older people.

Several RMG members are now involved in different aspects of the NPC, with Steve Whitehead as the national Treasurer and others involved in various working parties. Steve and Joel Kosminsky are closely involved in the review of the structures of the NPC, to make sure the campaign is ready for the challenges we are facing.

Joel Kosminsky and Cheryl O'Brien are on the Transport Working Party, which has been campaigning about the threats to both bus and rail services as well as the ongoing Government attacks on TfL. Dinesh Bhardwa on the Minority Elders group is looking at the particular (disproportionate) impacts of pensioner poverty on BAME pensioners. Luke Howard is on the Digital Working Party, which will shortly publish a newsletter focussing on the way that the increasing shift to online access to services can affect people who struggle with new technology.

There is a national NPC convention on 21 September in Birmingham, and we will have a brief report on this at the RMG meeting on 22nd.

Luke Howard

All to Note: - There is no members comments this time round. If you want to comment on the Newsletter or inform us of some information, then drop us a line to RMG Secretary stating **Comment for Newsletter.**

Penultimate Stations – Answers.

Below are the answers for the previous Quiz.

1. Banstead – Epsom Downs
2. Bellarena – Londonderry (NIR)
3. Ben Rhydding – Ilkley
4. Castlebar – Westport (CIE)
5. Connel Ferry – Oban
6. Datchet – Windsor & Eton Riverside
7. Deganwy – Llandudno
8. Dingle Road – Penarth
9. Dormans – East Grinstead
10. Dovercourt – Harwich Town
11. Fairlie – Largs
12. Farranfore – Tralee (CIE)
13. Galashiels – Tweedbank
14. Havenhouse – Skegness
15. Highams Park – Chingford
16. Inverkip – Wemyss Bay
17. Marske – Saltburn
18. Meols Cop – Southport
19. Merryton – Larkhall
20. Park Street – St. Albans Abbey
21. Pontlottyn – Rhymney
22. Quintrel Downs – Newquay
23. Seamer – Scarborough
24. Shiplake – Henley-on-Thames
25. Sundridge Park – Bromley North
26. Thames Ditton – Hampton Court
27. Thorpe Bay – Shoeburyness

- 28. Wallasey – New Brighton
- 29. Ware – Hertford East
- 30. Wilmcote – Stratford-Upon-Avon

Editor's note: - Is there any other Quiz masters out there who would submit an interesting Quiz to our newsletter?

Report from Annual & Special Conferences, Sheffield May 2022.

A fuller report of both Conferences is available on the RMG section of the TSSA website, with a link for members who get the newsletter by email.

1. Merger with IBB

Our emergency motion was carried unamended. This made clear that the District Rule Book must be agreed by TSSA Annual Conference: to allow this to happen on a short timescale, Conference was adjourned at the end of business on Tuesday and will reconvene later in the year (now published as 17 September in London).

The RMG Committee has expressed concern that the motion to the reconvened Conference just approves the new Rule Book and does not address the other information called for by the Conference motion and debate, particularly the details of TSSA participation in IBB structures and forums and how the promises made in discussions with IBB can be reconciled with the clear provisions of the IBB's International Constitution.

An updated report will be provided before the RMG meeting on 22 September.

2. Other Annual Conference business

We were successful in our motions and amendments, in some cases against EC opposition. The most significant decision was that the EC should propose an increase in the Band 2 subs threshold at next year's Conference, bringing members paid just over £20,000 pa into the lowest Band 1 subs.

Answers to the questions on the 2021 Report & Accounts (R&A) were published and the EC stated that all the questions and answers from the 2019 and 2020 R&A would be published shortly, with a chance to ask follow-up questions. We have written to ask for progress with this.

There were a few other contentious debates. A theme through many discussions was the anger at job and pay cuts etc on the railways, with repeated calls for industrial action: the EC was urged to proceed rapidly with ballots so that our action could be co-ordinated with other unions.

Speeches from Mick Carney, TSSA President; Rachel Maskell MP; and Amy Wiser, Communications Director of IBB, are available on the Conference web page. (<https://www.tssa.org.uk/about-tssa/our-union/annual-conference/annual-conference-2022-live-updates>)

3. TSSA125 Anniversary celebrations

A succession of speakers and performers gave very entertaining and informative speeches and shows in the day to mark TSSA's 125th Anniversary and a number of stalls (including our own) presented aspects of the union and other organisations. The RMG stand was well attended, with many old faces re-introducing themselves and asking

for other people to be pointed out to them.

Unforgivably and without adequate explanation, the IBB stall was unattended all day. Many of us had hoped for a face-to-face chat about the IBB and how they saw the future of the merged union and were very disappointed to be denied this opportunity.

4. Anniversary & Conference Dinner

The Dinner had several significant speakers, with a good speech by Angela Rayner, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party.

The astonishing decision had been made to invite Andrew Haines, Chief Executive of Network Rail, as a guest and speaker: this extraordinary gaffe was only redeemed by the fact that Dave Barnes, a delegate from a Network Rail branch, stood up at the end of Mr Haines' speech and, in an extended 'heckle', made clear to Mr Haines that we would stand firmly together with the other rail unions to fight the attacks on pay, conditions, job security and the railways themselves from industry 'leaders' and the Government

Luke Howard Delegate
retired@tssa.org.uk

Your RMG committee 2022.

Post

Chair
Vice-Chair
Secretary
Treasurer
Committee Member – (Minutes)
Committee Member –
Committee Member –
Committee Member – (Newsletter Editor)

Postholder

John Rees
Cheryl O'Brien
Luke Howard
Dave Porter
Tim Young
Dinesh Bhardwa+
Vacant
Bob Bayley

Note 1: - Committee members can be contacted via RMG secretary Luke Howard on retired@tssa.org.uk or by text via 07989 393210.

Other Roles.

Auditors: - Tim Bartlett and Neil Baker

Please note that the views being expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of the RMG or TSSA. Unsigned articles or reports are the responsibility of the editor.

If you have comments on our newsletter, you have news or other items for inclusion in later issues, or you have comments on readability please contact the RMG Secretary.

Any changes or additions to the mailing list can be notified via the Secretary

General Meeting

11:00 Thursday 22 September 2022
St Michael's Centre, Stoke Gifford and by Zoom
Appendix (i) – Agenda Details.

Zoom Joining Details

Zoom meeting ID	536 628 7974	Passcode	636869
Meeting link	<u>Click here to join meeting.</u>	Smartphone link	<u>Click here</u>
Dial in on	44 20 3901 7895	or	44 131 460 1196

- | | | |
|--|---|---------------|
| 1. Welcome and apologies | John Rees, Chair | 11:00 |
| 2. Remembrance of deceased colleagues | | |
| 3. Notes of previous meetings and matters arising | Luke Howard | 11:05 |
| 4. Officers' and Delegates' reports | | 11:10 |
| a. Secretary | Luke Howard | |
| Arrangements for future meetings | | |
| Website/MyTSSA | | |
| b. Newsletter Editor | Bob Bayley | |
| c. Treasurer | Dave Porter | |
| d. Pensions matters | Neil Baker | |
| e. National Pensioners' Convention | Joel Kosminsky, Steve Whitehead & Cheryl O'Brien and others | |
| f. Pre-retirement Seminars | John Rees, Cheryl O'Brien | |
| g. Group outings | nothing to report | |
| 5. Election of additional Committee member | | 11:50 |
| 6. Luke Chester, TSSA Organiser | | 12:00 |
| Refreshment break <i>Please let the secretary know of any dietary requirements.</i> | | 12:30 – 13:30 |
| 7. Merger and Reconvened Conference, 17 September (see below) | | 13:30 |
| a. Report and discussion (excluding the proposed merger)
(See report in Newsletter) | | |
| 8. Motions from members/Any other business | | |
| 9. Future Meetings | | |
| Next General Meeting | 17 November (AGM), | 11:00 |
| Committee Meeting (Zoom) | 6 October, 8 December | 14:00 |
| 10. Meeting end | | by 14:50 |

Note: - All timings are approximate and may be changed as appropriate

Item 7 - Proposed Merger

Summary of Special meeting on proposed merger, 20 January

See the update in the last newsletter. The RMG Emergency Motion was carried unamended:

That this Conference notes the proposed merger with IBB, the numerous Circulars discussing this, and the Special Delegate Conference (SDC) originally planned for February 2022.

Conference notes that:

- a) The closing date for amendments to the EC motion to the SDC was 21 January 2022;
- b) Circular 4/22, published on 3 February, reported legal advice that significantly changed the basis of the merger and indicated that the approach described in the EC Report to the SDC would not be lawful;
- c) Circular 11/22, published on 11 February, indicated that the EC would accept an amendment so that the motion would 'note' the EC Report instead of endorsing it;
- d) Despite requests from a number of bodies in the union, the EC has consistently refused to offer an updated motion for the SDC that would allow Conference to approve the merger and empower the EC to take necessary actions;
- e) The date of the SDC was changed with Circular 4/22 to 19 March, and again on 16 March to take place on 6 May, the day before the start of Annual Conference.

As at 24 March, there is no way the SDC can approve the merger (even conditionally), authorise the necessary actions or address the proposed changes to the TSSA Rule Book. Conference believes that these are all necessary steps to allow the merger to proceed in a democratic and lawful fashion.

Conference therefore instructs the EC to:

- i. Complete talks with IBB regarding the merger;
- ii. Publish full details of the terms agreed, in line with previous demands and commitments to provide fuller information;
- iii. Seek any necessary approvals from the Certification Officer or any other relevant authorities and take steps to meet any balloting or other requirements for these approvals;
- iv. Review the suggested changes to the Association's Rule Book and extend these proposals to document the union's planned involvement in IBB structures and forums;
- v. Put the proposed changes to the Rules for debate and agreement by TSSA Annual Conference, as required under Rule 3.2, and
- vi. Assuming all necessary conditions are met, conclude the merger.

Although the Rule Book has been published with a motion allowing amendments, the details of the merger terms (point ii) have not been published. In discussions at Sheffield, it became clear that the 'District' Rule Book could not satisfactorily address the union's involvement in IBB structures (point iv) so it is reasonable to seek these in an EC report as well.

The proposed Rule Book, together with the existing Rules, will be available as links with the emailed version of the Newsletter

Appendix (ii) – Using Zoom.

If you have not used Zoom yet, we suggest you install it and try it out before joining the meeting. There are useful tutorials on the Zoom website zoom.us.

Zoom can be used on any computer with a web browser, iPad or Android tablets, iPhones and most other smartphones, or an old-fashioned non-smartphone. Apps can be downloaded for Windows and Apple computers, Apple and Android tablets and phones, and some other systems.

A camera allows other participants to see you: speakers or an earphone are needed to hear the discussions; you need a microphone or an earphone/microphone combination to speak.

Zoom Joining Details

Zoom meeting ID	536 628 7974	Passcode	636869
Meeting link	Click here to join meeting.		Smartphone link Click here
Dial-in on	+44 20 3901 7895	or	+44 131 460 1196

If you have Zoom installed

- click on one of the links above which will open the Zoom app and go straight into the meeting, or
- open Zoom: click 'Join meeting' and enter the meeting ID and your name, then you will be asked for the meeting passcode.

If you are new to using Zoom

- click on the link above which will download and install the Zoom app before going into the meeting, or
- go to the Zoom website (zoom.us): you can either download and install the app or use the menu option to join the meeting in your web browser

If you do not have a computer or smart device or have limited Wi-Fi etc

- you can use any phone by dialling one of the numbers below and entering the meeting ID and password (followed by the # key) to get a voice link into the meeting
- you can press *6 to turn 'mute' on and off, and *9 to 'raise your hand' and attract the meeting Chair's attention
- unfortunately, the 'polling' arrangement for votes will not work using a non-smartphone, we will ask you to raise your hand (*9) at the appropriate point when we are voting
- Dial-in on **+44 203 901 7895** or **+44 131 460 1196**

If your computer does not have a camera, speakers and/or microphone

- join the meeting on the computer using one of the methods above, then
- click on the "I" button at the top left and make a note of your participant ID
- using a phone, dial one of the phone numbers above, and enter the meeting ID and your participant ID when prompted. This will link your dial-in to your computer connection so other participants can see your name when you speak, and you will be able to vote using the computer screen.

RMG Members General Meeting

22nd September 2022, St Michael's Centre, The
Green, Stoke Gifford, Bristol, BS34 8PD
11.00 to 15:00

Appendix (iii) –If You Plan to Attend

Please Email the RMG Secretary if you intend to attend the Actual meeting in person so a buffet can be booked for you

*NAME.....

*Contact email or Telephone No.

* Dietary Requirements.

Please return this form to the Secretary, Luke Howard via email with the above details at retired@tssa.org.uk. If you have no emails then post to 44 Fordwych Road, London NW2 3TG or telephone him on 020 8450 1233.

Location of St Michael's Centre

St Michael's Centre is situated within a 10-minute drive of the M4, M5 and M32 motorways. We are just 250 metres from local bus routes and approx. 5 minutes' walk from Bristol Parkway station which has regular and frequent rail services from London, South Wales, the North and the Southwest of England.

Venue details <https://www.stmichaelsvenuehire.co.uk/>

