

SOUTHERN CROSS FINANCES: CREDIT CRUNCH BITES

Following the property crash, recent events have left Southern Cross exposed to their bankers

Profiteering Directors of Southern Cross have cashed in over £35 million Southern Cross shares on 13th December last year. Did they see the writing on the wall or was it just a lucky strike? The shares which were mainly gifted to them as part of their share option package were sold at 550p per share. Here's how two former Directors benefited:

Graham Sizer sold 1,434,000 shares at 550p each, worth £7,887,000. Philip Scott sold 2,019,120 shares at 550p each, worth £11,105,160.

By comparison a carer on the base rate of £5.62 per hour would have to work 35 hours a week, 48 weeks per year for 1,176 years and one month just to earn what Philip Scott earned in one day and that's before tax. Since these swashbucklers have abandoned ship news broke that that Southern Cross was unable to repay the loans on the property freeholds it acquired under their expansion programme resulting in the company share price dropping by more 80 per cent to a low of 78p at one stage.



DON'T BELIEVE THE HYPE?

Doom and gloom merchants in the media and those senior directors left behind have been speculating that the company may have to be broken up, sold off or there may even be a takeover bid. GMB would like to reassure all staff that are GMB members that they are fully protected by law if any of the above should happen. GMB have met with the company about its financial situation and is still negotiating on other outstanding issues we have which will be reported on in the next issue.

THERE'S ONLY ONE UNION

GMB is the only Union that Southern Cross consults in negotiations, whether it's about your terms and conditions, pay, holidays, health and safety or to provide individual or collective representation. Over 10,000 of your Southern Cross colleagues already enjoy the protection and benefits only GMB can offer. Please pass this newsletter onto a colleague and encourage them to join GMB either by filling the form in overleaf or by going on line at www.gmb.org.uk/join

NEW SOUTHERN CROSS NATIONAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE (NNC)

The new Southern Cross NNC has now been formed and has already met twice this year with the next meeting scheduled for September, when pay will be the number one issue.

Your GMB Representatives are:

- Bill Heley (chair), GMB Midland and East Coast Region
- Joanne Laurie, GMB Scotland
- Paul Kelly, GMB London Region
- John Ryan, GMB Yorkshire and North Derbyshire Region
- Brian Jenkins, GMB North West and Irish Region
- Elizabeth Charlton, GMB Northern Region
- Helen O'Connor, GMB Birmingham Region
- Sharon Rawlings, GMB South Western Region
- Brian Hockley, GMB Southern Region.

HOW DO I JOIN?

Just fill in parts 1, 2 and 3 or 4 overleaf and hand the form to your local GMB representative or post it to GMB, FREEPOST (WC2268), London SW19 4YY (you do not need a stamp).

Or join online at www.gmb.org.uk/join

Join online today at
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