



# POST WORKER



## *Deal or no deal?*

**ROYAL MAIL is treating us with contempt.**

**Management have reacted to our willingness to compromise by moving the goal posts.**

The national briefing on 12 July, underlining the position adopted by the postal executive, agreed that the latest proposed deal on pay, pensions and working conditions could be accepted only if certain key amendments were passed.

These included ruling out team working, management setting out a clear commitment that postal workers will reach UK average pay, and more precise terms of reference for the introduction of walk sequencing technology.

National officials informed us that they were confident that it would be possible to achieve the main elements of the amendments and they returned to negotiations with Royal Mail.

On Tuesday 18 July the postal executive met and heard that Royal Mail was not prepared to make any significant concessions.

If Royal Mail is not prepared to concede the amendments we want then we have no choice but to mark the deal return to sender. And the impasse that will then result can be broken only if we press ahead with the strike ballot that has been delayed for so long.

We should not accept being treated in such a contemptuous manner by Allan Leighton and his crew.

The threat of a strike ballot and the excellent pre-ballot campaign across Britain extracted some concessions from them. But now they are playing hard ball, convinced they can grind us down and that we will meekly accept the unamended deal.

This would be a serious mistake. It would leave the initiative with an employer who is determined to humiliate our union and force through very future attacks on jobs, earnings and working conditions.

There may be worse in the pipeline. There are rumours that the whole package is dependent on government funding and that one of the conditions for this is accepting the privatising share handout scheme. We must not be bullied into submitting to privatisation and should reject any such government blackmail.

On Thursday 20 July the postal executive was to meet. It is time for its member sot take decisive action in the spirit of the national briefing.

In the near future Post Worker will be holding meetings in Scotland, North West England, the Midlands, London and the South West to discuss recent events and give you your chance to have a say.

If you would like to help organise one of these meetings, publicise it to your workmates, or just come along then e-mail us or phone 07871 927 008.

Together we can get the deal we deserve.