

# 2008



**Forestry Commission  
Group Conference**  
6TH-7TH MAY | RAMADA JARVIS HOTEL | YORK

## Delegate Programme

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# Foreword

by **Allan MacKenzie**

Thank you very much for choosing to attend our annual conference this year and I look forward to meeting you at our venue in York.

The conference provides one of the few opportunities for us as union members to get together from all parts of Great Britain to discuss the challenges that face us in the Forestry Commission today. The conference has the ability to direct the future policy of the Forestry Group and therefore add value to the decisions being taken by the FC.

The conference this year will consider several topics that are very relevant to many of our members, firstly Operational Status, secondly Performance Management, and thirdly what additional support we might be able to give to members working in admin roles. It is intended to devote the first afternoon of conference to these subjects punctuated by talks from PCS President Janice Godrich and Jean Lindsay, the new HR Director. Our guest at dinner will be Simon Hodgson, the Chief Executive of FE England.

Our second day will be debating formal motions, which cover a wide range of aspects that are of concern to our members in the branches.

You will find the venue comfortable, relaxing and informal and the program put forward by the conference organisers should have something of interest to every delegate.

Thank you again for supporting this year's conference.

*Allan Mackenzie*

**Group President**



# Group Organising Strategy

## Progress to date

Our first Group Organising Strategy was drawn up at the end of 2004, as a coordinated plan for improving the work of the group. In the intervening couple of years we have made some significant progress, including:

- We now have a **workplace contact** in nearly all of the workplaces across the Commission, and a **branch organiser** in every branch.
- We have accurate **mapping data** on who our members are, who are in other unions and who are non-members.
- We have focused on **recruitment**. We are the only union in the FC that is growing in size, and have recently started a network for Young Members.
- We have **restructured** our branches and GEC to make them more accessible, inclusive and hopefully therefore effective.

## Looking Forward

For 2008 the GEC have identified a number of key challenges:

- To complete the restructuring of our branches in England and to initiate a programme of branch led local campaigning to help improve our levels of representation.
- To further increase our **recruitment** through improving our new entrant recruitment processes, and using our mapping data to target key groups of non-members such as FTA's, admin staff and young members.
- With tighter budgets and increasing inflation our forthcoming pay negotiations are likely to become even more challenging. If we are to maintain our standard of living then we must increase our capacity to campaign and **mobilise members**.
- We must reach an agreement with the National Union that enables us to engage with the union's **national campaigns** whilst retaining a focus on the needs of our members.

## Goals

Our key organising goals are:

- **Recruitment:** To increase our membership to 1000 members.
- **Representation:** To maintain a contact in every workplace within the FC, and to increase activism to ensure that all roles are properly resourced.
- **Campaigning:** To develop a culture of greater local activity.



# List of Delegates and Guests

## **Group President**

Allan MacKenzie

## **Silvan House**

Mary Irvine

Linda McGinley

Heather Moffat

Rob Martin

Donna Macpherson

Anne Anderson

Edward Shephard

Sue Gillingwater

## **North Scotland**

Ashley Woodhouse

## **South Scotland**

Malcolm Crosby

Anthony Farndon

Joyce Rammell

Steve Osborne

David Gibson

Stephen Stables

## **Wales**

Antony Griffiths

Tim Harland

Dave Liddy

Andy Best

Rhian Evans

Owen Thurgate

## **South East England**

Ian Craig

## **North England**

Jim O'Neill

Andy Bennett

Julie Saunders

## **Midlands**

Liz Richardson

Steve Holdsworth

John Winterbourne

Sue Hardwick

Jacqui Hassall

## **South West England**

Helen Daniels

Dick Gossling

## **York & Humberside**

Jon Bates

Mick Hoban

Sally Thirsk

Lesley Dyson

Debbie Clough

## **Guests**

Robert Beaney

**FACTU Chair**

Roy Laird

**GMB**

Janice Godrich

**PCS National President**

Jean Lindsay

**Director HR**

Simon Hodgson

**Chief Executive, FE England**



# Conference Programme

## **Tuesday 6th May - Organising**

1200–1300	<i>Lunch</i>
1300–1315	Introduction Allan MacKenzie
1315–1330	Group Review and our New Constitution
1330–1415	Activity 1: Operational Status and Admin Support
1415–1500	Guest Speaker: Janice Godrich
1500–1515	<i>Afternoon Tea</i>
1515–1600	Guest Speaker: Jean Lindsay
1600–1700	Activity 1: Review of PMS
1700–1730	Report back and Discussion
1730	Close
1900	Dinner <i>Guest Speaker: Simon Hodgson</i>

## **Wednesday 7th May - Motions Debate**

0930–0945	Introduction to Motions
0945–1030	Section 1: Pay and Grading
1030–1100	Section 2: FC Policy and Values
1100–1115	<i>Coffee</i>
1115–1215	Section 3: Terms and Conditions
1215–1230	Review and Close
1230–1330	<i>Lunch</i>



# Your Hotel

**Ramada York Hotel, Shipton Road, Skelton, York,  
YO30 1XW. Tel: 01904 670222**

## **By Road**

### ***From the North A1(M) Southbound***

- Leave the A1(M) at junction 47 and join the A59 towards York.
- Continue to the A1237 (York Outer Ring Road) and take the first exit at the roundabout.
- Continue ahead at the second roundabout and at the third roundabout take the first exit onto the A19, and continue for a further ½ mile.
- The hotel is located on the left hand side (see inset).

### ***From the South A1(M) Northbound***

- Follow the M1 northbound to its terminus at junction 48 and join the A1(M).
- Continue on the A1(M) to junction 45 and take the slip road exit to join the A64 towards York.
- At the junction with the A1237 (York Outer Ring Road), bear left to join the A1237 signposted Harrogate and Thirsk.
- Follow the A1237 until the fourth roundabout, take the first exit onto the A19, and continue for a further ½ mile.
- The hotel is located on the left hand side (see inset).

## **Car Parking**

- Free guest parking



## **By Train**

York is the nearest main railway station, which is 3 miles from the hotel.

