

Uniform Consultative Committee 12th of August 2011

a report from Gavin Bowtell

dry cleaning vouchers and fleeces

The Liverpool Street Industrial Rep was recently co-opted to the UCC a sub-committee of the Company Council which deals with issues relating to staff uniforms as a stand-in for another rep who was unavailable. There were several items on the agenda for that meeting, but the issues

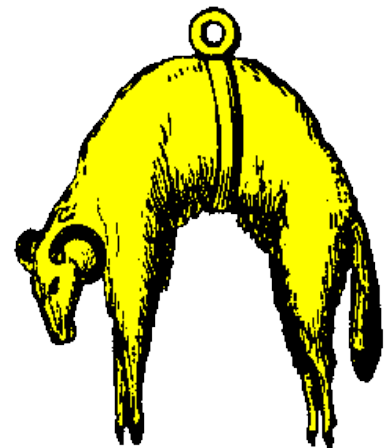


that were most familiar with stations grades were those of Dry Cleaning Vouchers and of station staff being allowed to wear the train-op fleece.

Presently there are plenty of vouchers to go round at the current level of uptake until October 2012—the AG1's however do not have any means of ordering them which is a ridiculous situation given that LUL has to pay for the vouchers up front and the vouchers have an expiry date. If the AG1's can't order them, and you cannot use them that is money down the drain! There is the idea that vouchers may already be allocated to groups and depots

where they are unused. At the UUC meeting Liverpool Street Rep asked if unused vouchers could be requisitioned and then redistributed to areas of greatest need. The manager who chaired the meeting—Rob Smith—said that he could see no reason why the vouchers should not be redistributed. We shall wait and see. On the issue of the fleece: many staff have complained year in and year out that the uniform simply is not warm enough in the winter and have innovated for the sake of warmth by wearing all sorts of things not approved. The reason staff are not allowed to wear the fleece according to the minutes of the last meeting is that “they are not in line with the LU Uniform Standard for station staff”. The Liverpool Street rep asked whether or not anyone had ever requested that the Standard be changed to incorporate the fleece as an item of uniform for station staff. Grant Dyer for LU Management replied that the issue had been raised, but that LU believes it is nice for customers to see staff dressed smartly, and that the fleece is too casual. Liverpool Street's Rep replied that he agreed with Mr. Dyer, but added that it was also true that the Standard prescribed when and how certain garments should be

worn and that far from replacing the blazer as the standard garment, the fleece could be issued to staff in line with the Standard if the Standard stipulated that it should only be worn *under the rain coat or parka and not as a substitute for either or the blazer thus preserving the smart appearance of staff on stations whilst keeping them*



warm. Management responded in a way suggesting that was a novel idea never raised before. Other reps concurred with the idea which was minuted and which is likely to be discussed at the next UCC meeting. The Liverpool Street Rep will approach the rep who usually sits on the committee to ask if she will keep us informed of any developments as they occur.