

Let's extend the fight, not pull our punches

The postal strike is continuing to spread with Stoke-on-Trent, London, Bristol, Basildon, Coventry and Leamington Spa out on different days this week. There are now more than 500 offices balloting or striking - over a third of Royal Mail units, and growing. So much for management lies about the strike just being a London thing over local issues, when three out of four are outside London and offices from every area of the country are stepping into the ring. Now the Postal Executive has finally published the timetable for a national strike ballot, to run from 9-23 September. Bring it on and lets build for a massive yes vote.

Don't pull our punches

Striking postal workers who are making the sacrifice should demand the leadership brings the ballot forward and escalates the local strikes instead of stringing things out. The ballot timetable already comes a month after the 2 July deadline set by the CWU 2009 national conference, and with the 23 September deadline we might not see the first national strike day till October. Royal Mail management won't wait but will continue cutting hours, hiking workload, slashing full-time jobs and bullying members. They



might use the ballot announcement as a deadline to work against, ramping up the attack by victimising activists, trying to soften us up before we even hit the pavement as a national union. The word is that the CWU leadership - Dave Ward, the Postal Executive - might block those wanting to join the action from balloting, forcing them to wait till the national strike - worse, they might pull the current striking offices off the burner. That would be a terrible mistake. If the rug is

pulled out from under the escalating strike wave it will only reward Royal Mail, not the postal workers who have led our union through their determination to act. We need to do the opposite, unite and escalate all the strikes occurring now, expanding the numbers of offices balloting, while bringing the forward the national ballot. Why wait till September 9? That is a month away!

Organise the fighting wing

All the offices that have taken action need to call an emergency conference to ensure the leadership hears it loud and clear: don't call off any action or block any ballots. By hammering out an alternative plan of action and strategy to win, and demanding the leadership acts, the fighting wing of the CWU can end the foot dragging we've seen so far on the timetable and ballot itself, and ensure it doesn't see the same thing happen to the strike. At the same time it could demand a commitment from the leadership that it completely rejects the strategy of 2007, of stop-start talks and capitulating to Royal Mail and government or court demands. That is the best way to convince other sections of the union that haven't joined in the balloting that we are going to really unleash a

I'd like more info
 subscribe to paper (6 issues, £7)

Name

Phone:

Address:

Workplace:

Union/position:

make cheques out to Workers Power, send to: WP
BCM Box 7750 London WC1N 3XX

Don't pull our punches (cont'd)

devastating strike on Royal Mail, one that will knock their modernisation plans for six. CWU tops like Dave Ward need to get out of their chairs in Wimbledon, waiting for Royal Mail to talk, and tour the country telling workers what the strike is about and how they intend to fight this time and win. Only rank and file pressure will force them to take such a line, and be able to take up the slack if they start wobbling again.

We are a strong union, there is no alternative delivery force in the country capable of replacing us right now. If we strike quickly and hard we can win. If we build solidarity committees to coordinate with other sections of workers in struggle and to organise the public support behind us, we will only strengthen our hand.

All we have gotten so far from Labour is condemnation from Brown's right hand man Lord Mandelson for undermining Royal Mail and breaking agreements. His spin is aimed at confusing postal workers and the public, in favour of Royal Mail! Why are we paying money to this anti-working class party? London CWU leaders should put their words into action and ballot members immediately on the Labour link and call on other branches to do the same.

Lets build a new anti-capitalist party instead one based on the fighting sections of the working class, led by the activists leading strikes and struggles, committed to rank and file democracy, and organising to ensure that the working class doesn't pay for this capitalist crisis.

- For an immediate national ballot to unite the union in action
- No calling off action or blocking ballots for talks or the national ballot
- Don't touch strike mail or allow management to victimise militants - walk out if necessary
- For a conference of all units on strike or balloting to hammer out a strategy to win.
- Disaffiliate from Labour, for a new workers party

Clip and send, or email in, your name, office and any position in support of the new anti-capitalist party appeal

For a new Anticapitalist Party

Add your name and to this appeal for the trade unions and socialist organisations to call a conference and form a new working class and anticapitalist party. Get your union branch or group to back it too.

After more than 12 years in office, Labour has proved itself time and again to be a party that attacks workers' pay, conditions, jobs and rights. And now we face the worst capitalist economic crisis for decades, with a massacre of jobs sweeping the country.

The working class in Britain does not have a party of our own to organise and inspire resistance to the bosses' crisis on a daily basis - on the streets and in the workplaces as well as at election times.

Without a new working class party, there is a danger that the racists and fascists will take advantage of the anger and anxiety caused by the crisis and scapegoat migrant workers, asylum seekers, and Black and Asian people.

We appeal to all the trade unions and socialist organisations, to all activists fighting for resistance from below, to anti-racist and anti-fascist campaigners confronting the BNP, to the trade union leaders and members: let's unite and build a new anti-capitalist party.

Many activists and groups are now discussing left unity. Conferences in the autumn will discuss challenging Labour at the next election. We want to see a new anticapitalist workers' party take up that challenge. We call for:

- **An open conference - bringing together unions, socialist organisations, workers, youth and left campaigners - to launch a new anticapitalist party**
- **Local committees for a new party: start building roots in communities**
- **For a slate of candidates in the general election**

To add your support, email your details to workerspower@btopenworld.com

**Protest at the Labour Party
Conference • 27 Sept Brighton
www.righttowork.org.uk**