

# Scottish Socialist Party



# UNITE IN ACTION!

## save workers' jobs - not billionaires' profits

The Scottish Socialist Party offers total, unqualified support to the 900 workers and their families facing absolute devastation from the threat of being chucked on the dole by the world's biggest drinks company, Diageo.

Thousands marching in anger against the closures needs to be the start of a mighty, united battle to halt this jobs carnage - which would mean mass misery for people thrown on £65 a week dole.

**There is absolutely no excuse for this assault on jobs and communities.** It's not as if Diageo is hard up! Johnnie Walker's alone is worth £6billion.

Diageo piled up £1.63billion profit in just 6 months in 2008 - and an average of £2bn profits a year, every year, for the past decade. Where have all the profits gone - created by the workers?

They spent £1.4billion on advertising alone last year.

Diageo's top dogs will certainly not suffer. Chief Executive Paul Walsh last year 'earned' £2.3million!

**Diageo bosses are profit junkies intent on sacrificing workers to pocket even more wealth -** after two centuries of workers' skills, hard graft and sacrifice helped the owners stack up £billions.

**Diageo's top bosses have blurted out the real reason for the threatened closures:**

*"We want to protect future profit levels".*

To add insult to injury, they tell workers they can get jobs in Leven, Fife. Who the hell do they think is going

to commute from Ayrshire or Glasgow to Fife to work? And why should families be uprooted for the sake of "protecting future profit levels"?

**Big business is out for one thing only: PROFIT.**

The only way to resist their butchery is decisive action, people uniting in their unions and communities, marching, protesting, taking industrial action to hit the profiteers where it hurts - their wallets.

If Diageo ignore the thousands who want to save Kilmarnock and Glasgow, all options need to be looked at, including industrial action. Strikes by workers at Lindsey Oil Refinery recently won an outright victory, which we can all learn from.

The governments of Westminster and Edinburgh should stand up for Scotland - but refuse to cave in to Diageo bosses' blackmail, who have hinted they might change their plans if they get a £20m handout.

**They should refuse to subsidise these corporate gangsters' profits from public funds.** They've had more than enough already - **not a penny more to these ruthless profiteers!**

If Diageo ignore public outrage and fail to cancel all closures, **the government should take over their assets, to sustain the jobs - as a step on the road to public ownership of the giant food and drinks industry. UNITE AND FIGHT FOR EVERY JOB!**

## **PUBLIC MEETING - all welcome**

### **WORKERS UNITED TO SAVE JOBS!**

**Monday 27th July @ 7.30pm**

**@ the Grand Hall, Green St, Kilmarnock**

**speakers:**

**Johnnie Walker workers - Postal worker - Colin Turbett (chair of N Ayrshire UNISON)  
- Richie Venton (SSP national trade union organiser)**



# UNITED WE CAN STOP THE JOBS SLAUGHTER

Diageo's profit-crazed bosses want Johnnie Walker's to walk away from Ayrshire.

The loss of 700 jobs in Kilmarnock and 140 in Glasgow takes no account of the knock-on effects, with shops, haulage firms and others facing devastation from the decisions of remote boardroom bosses who put profit first, second and always.

## The top dogs in Diageo won't suffer!

Chief Executive Paul Walsh 'earned' £2.3million! And that takes no account of his 720,000 shares in Diageo, worth about £6m - or his pension pot of £8.26m, which makes the much maligned Sir Fred Goodwin of RBS look like a pensioner pauper!



## FIGHT BY ALL MEANS NECESSARY!

**The closure threat has provoked justified rage.**

Thousands marching is a powerful warning to Diageo bosses: hands off our jobs and communities!

But capitalist employers have a habit of ignoring public opinion - if they think they can get away with it without hurting their profit margins.

That is why every option needs to be considered in fighting to keep Johnnie Walker's in Kilmarnock.

Other workers are fighting for their jobs too - posties, council workers, many others - with strike action.

Rallies uniting all those in struggle for jobs should be organised by the unions and the STUC.

If Diageo refuse to budge, industrial action is a powerful weapon against a multi-national that relies on exports and its image abroad. An international consumer boycott could help pound them into retreat.

**Unity in action is key to halting this carnage for profit.**

## Do YOU fancy going Dutch?

**The profiteering tax-dodgers who own Diageo certainly do!**

Diageo is a UK-based company, with its HQ in London, it's Chief Executive living in Sussex.

30% of its production is in the UK - where it employs 6,500 workers.

Kilmarnock's famous Johnnie Walker whisky is exported across the world.

**But despite profits that AVERAGE £2,000million a year for the past 10 years, Diageo only paid £43m in UK Corporation Tax.**

That's 2 per cent of its profits. Try telling the taxman YOU are only paying 2% of your wages in tax and see which jail you end up in!

**This means Diageo dodged £100m tax every year.**

How do these high-class robbers get away with it?

By a complicated series of transfers of their trademark brands (like Johnnie Walker's) and their UK business (on paper) to Dutch subsidiary companies they set up.

**Workers in Scotland make the whisky.**

**But the profit is spirited away to Holland - who let their Dutch subsidiaries live tax free!**

## The SSP says:

- Unite in action against the closures
- Build mass demos and rallies to unite ALL workers in struggle for jobs
- Save jobs - not profits
- Cut hours - not jobs. A 35-hour week across the board, with no loss of earnings
- Not a penny more in handouts to the profiteering, tax-dodging Diageo billionaires
- If they refuse to back down - hit them with industrial action - national and international consumer boycotts - and call on the government to seize their assets, taking them into public ownership to sustain every job
- Make Greed History - tax the millionaires. A 10% tax on the richest 1% of the population would raise enough to sustain 80,000 jobs in Scotland for 3 years - on £25,000 a year.
- People not Profit -for a socialist Scotland

**JOIN THE SSP TODAY - the party of workers' unity, public ownership and socialism**

name..... email.....

address.....

phone(s) ..... union(if any).....

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