

Nudge Nudge

Daily Express, Sunday Express, Daily Star, Daily Star Sunday chapel newsletter

19 December 2002

Slow progress on pay claim

Chapel negotiators have had two meetings with the management over the issue of pay, following the agreement on Broughton.

The management's initial offer is less than generous and we will be having more meetings with them over the next fortnight and expect to make progress.

A chapel meeting will be held in early January.

This newsletter is an attempt to keep people informed of events so far.

We have reminded the management of reports that company profits tripled in 2002 and that profits for 2003 are forecast to grow by 35%.

We also raised the issue of bonuses paid to the editors.

The management suggested that a bonus scheme, related to circulation increase in 2003, could be introduced at the end of next year.

The management have made some concessions on the issue of graduate trainees and paying for the London congestion charges which will be introduced in March.

On expenses, one possible way to reduce the problem of low-paid reporters who are expected to wait months for repayment of expenses is to expand a

scheme for company credit cards with personal liability. Cash advances may also be made easier to obtain.

The management is to make further investigations as to whether that could be successful. The Daily Mail is reported to pay expenses within one week. On the issue of a four-night week for subs who work late, our management is stonewalling.

The British Government has introduced new laws to protect night workers following European Union directives.

But they are not drawn tightly enough to protect subs who can be working until 3am one day, and starting at 12 noon the next.

The same subs are now the only group who work a seven-night rota to cover both the Daily Express and the Sunday Express.

We are asking that they should be switched back to working a six-day three-week rolling rota to ensure that they are guaranteed Saturday off each week.

We have also not heard anything constructive yet about guaranteed minimum holidays, sick pay or mileage rates.



Go to Broughton and do not collect £200

We hope the wilder rumours about moving production jobs to Broughton will have been quelled by the recent email from Michelle Stanistreet.

If anyone has not received the email entitled Voluntary redundancies/Broughton, please contact Michelle, Steve Usher or Ray King. It is relevant to

both staff and casuals who have or do not have contracts. We have also produced an advice sheet for casuals who may be offered or will want to apply for the 50 staff jobs which should result from the agreement. Please contact one of the chapel officials if you want a copy.