

## UKNDA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2008

August was a busy month for your Executive Committee, even though it has been the ‘holiday/silly season’. We have been fully occupied preparing for the following:

### PARTY CONFERENCE SEASON – UKNDA FRINGE MEETINGS

We will be holding ‘fringe meetings’ at Party Conference venues as follows:

#### **THIS COMING FRIDAY – 5<sup>th</sup> September.**

UKIP – Trouville Hotel, Granville Suite, Priory Road, Bournemouth BH2 5DH at 1300-1400 (doors open 1230)

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September Lib-Dems – Also in Bournemouth – the Trouville Hotel as above but in the St Malo/Monet suite: 1300 – 1400 (door open 1230)

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Conservatives** – In BIRMINGHAM - Our fringe meeting 1300 – 1400 (doors open 1230) In Austin Court (the Kingston Theatre - almost opposite the Conference Centre) 80 Cambridge Street, Birmingham B1 2BP

Labour – in Manchester on 20-24 Sept. NO fringe meeting but we are planning a press release campaign to coincide with their Conference.

**UKNDA members** local to any of these fringe meetings would be more than welcome, **you are encouraged to attend. PLEASE NOTE: None of our meetings are within the various Conference Security areas – so there is absolutely no problem for you getting into our fringe meetings.**

### DISCUSSION PAPER: “Overcoming the Defence Crisis”

UKNDA Life Member Allen Sykes has been leading a small team of fellow UKNDA members to produce a discussion document – “*Overcoming the Defence Crisis*”; its aim being to induce politicians of all parties to be more aware of the crisis facing our Armed Forces and to do something positive about the situation. This paper will be released at an appropriate time in the cycle of Party Conferences and distributed widely to politicians and the press. A copy will, of course, then be posted on our web-site for everyone to read. See our latest PRESS RELEASE on the NEWS section of our web site’s HOME page. Since our PRO sent out that release almost every Defence editor of almost every national and regional ‘daily’ has contacted us asking for interviews and ‘exclusives’. The next few weeks should be very ‘interesting’.

### The UKNDA MANIFESTO.

The UKNDA’s formal statement of its purpose and strategy for achieving it is already posted on our web-site. During the Conference season printed/bound copies of our MANIFESTO will be provided to all politicians with a particular responsibility for or interest in ‘Defence’.

**CEO's MEETING WITH THE RT HON DES BROWNE – SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE.**

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September I have obtained an interview with Des Browne to put to him the UKNDA's viewpoint on Defence matters and advise and assure him of our party political impartiality. Amongst other matters I shall seek his assurance that Service Personnel are not prohibited or inhibited in any way from becoming members of our Association while advising him that **our** advice in such situations is that serving personnel are free to join any legal Association (such as the UKNDA) but should not 'actively recruit UKNDA new members' in service time or on service property. I shall report back to you all in next month's newsletter on what occurred at this meeting.

This is a brief NEWSLETTER on this occasion because there is so much going on at the moment – on which we will report back to you fully in next month's offering.

I hope you have all enjoyed your holidays, or are still so enjoying them if you're lucky enough to still be relaxing (in the sun?) and forgetting, for a few moments, the cares of the world.

*John Muxworthy*

Cdr. RN CEO UKNDA