

Dear Brother/Sister

May I firstly on behalf of the Strike Committee take this opportunity to thank you all for your many phone calls and visits to the Union office to offer us your support during this dispute.

It is truly an honour to represent striking FBU Members on Merseyside who have demonstrated their absolute resolve to see this dispute through to their satisfaction. Striking Merseyside FBU Members should be rightly proud of the stance they have taken and the dignity they have shown under provocation on the picket lines.

At a meeting of the Strike Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2006 your Officials heard at length reports from all branches as to how you the Members wish this dispute to progress, we heard disgraceful reports of bullying and intimidation against our **lawful** pickets. We will not tolerate these actions and many of these incidents have been reported and are now in the hands of Merseyside Police. We your Officials have always said that this dispute is member led and we are here to carry out and implement your wishes. Your calls to announce more strike dates shows the determination of all members in sending a very clear message that you do not believe Management are sincere when they say they want this dispute resolved.

The Hardship Fund is now up and running so that no striking FBU member will be forced back to work through genuine financial hardship. There are many donations daily for thousands of pounds coming into the union office from the wider trade union movement and as you are no doubt aware there are also donations made daily from the public to our picket lines. Public support has been unbelievable right through this dispute and is stronger now than ever thanks to the hard work you the Members are doing on the picket lines.

Remember Management are **stunned** by the outstanding show of strength and solidarity by striking FBU Members, they greatly underestimated our unity and resolve, and they are the ones in disarray.

Yours in Unity

Mark Rowe  
Strike Committee Chair