



UNISON Branch Committee

5 November 2012

UNISON Newcastle 2012 Festival Volunteering with the Workers' Beer Company – Report

Report by: Louise Reeve, Workplace Contact, UNISON Newcastle

1 Latitude Festival 2012

- We received six places for Latitude Festival 2012, which were filled by: Debra Lagun, Victoria Powell, Claire McMullan, Jackki Welborne, Nick Oliver (Team Leader) and Bob Linton.
- The team travelled down to Suffolk and worked onsite between 11 – 16 July.
- They raised a total of £650, giving a 'profit' of **£186** after transport costs (£465) were deducted.

2 Glastonbury Festival

There was no Glastonbury Festival in 2012. There will be one in 2013, and we intend to return!

3 Leeds Festival 2012

- We received six places for Leeds Festival 2012, which were filled by: Chris Mason, Ashley Robson, Kathryn Wright, Nassar Khan, Nick Oliver (Team Leader), and Victoria Chamberlain.
- The team travelled down and worked onsite between 23 – 27 August.
- They raised £663, giving a 'profit' of **£407** after transport costs (£256) were deducted.

4 Conclusion

- The hard work of our volunteers raised a total of **£593** for UNISON Newcastle which we would like to donate, subject to Branch Committee approval, to:
 - International causes supported by the union
 - Charities supporting victims of domestic violence in Newcastle. We would be willing to donate the money to any such charity that UNISON Newcastle has links to; alternatively, we suggest the following might be considered:
 - Broken Rainbow (support for LGBT victims of domestic violence): <http://www.brokenrainbow.org.uk/>
 - Newcastle Women's Aid: <http://www.newcastlewomensaid.org.uk/>
 - Panah Residential Support (for BME women and children): <http://www.homegroup.org.uk/careandsupport/stonhamservices/services/Page/s/PanahResidentialFloatingSupportService.aspx>

- Sara Charlton Charity: <http://www.saracharltoncharity.com/>
- All the volunteers are to be commended for their hard work, positive attitude, and dedication to raising funds for UNISON Newcastle.
- Next year we intend to raise funds for UNISON Newcastle by volunteering at Glastonbury Festival, Latitude Festival and Leeds Festival.

5 Background

- For the past six years, UNISON Newcastle has sent union members to volunteer at UK music festivals. This is possible through our being registered as a volunteer organisation with the **Workers Beer Company (WBC)**, a not-for-profit organisation which enables trade unions and workers' campaigning organisations to raise funds by volunteering at bars at music festivals.
- The volunteers work a minimum **six-hour shift** each day whilst at the festival, including at least one late-night (for example 9pm-3am) shift. They undergo training to ensure they comply with the law on serving alcohol whilst at the festival. In exchange, they receive time off to see the festival, food, drink, transport, and a secure camping village. Our volunteers wear Unison Newcastle badges whilst working.
- They work in **teams of 4-6**, with each team having a team leader who is responsible for ensuring the team attends all shifts and briefings, looks after their welfare, and resolves any disputes with management whilst on-site.
- Volunteers must be **union members aged 18 or over**. UNISON Newcastle has a policy of giving as many union members as possible the chance to volunteer, so each year new team members are able to attend a music festival in exchange for their hard work. (The exception to this is the team leader role, which is always filled by someone who has previously volunteered at a festival.)
- **Volunteer places** are allocated by the WBC. The number of places an organisation receives is determined by a) how many volunteers the WBC needs for a particular festival, b) what sort of organisation it is and, c) how the organisations' volunteers have performed at previous events. UNISON Newcastle is a "priority 2" organisation, meaning that we would normally expect around four places at a large festival such as Leeds or Glastonbury.
 - Priority 1 – Trade Union Branches in dispute, and Trade Union Councils
 - **Priority 2 – Trade Union Branches, organisations within Trade Unions**
 - Priority 3 – Campaigns and Solidarity groups backed by the Labour movement
 - Priority 4 – Constituent Labour parties and Community groups
- We also receive extra places by supplying volunteers at short notice if other organisations are unable to fill their quota. Many previous years' volunteers have enjoyed it so much they have asked to be on the '**reserve list**' of reliable volunteers who can be called on at short notice, and their hard work has meant that UNISON Newcastle has been previously chosen to supply reserve staff, thus raising more money for the union.
- The union is paid at the rate of £6.50 per hour for supplying volunteers. We usually choose to donate this money to charities supported by UNISON Newcastle.
- Each volunteer organisation has an organiser, the "**Workplace Contact**", who is responsible for all aspects of making the volunteering happen: applying for places at the festivals, recruiting, registering and briefing suitable volunteers, and arranging transport. Since 2006 the UNISON Newcastle contact has been Louise Reeve (except in 2007, when the Workplace Contact was Danielle Jeffries).