

# Unite the Union Offshore Newsletter



**For all offshore workers**

**September / October 2012**

## **Offshore Caterers Working Time Settlements**

As this newsletter goes to print we are delighted to announce that the last settlements in our long running legal fight on the working time regulations have been paid out. We thank our catering members for their steadfast approach on this matter, and also remind them that if it was not for the fight Unite took on, the current holiday entitlement received by our catering members, would not have been achieved.

It is also right that we thank the union officers and the legal team, particularly Gordon Bathgate of Allan McDougall for all the work they did. Also the Executive Committee and the General Secretary of the union who sanctioned a very large financial outlay in support of our fight which admittedly did not achieve the statutory right to paid leave at a time our members would otherwise have been offshore. But, as a consequence of that legal battle, resulted in a vast improvement to our members working time.

## **COTA Wage Negotiations 2012/13**

The first of this year's wage negotiation meetings with COTA took place on 30<sup>th</sup> July and a second meeting has been arranged for 10<sup>th</sup> October. The time between the first and second meeting is largely due to the holiday arrangements of those participating. As normal the offshore catering branch of Unite will distribute the minutes from these meetings to our members once the minutes have been agreed.

As in previous years, once the final offer has been presented to our negotiating committee, our members will be asked to vote on whether to accept or reject the offer. Only members of the recognised trade unions have a vote. If you are not yet in a union you can join Unite by completing the application form at the back of this newsletter.

Following on from last year's (2011/12) negotiations and ballot for industrial action, we cannot emphasise enough the importance of our members using their vote during the pay ballot. Remember our members are the UNION so don't waste the opportunity to have your say.

## **Offshore Catering Branch Meetings**

The dates of the next Offshore Branch meetings to be held at Unite Office, 42-44 King Street, Aberdeen, AB24 5TJ all commencing **11:30am sharp** are:

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

A summary of these branch meetings will be distributed to all Shop Stewards, e-mailed to members who have provided a current e-mail address and copies will also be placed on the news page our branch website for your information as usual. **All members** of the offshore catering branch are welcome to attend branch meetings and any items to be placed on the agenda for discussion should be forwarded to the Aberdeen office in good time.

## **Member's Contact Details**

If **any** Unite the union offshore member living in the UK has not received a copy of this newsletter by post please contact the Aberdeen office to update your contact details

### **Stronger Together in UNITE**

**Unite is already the biggest union offshore but we need to be stronger. The bigger our membership offshore - the more strength and collective power we will have to address the issues that matter to you. If you are not already a member, join Unite today by completing the form on the back of this newsletter.**

**Uniteyou free text service: Text Cuts to 86888 Our Social Network:  Unite the Union  
Follow us on Twitter @UniteScotland**

# Your industry, your issues.

## Unite Offshore Shop Stewards

The following Unite shop stewards are available to assist and represent members within their respective employer. However if you have a specific query and don't have a shop steward on your unit please contact the Aberdeen office and you will be directed to the appropriate full time officer who deals with your agreement.

**(Aramark)** Robert Black, Donald Campbell, Philip Ferguson, Neil Hamilton, Ronnie Head, John Howatson, Stephen Howe, Stuart Hunter, Gerald Lynch, Austen Mair, Stanley McIntosh, John McQueen, David Mitchell, Ian Spence, John Todd,

**(Entier)** Victor Fraser, Graeme Henderson,

**(ESS)** Terry Bailey, Derek J Brown, Katrina Buist, Murdo Calder-MacPhee, Samuel Creton, Paula Deans, Raymond Duffy, Nicky Elphinstone, Mark Elrick, Jackie Etchels, William Forbes, David Fitzpatrick, Daniel Keogh, Simon Kirkwood, Angus Liddell, Neil McLaren, Michael McRae, Kyle Michie, Brian Milne, Ian Mundie, Michael Murphy, Graeme Neish, Andrew Nunnen, Stuart Slater, James Stanbury, Lynne Stormonth, James Sutherland, Richard Sutherland, Isabella Troup, Alexander Whyte, David Whyte

**(Sodexo)** John Browne, Martin Christie, Eric Conolly, Gerald Dickson, Derek Duffy, Ray Flowerday, David MacRae, Armand Sangbarani, Angus Simpson, David Strawhorn, Chris Wheatley,

**(Trinity)** Barry Brooks, Corina Davie,

**(Woodgroup/PSN)** Kenny Ward, Phil Turner, Alex Patrick, Graham Newman, Rab Cunningham

**(KCA Deutag)** Donald Lafferty.

**(Transocean)** George Holmes, Steven Cordwell.

**(Abermed)** Gary Houghton.

**(Teekey)** Tony Slessor, Tom McManus, Kevan Mundie, Roy Bruce, Malcolm Gray.

**(Maersk)** George Rennie, Les Bannister, Ian Connell.

## Proposed new EU offshore safety regs - Update

In the last edition of this newsletter we explained that Unite the Union, along with other European and Norwegian unions representing offshore workers in the oil and gas industry, had grave concerns over the European Union's proposed regulation. Since then the working group of the Unions involved Chaired by John Taylor (Unite the union), have compiled a paper detailing the main reasons why the unions oppose the regulatory approach proposed by the Commission, not least the absolute necessity for true untethered workforce involvement as a minimum requirement.

The position paper was submitted to the European Commission under the auspices of industriAll (European Trade Union) but has the full backing of all trade unions involved from UK, Norway, Netherlands, Denmark, Greece and Italy etc. You and can view the paper by clicking the following link (if you are reading an electronic version of this newsletter) [Proposed EU Offshore Safety Regs - Union opposition paper 3/9/12](#) or alternatively from the link on the newpage of the catering branch's web site at [www.uniteoffshore.com](http://www.uniteoffshore.com). We will continue to keep the offshore workforce advised of any further developments in due course.

## Safety Everybody's Responsibility

We were asked to publish the following poem by Don Merrell which we think you may relate to. But the question is how long will it stay in your mind?

### I CHOSE TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY

**I could have saved a life that day. But I chose to look the other way.  
It wasn't that I didn't care. I had the time and I was there.**

**But I didn't want to seem a fool. Or argue over a safety rule.  
I knew he'd done the job before. If I spoke up he might get sore.**

**The chances didn't seem that bad. I'd done the same, he knew I had.  
So I shook my head and walked on by. He knew the risks as well as I.**

**He took the chance, I closed an eye. And with that act, I let him die.  
I could have saved a life that day. But I chose to look the other way.**

**Now every time I see his wife. I'll know I should have saved his life.  
That guilt is something I must bear. But it isn't something you need share.**

**If you see a risk that others take. That puts their health or life at stake.  
The question asked or thing you say. Could help them live another day.**

**If you see a risk and walk away. Then hope you never have to say.  
I could have saved a life that day. But I CHOSE to look the other way.**

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## Offshore Medics

A large number of medics have already benefitted from being a member of Unite the Union. However to ensure that employers and clients, listen to the concerns of medics we urge **all** medics to consider joining Unite the Union today.

This can be done by completing the application form at the back of this newsletter or if any medic wishes to discuss this further please contact Wullie Wallace on 01224 645271

# OCA, UKDCA & UKFPOA UPDATE

## UKDCA 2012/13 Wage Negotiations

The wage ballot closed on 7<sup>th</sup> September and our members voted by 55% to 45% to **reject** the offer. After a further meeting with UKDCA, Unite has negotiated an improved offer and will notify members of the details in due course. Please talk to your Unite rep on your installation/platform or contact the Aberdeen office on the number below for further information.

## UKFPOA 2012/13 Wage Negotiations

The wage ballot closed on 14<sup>th</sup> September and our members voted by 68% to 32% to **reject** the offer.

Full details of the offer were posted to members covered by this agreement and Unite have requested a further meeting with the association.

## OCA Wage Negotiations 2013/14

Having secured an inflation-busting 3.92% pay deal for North Sea oil workers covered by the Offshore Contractors Association (OCA) Agreement for 2012. Unite the union will shortly be commencing the consultation process with members to ascertain member's aspirations for the 2013/14 pay claim which will be submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

## Dacon Scoop - Petition

In our last newsletter we raised the issue of the [Dacon Scoop Petition](#). As a result of discussions with our members and with the general workforce both at the heliports and offshore, it has become evident that not only were a large majority of the workforce unaware of this method of recovery, very few of them knew how it worked and the risks involved with flights relying on the Dacon Scoop as the primary method of recovery from the sea.

Unite the union has a short video clip along with two very good articles written by a helicopter pilot who has kindly authorised use them in support of this petition. Be aware that the number of ditchings referred to in these articles was correct at the time they were originally published. If you are reading the electronic version of this newsletter the video and articles can be viewed by clicking on the following links [Dacon Scoop Video](#), [Dacon Scoop article 1 \(A Wave Of Doubt\)](#) and [Dacon Scoop article 2 \(The Dacon Scoop\)](#) or by viewing them on the news page of the catering branch website at [www.uniteoffshore.com](http://www.uniteoffshore.com)

It is still our intention to follow up concerns raised by Unite members, and also by the British Airline Pilots Association (BALPA), for an immediate end to flights departing for locations on the United Kingdom Continental Shelf when support and or recovery vessels cannot be deployed as the primary means of recovery due to high sea state. The petition will be delivered to the clients via Oil and Gas UK and where necessary also employers, HSE, Scottish, UK, and European Government to highlight the risks that arise on relying on the Dacon Scoop as the primary means of recovery. We have now set a new date of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013 for all hard copies of signed petitions to be returned to our Aberdeen office. If you see one of the Unite team at the heliports, or come across the petition offshore please show your support for your co-workers by signing the petition. You can also complete the petition online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Dacon-scoop-petition>. If you would like to assist with the petition please contact the Unite office in Aberdeen for more details 01224 645271.

## Pound for Piper Memorial (Piper Alpha)

The 6<sup>th</sup> July 2013 will be the 25th Anniversary of the Piper Alpha disaster. The world's worst offshore disaster where 167 men lost their lives. We have been asked to, and are proud to provide as much support to as possible for the "Pound for Piper Memorial" which is an initiative launched on 28th May 2012.

The aim of this initiative is to raise £1m to help restore and maintain the Piper Alpha Memorial Garden in Aberdeen's Hazlehead Park by 2013. For more information or to donate to this worthwhile cause follow the link on the Pound for Piper Memorial website at [www.poundforpiper.org](http://www.poundforpiper.org)

### Contact your Unite Organising Team:

Steve Lewis, Unite Organiser 07980 083 027  
[stephen.lewis@unitetheunion.org](mailto:stephen.lewis@unitetheunion.org)  
Facebook: Steve Lewis Unite

John Taylor, Regional Officer, 01224 645271  
[Johnc.taylor@unitetheunion.org](mailto:Johnc.taylor@unitetheunion.org)

Wullie Wallace, Regional Officer, 01224 645271  
[Williamc.wallace@unitetheunion.org](mailto:Williamc.wallace@unitetheunion.org)

For all the latest news affecting our Catering members or to simply access some offshore resources check out the Offshore Catering Branch web site at [www.uniteoffshore.com](http://www.uniteoffshore.com)

### Direct Debit Guarantee

This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that take part in the Direct Debit Scheme. The efficiency and security of the Scheme is monitored and protected by your own Bank or Building Society. If the amounts to be paid or the payment dates change, Unite the Union will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If an error is made by Unite the Union or your Bank or Building Society, you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid. You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your letter to us.

### Data Protection Notice

By joining Unite the Union you are providing information which may be used for administrative purposes, the holding of elections and other statutory requirements. If you do not tick the box on page 4 you consent to Unite the Union passing on your information for the promotion of membership services (e.g. Insurance). We may disclose your information to our service providers and agents for these purposes. However if we do disclose your information, we will put a contract in place to ensure it is protected. We or they may contact you by post, telephone, (but not if you or the subscriber to a telephone line has registered with the Telephone Preference Service), e-mail, SMS Text or such other means as we may agree with you from time to time, to let you know about any goods, services or promotions that may be of interest to you. We may keep your information for a reasonable period to contact you about our services. You have the right to ask for a copy of your information (for which we charge a small fee) and to correct any inaccuracies. To make sure we follow your instructions correctly and to improve our service to you through training our staff, we may monitor or record

No Stamp required, just place in an envelope and address to:  
Free Post RLUE-YHBB-SBTY, Unite the Union, 42-44 King Street, Aberdeen, AB24 5TJ.

**MEMBERSHIP FORM GB**

Surname \_\_\_\_\_  Mr  Mrs  
 Ms  Miss  
Forename \_\_\_\_\_  Dr  Rev  
 Male  Female  
NI No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
House No./Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Town \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please tick if you wish to receive the union's magazine

**About Your Job**

Employer/Company Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Job Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Work Tel. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Core full time (21 or more hours per week)  
 Core part time (10 or more but less than 21 hours per week)  
 Core and Ancillary part time (10 or more but less than 21 hours per week)  
**Which membership do you require?**  On certified apprenticeship scheme  
 Year 1  Year 2  Year 3  Year 4  
 Other (eg Unemployed member of the community, working less than 10 hours per week, under 18, full time student, retired, permanently disabled)  
 Driver Care (a separate Driver Care application form will be sent to you for completion)  
 Core and Ancillary full time (21 or more hours per week)

**Equal Opportunities**

Unite the union is committed to the promotion of equal opportunities for all and it is the union's aim to provide services and support to members that is free of discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation or disability. What ethnic group do you belong to?  
**Please tick**  Mixed White & Black Caribbean  Asian or Asian British Pakistani  Black or Black British African  
 White British  Mixed White & Black African  Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi  Black or Black British Other  
 White Irish  Mixed Other  Asian or Asian British Other  Chinese  
 White Other  Asian or Asian British Indian  Black or Black British Caribbean  Mixed White & Asian  
 Other/please specify \_\_\_\_\_  
Please tick if you regard yourself as disabled  Please tick if you are  Lesbian  Gay  Bisexual  Trans

For Office use only  
Branch No. \_\_\_\_\_ Job Code \_\_\_\_\_ Workplace Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer Code \_\_\_\_\_ Recruitment Code \_\_\_\_\_ Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Direct Debit Details – Instructions to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit**



Originators ID Number **9 7 1 4 6 7**

Name of bank/building society \_\_\_\_\_  
Town of the Bank \_\_\_\_\_  
Sort Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Account Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s) of Account holder(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
On the selected day of the month:  7th  14th  21st  28th  
**Instruction to your Bank or Building Society**  
Please pay Unite the Union Direct Debit monthly from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Unite the union and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank Building Society.

**Authorisation of deduction of your trade union contribution from your pay (check-off)**

**Note: Not all employers operate check-off.** I hereby authorise the deduction of Unite the union subscriptions from my pay of such amounts as shall be notified to my employer on my behalf from time to time by Unite the union. I also authorise my employer to inform Unite the union of any changes of address.  
Paid weekly or monthly?  Weekly  Monthly Payroll No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Please read the Data Protection notice.**

You have the right at any time to stop us using your details for third party marketing purposes. If you do not wish us to communicate with you or share your contact data for these purposes, please tick this box.  Please note that this will preclude you from receiving our special offers or promotions.

Are you or have you been a member of a trade union? (including Unite the union)  Yes  No  
If yes, please give the name of the union and date of last payment \_\_\_\_\_

When you join Unite, you are also authorising the Union to deduct an additional amount for your subscription to your local branch fund.  
I agree to abide by the union's rules. I authorise the payment above.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_