



# Consortium Tribune

The Official Newsletter of the Remploy Trade Union.  
Consortium



## Report from Consortium

The so called DWP roadshows are now starting. The first one is in Leeds on the 12th and the Yorkshire Comrades along with other allies are planning on kicking the roadshows off with a bang. Around 80 activists and supporters will be attending the meeting and will be determined to have their say. The same will be happening in Manchester on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Glasgow on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Coventry on the 19<sup>th</sup>, Cardiff on 20<sup>th</sup> and Reading on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The Consortium hopes there will be a massive turnout from Remploy factories at all these meetings.

The Tory Minister's promise to the officers and the National Convenor that Remploy workers would have full consultation is a sham. Not that anyone expected any different. Only 60 people from Remploy are going to be allowed at any meeting and those will be chosen by the Company. The promise by the Company that names would be drawn out of a hat is farcical, most activists names never made it to the hat in the first place! Neither did the vast majority of workers in Remploy Porth. Remploy Porth in the Rhondda valley is one of the biggest Remploy factories in the UK with around 90 employees employed in re-cycling and data cleansing end of life computers. Ironically one of their biggest customers is the DWP. Only one of employees had an invite to the roadshow in Cardiff on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March at the Village Hotel in Coryton.

Again despicable, but hardly surprising as the workers in Porth, lead by Geoff (Wobbly) Hollinshead staged a 48 hour camping protest in early August. That had the effect of gelling the whole community behind the fight to save their Remploy factory. The DWP bureaucrats do not want the likes of Geoff and his comrades attending their party, after all they might spoil the nice cosy little chat about disabled workers employed in Remploy.

We have some news for the DWP and anyone else in the multi-millionaires club that is the Government;  
**YOU HAVE A TIGER BY THE TAIL AND IT IS GOING TO TURN AND BITE YOU FIRMLY ON YOUR BLOATED BACKSIDES!!**

Remploy workers are justifiably angry at the way they are being treated by the DWP and the Government and that anger will no doubt manifest itself in a very controlled and disciplined way at the forthcoming events.

That anger is also part of the collective anger of the rank and file public sector workers, who are bearing the brunt of paying for the Bankers greed which caused the crisis that we are in, in the first place.

That collective anger is shown in the four corners of the UK, where Anti Cuts groups and alliances have been formed to fight back against the cuts in our services and our jobs. The fight that Remploy workers find themselves in is very much part of that fight back. The ConDem Government want to roll back the clock nearly 200 years to the start of the industrial revolution, when Health and Safety in the workplace was non existent, where you worked until you dropped and if you were unlucky enough to have a disability and could not work as quickly or efficiently as the next person, then you either starved, were supported by your family (if you were lucky enough to have a family with the spare resources to support you) or you were shoved in a workhouse. In the workhouse you were fed and were "looked after" by middle class benefactors who loved the poor and downtrodden because they provided them with the opportunity to do charitable work and increase their standing in the community. Of course exactly how much the poor and downtrodden got out of the relationship is another question. But you can see the pattern emerging with disabled working class folk and charities as Radar and their cohorts circle around Remploy like vultures around an injured animal.

They have their beady eye on the Employment Services, but we have a message for them as well

**REMPLOY IS NOT FOR SALE AT ANY PRICE.**

*Hasta la Victoria Siempre!!*



## Things to Do

If you haven't already started that is. We all know that that we all move at different paces but if you, or your workplace has not yet engaged in the campaign it is not too late to start. As seasoned campaigners will tell you; there is nothing like local activity to bring people together, to create good teamwork and to have fun. No-one ever said that campaigning should be hard work and a chore. Many find that it is fun, enjoyable, sociable and far from being hard work. Team work is the answer!!

- ⇒ Write to your MPs MSPs, Welsh Assembly Members, Local Councillors tell them that you value your employment in Remploy and closure would have a detrimental affect on you and your family.
- ⇒ Organise a day of Action. Take to the streets and get your community to support the campaign, and get the petition signed.
- ⇒ Form alliances with other groups Trades Councils, Anti cuts groups, campaign groups in your community. We are all part of the same fight.
- ⇒ Get the media involved. Tell them what you are doing, when you are doing it and most important why you are doing it.
- ⇒ Involve everyone you can, colleagues, friends, family local organisations who might be friendly and who would help with resources.
- ⇒ LAST BUT NOT LEAST ENJOY YOURSELF DOING IT.



Comrades from Bolton and Wigan. Bolton day of Action 19<sup>th</sup> August

Honk your horn to show your support Porth Weekend of Protest 5<sup>th</sup> August 2011



Day of Action Sheffield 30<sup>th</sup> July Comrades from Sheffield Wigan and Bolton

⇒ And whatever you do DON'T forget the Camera!!

***We Fight Together  
We Win Together  
Onward to Victory for  
Remploy Workers***



Bob Crow RMT Signing our petition with Joseph Durrell from Swansea at the 1911 Llanelli Railway strike Commemoration March and Rally 20<sup>th</sup> August

Remploy workers from Porth and Swansea show defiance in front of our National Banner 1911 Llanelli Railway strike Commemoration March and Rally 20<sup>th</sup> August



***No Ifs, No Buts,  
No Public Sector Cuts***