



SUPPORT JJB SPORTS WORKERS' STRIKE IN WIGAN

272 GMB members employed by JJB Sports at the warehouse in Wigan that supplies all 430 JJB Sports shops in the UK are currently taking strike action to secure a better basic rate of pay and a bonus system to allow workers to earn more when they work hard.

Currently most workers are on the National Minimum Wage of £5.35 per hour and either have no access to the bonus scheme or their targets are set so high that the scheme yields no money.

PLEASE HOLD THIS CARD UP BEFORE KICK-OFF

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The pay for a JJB Sports warehouse worker with no access to bonus is about £200 per week gross. This is in a business with a gross turnover of £745 million and profits of £34 million per year. It is not fair and is well below the going rate in warehouses in the area.

GMB, the recognized trade union in the company, put in a claim for a better basic rate of pay and access to the bonus scheme for all the workers.

The Chief Executive Mr Tom Knight—who took over day-to-day responsibility when main shareholder 70 year old Mr Dave Whelan took a back seat—agreed with the GMB's request

for a fairer pay system. Through negotiations it was agreed to increase the basic rate and change the bonus arrangements to allow everybody to earn the bonus if they worked hard.

But Mr Whelan, who has a personal fortune of £200 million, stepped in and scuppered the agreement. He fumed, “To give everyone the same wage would be barmy. It’s the communist way—cuckoo land!” He offered 3% across the board which the workers rejected. GMB members are now staging strike action to get the original deal back on the table.

JJB Sports are using agency staff to do the jobs of our striking members. Three agencies: **Heads Recruitment** from Manchester, **Bond Personnel**, and **Light Year Recruitment** from Wigan are supplying labour. **This is illegal under new legislation passed in 2003.** GMB is insisting that the Employment Agencies Standards Inspectorate steps in to penalise the agencies for what is a breach of the criminal law. The agencies can be fined £5,000 per person that they supply to JJB Sports.

One of the agencies involved in strike breaking, Lightyear Recruitment, is part owned by millionaire David Speedie, ex Chelsea and Liverpool player.

In Wigan we now have a battle between workers on the National Minimum Wage and the multi millionaires. Whose side are you on?

Please send messages of support and donations (made payable to ‘GMB’) for the JJB Sports strikers to Graham Wells, GMB Branch Secretary, 80 St Georges Road, Bolton, Lancashire BL1 2DD. Or phone Graham on 01204 523011 or Stretford@gmbunion.co.uk