

WHAT BECAME OF THE UKIP TWELVE?



INTRODUCTION

The ukipwatch.org website was set up in 2004 to monitor the activities of the 12 UKIP MEPs. The UKIP MEPs elected in 2004 have distinguished themselves since 2004 with a catalogue of incompetence, laziness and scandal. Of the original 'dirty dozen' only eight remain, with three MEPs (Ashley Mote, Robert Kilroy-Silk, Tom Wise) being lost to prison, another political party and fraud allegations respectively, and Graham Booth resigning for family reasons. This short briefing paper sets out a selection of the most outrageous scandals and juiciest stories. For more, please visit www.ukipwatch.org, which contains a comprehensive record of UKIP MEPs' five wasted years.

Enjoy!

UKIP MEPS

TOM WISE

Tom Wise's expenses scandal

Tom Wise (East of England) spent most of his parliamentary term fighting off investigations for alleged fraud over staff salary irregularities and, in April 2009 was finally charged with money laundering and false accounting. Bank documents obtained by the *Sunday Times*¹ showed that Wise had apparently channeled nearly £40,000 of public money into his personal bank account after claiming that it was for an assistant's salary.

From November 2004 until October 2005, Wise allegedly directed £39,100 of taxpayers' money into his own bank account, of which he paid his researcher Lindsay Jenkins just £13,555. Wise was suspended, then reinstated and then, apparently, finally expelled from the party in 2007, although he still appears to be chair of his local UKIP branch.²

News of the World exposé

A *News of the World*³ exposé saw Wise boasting about taking full advantage of the European Parliament's ex-

penses system while at the same time admitting he hadn't got a clue what he was supposed to be doing.

Having nonchalantly admitted that "Yes, I am milking the system, in as much as I'm overpaid for the amount of expenses I've had" he went on to admit "I don't know what an MEP's job is. No one's ever given me a job description. I've no idea what an MEP should or shouldn't do. So you make it up as you go along."

Wise claimed to be making a profit of nearly £2000 a week from expenses scams - that's £1/2 million over his five year term.

JOHN WHITTAKER

John Whittaker's cavalier approach to staff-management

North-West MEP John Whittaker did little of note as an MEP, but found himself taken to court after sacking a worker because she had a stroke.⁴

Hilary Harris, who ran Whittaker's constituency office from 2004 to early 2007, brought a case of constructive dismissal after being pressurised to return to work and having her job advertised despite suffering a stroke in December 2006. An employment tribunal duly found that she had been unlawfully dismissed and Whittaker was required to pay a substantial pay-out.

Whittaker claimed that the employer/employee relationship was good - "I always thought we got on well" - but it will be a surprise if he wins any awards for being a good employer.

NIGEL FARAGE

Nigel Farage - 'Terrorism is a price worth paying'

Nigel Farage (South East) likes to style himself as the acceptable face of UKIP and, like all right-wing politicians, talks very tough on crime and terrorism.....except when a letter bomb was sent to a Labour MEP.

¹ Sunday Times 25th Feb 07 "UKIP in embezzlement scandal" - <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article1434608.ece>

² <http://www.ukipswbeds.co.uk/contact.php?TB=home7>

³ News of the World 11th May 08, "I can make shedloads as an MEP, it's cushy" - <http://www.newsoftheworld.co.uk/news/article4815.ece>

⁴ http://www.prestoncitizen.co.uk/search/1753630.Stroke_victim_in_claim_for_constructive_dismissal_against_MEP/

In 2005, the day after a letter bomb was sent to Gary Titley, the leader of the Labour MEPs, Farage stated that this was the "price of forcing a political ideal on people" adding that "We can only hope that the EU comes to its senses and listens to the people" and that failure to do so could mean more attacks as extremists resorted to violence.⁵

Creating his own European 'union'

UKIP party boy Farage may dislike Europeans, but it didn't stop him hopping into bed with one in 2005, according to the *News of the World*. Farage formed his own European union with a half-German, half-Swedish blonde, Liga Howells, —who was born in Latvia and speaks seven languages—hours after meeting her in a pub.

Farage's evening with the enemy involved humiliation and a sex-act involving ice cubes.

But Liga from Riga said she was left speechless when father-of-four Farage, revealed his kinky fantasy. "It was so weird," she explained. "He asked me to smack him. He went, 'Smack me, Miss'. I have never, ever heard anything like this in my whole life."⁶

"He did ask me to humiliate him. It is beyond belief some of the things he asked me to do. And I wasn't prepared to do what he asked me."

She said: "I put the ice cubes in my mouth. He really enjoyed what I was doing and was very noisy in letting me know."

Very kinky!

GODFREY BLOOM

Casual racism, sexism and plain offensive – Godfrey Bloom's your man

Yorkshire MEP Godfrey Bloom used his time as a parliamentarian to carve a reputation for himself as a self-styled 'Colonel Blimp'. During his five year parliamentary term he has, amongst others, managed to insult women, flood victims, prostitutes and the Archbishop of York.

Impressive going.

Describing Archbishop of York as "black as Newgate's knocker"

In 2007, Godfrey decided to make an enemy of Dr John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York. Questioning the Archbishop's claims that there are racist elements within the Church of England Bloom concluded - "I would have thought that the fact he was made archbishop with a face as black as Newgate's knocker would belie that". How's that for casual racism?⁷

Criticising people 'stupid enough to build house on a flood plain'

In 2007, flooding destroyed thousands of homes in Yorkshire and Humberside. Five out of six of the region's MEPs campaigned to secure financial aid from the EU. Apart from Godfrey, who has instead decided to campaign for the hapless homeowners to be prevented from getting home insurance in the future. According to UKIP's voice of reason: "I don't have a home on a flood plain and don't see why I should subsidise some idiot who does".⁸

Well said Godfrey! They were just asking for trouble weren't they?!

'None of the members of the Women's committee are in danger of being raped'

Talking about his colleagues on the European Parliament's Committee on Women and Gender Equality, Godfrey stated, "It did not take long before the conversation got round to rape and prostitution... it always does."

"Interesting that none of them are in danger of the first or indeed could earn their living at the second, though it would be ungallant to say so."⁹ Yep, Godders, it would be deeply ungallant, but that didn't stop you!

Brothel using Bloom - Prostitutes: "do it because they want to"

On 8 March, International Women's Day 2006, the Euro-

⁵ http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/3372481.stm

⁶ <http://www.democracyforum.co.uk/ukip-general-issues/28045-nigel-farage-sex-scandal.html>

⁷ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/jan/15/1>

⁸ <http://www.richardcorbett.org.uk/releases/20080829.htm>

⁹ <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article1821592.ece>

pean Parliament launched its "Red Card to Forced Prostitution" campaign in time for the World Cup in Germany. Around 700,000 women and children are trafficked through international borders each year and it was estimated that around 40,000 would be forced to work as prostitutes during the World Cup.

Bloom, although unable to attend the seminar was, unsurprisingly, not short of a word or two on the subject. Bloom announced that he used to visit brothels in Hong Kong when he was a businessman before claiming that "most girls do it because they want to. If they (prostitutes) wanted a job as a Tesco check-out girl, they'd go do that instead."¹⁰

GERARD BATTEN

Gerard Batten - Let's bring back hanging

Gerard Batten's dismal campaign to become London Mayor including a commitment to bring back the death penalty, ignoring the fact that the death penalty is a barbaric practice that has no place in a civilised society and is no better than state-administered murder. U-kippers would do well not to base their policies on the book of Deuteronomy.

Unsurprisingly, Batten finished 6th with less than 2% of the vote.

ASHLEY MOTE

Ashley Mote - convicted benefit fraudster

After the media got wind that he was facing prosecution for multiple counts of benefit fraud, Ashley Mote was expelled from UKIP in July 2004, just weeks after his election. Although he had already been facing charges before being selected as a candidate, UKIP placed him No 2 on their list of candidates for the South East region alongside Nigel Farage.

In September 2007, after attempting (and failing) to get parliamentary immunity, Mote was finally convicted on multiple counts of benefit fraud worth £73,000 and sentenced to 9 months in jail.¹¹

Ironically, Mote spent most of his time as an MEP complaining about the EU accounts as (get this) a member of the Budgetary Control committee! He was found guilty of false accounting, eight charges of obtaining a money transfer by deception, four charges of evading liability and one charge of failing to notify of a change of circumstances.

Fearing Mote might go on the run, Judge Price explained: "I have observed him over the past three weeks of this trial and he has showed deceit after deceit."

The judge continued: "During the course of this trial I have watched almost with incredulity your deceit about money. Even now I cannot say with any certainty that I know what your real financial position is or what assets you have or have not got."

Friend of white supremacists

Not content with fighting with the law, Ashley Mote also spent his time as an elected representative cultivating some interesting political friendships. The most shocking was his appearance at a conference organised by the American Renaissance, a white supremacist organisation.

American Renaissance claims, amongst other things, that non-whites pose a demographic threat to western nations and are less intelligent than white people. Indeed, in August 1997, a poll of readers on who had done most for the "white race" gave the most votes to Adolf Hitler.¹²

So, over the weekend, Ashley spoke at the American Renaissance conference as one of "a remarkable group of speakers and guest - undeceived, outspoken and committed to the defense of Western Civilization" alongside racial activists including Sam Dickson, Eugene Valberg and the editor of American Renaissance, Jared Taylor. Former luminaries at AmRen conferences include Ku Klux Klan member David Duke, Don Black, the organiser of the white supremacist website Stormfront and BNP leader Nick Griffin.¹³

Joining forces with Mussolini and Le Pen

Mote was also a founding member of the short-lived Identity, Tradition and Sovereignty group in the European Parliament. The group was composed of the French Front National (including Le Pen), Alessandra Mussolini

¹⁰ <http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/Brothelvisit-Euro-MP-under-fire.1381786.jp>

¹¹ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/6951841.stm>

¹² <http://www.amren.com/ar/1997/09/>

¹³ <http://www.mediamouse.org/news/2008/02/protests-planne.php>

(definitely her Grandfather's Granddaughter), the Belgian Vlaams Belang, and the Greater Romania Party. At the time, a minimum of 20 members was required to form a Group. Forming this far-right group in the Parliament would not have been possible without Mote and without UKIP's breakthrough in the last European elections.

ROGER KNAPMAN

Roger Knapman - Immigrants can't come to Britain... unless they fix my house

In May 2006, Roger Knapman (South West), then still the leader of UKIP, was revealed to be using Polish builders to renovate his grand house in Devon. UKIP were the only British group in the European Parliament to vote against allowing central and eastern European states, such as Poland, into the EU. Knapman's party was also deeply opposed to the right of any new entrant citizens to work in the UK, claiming there was no demand for imported labour. Apart from at Knapman's country pad.

A UKIP spokesman commented that Knapman had used the builders "for their skills" and not because they were cheap. Still, a bit rich coming from the party that spoke of "floods of migrants" coming into Britain.¹⁴

ROBERT KILROY-SILK

Robert Kilroy Silk - "I'm an MEP get me out of here"

Kilroy's brief sojourn in the Australian jungle on ITV show "I'm a celebrity...Get me out of here" came to an ignominious end¹⁵ - he was the first to be voted off by the public.

Although Kilroy-Silk (East Midlands) did emerge victorious in one of the show's "bush tucker trials", it's unlikely that this cut much ice with his constituents who, in the words of Labour East Midlands MEP Glenis Willmott, "expect their politicians to do a job of work, and you can't do that if you are in the jungle, covered in cockroaches, eating kangaroo's testicles".¹⁶

The leadership struggle

Having engineered the media frenzy that got most of his UKIP colleagues elected, Kilroy expected to be rewarded by being made leader in place of Roger Knapman. Paul Sykes, the millionaire backer of UKIP in 2004 (whose donations enabled this motley crew to outspend the three main parties added together on advertising), openly called on the party to make Kilroy its leader. Kilroy toured constituencies looking for support to challenge for the leadership.

He also claimed that he had funding to fight for a Westminster seat in the East Midlands and made the assertion that the party had the funds to fight 44 key marginals at the next general election. He said: "I have personally been promised all the money I need to fight every marginal seat in the country. We have the money to set up offices, agents, campaigns when I decide to press the button".¹⁷

Under UKIP's constitution, an emergency general meeting could be called if it is demanded by one-fifth of the party's 223 constituency chairmen. An aide to Kilroy-Silk told the Western Morning News that he had the support of more than 50 local party chairmen. However, despite getting the backing of over 50 constituency chairmen, UKIP refused to allow a contest and Kilroy resigned.

Veritas debacle

In January 2005, immediately after quitting UKIP, Kilroy formed a new party called 'Veritas' (Latin for truth), taking a number of UKIP activists and several politicians with him.

UKIP took the defections badly, suing two London Assembly members who defected to Kilroy-Silk's new party - Damian Hockney, now Veritas deputy leader, and Peter Hulme-Cross were elected in 2004 on the list system. However, Veritas could only retain one deposit at the 2005 general election, and Kilroy soon abandoned them as well.

But finally seeing the light?

Kilroy finally admitted in a BBC documentary in 2005 that he did not know what he was getting involved in when he

¹⁴ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/antiimmigrant-ukip-leader-hires-polish-builders-477314.html>

¹⁵ 27th November 08, 'Kilroy was 'ere' - <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/top-stories/2008/11/27/kilroy-was-ere-115875-20928683/>

¹⁶ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/7731688.stm>

¹⁷ http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/3642104.stm

joined UKIP the previous year. He said: "The trouble is, some are serious and some are nutters. And you get the lot. Is this one serious? Or is this another nutter? I didn't know what I joined. What's been irritating is that I've been defending some of these bloody right-wing fascist nutters."

GENERAL UKIP EMBARRASSMENT

UKIP's failure to submit their accounts for 2006 to the Electoral Commission¹⁸ brought them to the brink of bankruptcy. They faced having to pay back £400,000. This case has still not been completely resolved.¹⁹

UKIP and the missing £118,000

However, the Electoral Commission story was just the tip of the iceberg. In March 2007, the Times reported that the party was being investigated over donations worth £118,000 that party treasurer Bruce Lawson was unaware of and never appeared in UKIP's bank accounts. Lawson threatened to resign, writing in a letter to Nigel Farage and deputy leader David Campbell Bannerman that:

"I joined UKIP because I thought we were different to the other parties but even on the grounds of expediency I will not be associated with this sort of behaviour."

With his customary understatement, Farage merely contended that "the party's internal bookkeeping was not what it might have been."²⁰

If you're disabled you can't be a UKIP candidate

Those who thought that UKIP couldn't sink any lower were proved wrong when 65 year old Jack Biggs was told in March 2007 that he could not be a serious UKIP candidate because he was disabled.²¹

Mr Biggs, a holder of the British Empire Medal, who has had both knees replaced, was told by his local UKIP association that he could only be a "paper candidate" for the party in the 2007 local elections because of his disability.

Rather than offer a grovelling apology, UKIP gracelessly accused Biggs of blackmail with Nigel Farage offering this nugget of wisdom - "I could run down the street but I couldn't make an Olympic athlete," he said. "This man couldn't do the job just as other people can't do it because they are busy."

¹⁸ <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/news-and-media/news-releases/electoral-commission-media-centre/news-releases-donations/electoral-commission-to-appeal-judgment-on-impermissible-donations-to-ukip>

¹⁹ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1543498/Ukip-faces-legal-action-over-donations.html>

²⁰ <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article1400682.ece>

²¹ 28th February 07, "The UKIP emails" - <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2007/feb/28/eu.politics>

Collapsing membership

For a party that claims to be the fourth largest in the UK, UKIPs membership is tiny and falling. Party membership has collapsed from 25,000 in 2004 to just under 15,000 in 2009, with numerous branches closing.

Some branches folded to align with other parties. A number of branches defected with Kilroy to Veritas, while Tom Wise's 100-strong Fenlands branch affiliated to a rival anti-EU party, the United Kingdom First party.

Even their politicians aren't party members

In March 2008, UKIP jubilantly announced that right-wing Tory MP Bob Spink had defected, giving them their first Westminster seat. However, this March, Spink, told his local paper that he had never been a member of UKIP. In his words, "I never joined UKIP and do not intend to do so".²²

This came as news to UKIP spinner Tim Worstall who claimed that Spink was a party member, but conceded that "He has been issued a membership card, but he's never actually paid for membership." Doubtlessly, the news also came as a nasty shock to Nigel Farage, who had welcomed Spink with open arms adding that he was "delighted to welcome the hard working and deeply principled Bob Spink as our first Member of Parliament". Oh dear.

Spink, recognising that taking money and activist support from UKIP would kybosh any remaining chance of him even losing with dignity, stated that he would not accept any activists' help or financial support from UKIP.

At the time of writing, useless UKIP still hadn't got the message. Spink is still down on their website as UKIPs leader in the Commons!

IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Who's left?

From starting with 12 MEPs in 2004, only 8 of the original 12 are left, while former leader Roger Knapman no longer sits with UKIP in the IND-DEM group in the European Parliament. Ashley Mote was kicked out of UKIP just months after being elected - when the party claimed, somewhat amazingly, that it had no idea that he was facing prosecution by the Department for Work and Pensions for fraud.

Kilroy walked out on UKIP when they had the temerity not to make him leader. Tom Wise was suspended, then reinstated and then suspended again following the police investigation into him. The party now claims that Wise is no longer a UKIP MEP, but Wise continues to be a party member and is, ironically, still acting as Treasurer of his local UKIP branch.²⁴

Graham Booth resigned in September 2008 for family reasons, to be replaced by Trevor Colman. Colman, a former policeman, was the man who UKIP had entrusted to conduct their internal investigation into the Tom Wise affair, which led to his suspension and then initial reinstatement.²⁵

Roger Knapman has spent the last three years seething at his ousting by Farage. He resigned from the anti-European IND-DEM group on the grounds that they were not eurosceptic enough and no longer sits with UKIP.

Electoral failure since 2004

Having described themselves as the fourth largest political party in Britain following their 2004 successes, UKIP have been relegated to the fringes of political debate. In successive local council elections they have performed dismally, and have fewer councillors than other minor parties such as the Greens, BNP, and even the continuity "Liberal party".

In 2008, they lost both of their 2 GLA members and were beaten into 6th place by the BNP in the London Mayoral elections.

In 2005, having confidently predicted that they would win

²² http://www.echo-news.co.uk/search/4179128.Tory__UKIP__Now_I_m_just_an_inde_says_MP_Bob/

²³ <http://www.ukip.org/page/ukip-officials>

²⁴ <http://registers.electoralcommission.org.uk/regulatory-issues/regpoliticalparties.cfm?frmPartyID=60&frmType=audetail>

²⁵ <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article1466713.ece>

at least one seat, UKIP failed to get more than 15% in a single constituency. Having spent £250,000 on the campaign in 495 seats they could only retain 45 deposits.

In Westminster by-elections they have also fared abysmally. They did finish third (ahead of the Tories) in Hartlepool back in September 2004, which marked the high point of their by-election success. They spent £75,000 on the by-election, a considerable sum for the return of votes they actually received.

In Bexley and Sidcup, Nigel Farage could only poll 7% as leader in 2006. Each of the 2,347 votes Farage picked up cost the princely sum of £31.96. Not exactly a bargain!

Indeed, for all of their bluster about how undemocratic the EU is, none of UKIP's parliamentary representation outside Brussels has been elected on their ticket. Alongside Bob Spink (who UKIP still claim as their own), they have two peers in the unelected House of Lords.

How they voted

UKIP's 2004 delegation entered the Parliament with dreams of destroying it from within. In reality, their only tactic of disruption was to vote against virtually everything. This, and a failure to read what they were voting on, led to a number of embarrassments.

Facing all ways on Working Time

The revision of the Working Time Directive was one of the most high profile votes in the European Parliament. Despite their loathing of all things Brussels, UKIP's MEPs managed to vote the wrong way on a number of amendments to the Working Time Directive, specifically on the status of the UK opt-out, voting to oppose the opt-out and arguing that a 65 hour working week was too long.

On one of the most important pieces of legislation, with a direct effect on Britain's entire workforce, UKIP couldn't even be bothered to read their own voting list.²⁶

Confused about teaching children about the EU institutions

UKIP MEPs got very hot under the collar in 2007, claiming

that the EU was "brainwashing children" after learning that children at Key Stages 3 and 4 were being taught about the role of EU institutions as part of citizenship classes. Godfrey Bloom even described the learning pack as "bias and propaganda masquerading as fact" complaining that "taxpayers are being forced to pay for our children to learn EU systems".²⁷

What Godfrey forgot to mention is that all ten UKIP MEPs, including himself, actually voted **in favour** of a resolution in the European Parliament calling for "European citizenship standard elements in school curricula throughout the EU" in January 2005! So, an abrupt U-turn in party policy or (more likely) their MEPs were too lazy to bother reading what they were voting for!

Animal-loving UKIP?

In 2007, seven UKIP MEPs joined another 10 MEPs to vote against an EU measure to further curb fishing with driftnets.

Fishing with driftnets is already banned in the EU due to the number of dolphins and whales they catch (and kill) but the new measure, adopted by a massive majority (633 in favour) further tightened the rules.²⁸

UKIP MEPs no friend of British fishermen

In 2005, ten of UKIP's MEPs voted against defending the Shetland Box for a further three years.

The measure to ensure that protected waters around Shetland and Orkney remained protected, thus ensuring the survival of Scotland's northern communities, had been supported by the European Parliament's Fisheries Committee. However, a last minute bid by Spanish and French MEPs to water the proposal down was backed by UKIP, thus risking defeating the coalition of Labour, Conservative, Lib Dem and SNP MEPs who were all rightly defending the interests of British fishermen.

Conservative MEP Struan Stevenson, the Conservative European Parliament spokesperson on fisheries, lambasted UKIP, rightly asserting that "Fishermen across Britain will rightly be disappointed UKIP was not defending their interests today. UKIP MEPs owe our fishermen an explanation".²⁹

²⁶ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+PV+20081217+RES-RCV+DOC+PDF+V0//EN&language=EN>

²⁷ <http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/EU-39trying-to-brainwash-children.1953121.jp>

²⁸ <http://ukipwatch.org/2007/02/animal-loving-ukip.html>

²⁹ <http://www.northeast Somersetconservatives.co.uk/index.php?sectionid=3&pagenumber=342>

UKIP vote against tackling female genital mutilation

On International Women's Day, UKIP's Vice Chairman (sic) Rachel Oxley made a statement denouncing the practice of female genital mutilation and calling for more effective action on the issue.

Yet, in February 2006 the European Parliament adopted a resolution based on a report by Maria Carlshamre MEP calling on all member states to work together take a zero-tolerance approach on all forms of violence against women and to exchange information on how best to do this. It also instructed all EU countries to recognise rape within marriage as a criminal offence and not to accept cultural practices as an excuse for honour crimes or female genital mutilation. Indeed, Parliament called on all member states to ban female genital mutilation and to prosecute all perpetrators of it.

This report was resoundingly supported by almost all groups across the Parliament - the resolution was passed by 545 votes to 13. Except one. Not one single UKIP MEP supported the resolution and the seven UKIP MEPs who voted, voted against - Gerard Batten, Godfrey Bloom, Graham Clark, Nigel Farage, Roger Knapman, Mike Natrass and Jeffery Titford.³⁰

Against free breast cancer screening

UKIP also voted to reject a European Parliament resolution seeking to save the lives of 31, 000 breast cancer victims each year.

Messieurs Batten, Booth, Clark, Farage, Knapman, Natrass, Titford, Whittaker and Wise attempted to deny free biannual screening for women aged between 50 and 69 years of age, through which it is hoped early detection would lead to a 90% cure rate.³¹

UKIPs shameful stance on gun control

A notable victory in establishing common EU rules to tackle gun crime was sealed in 2007 when the European Parliament agreed a deal with the Council of Ministers on the control of the acquisition and possession of weapons.

The legislation, which was supported by the Association of Chief Police Officers, ensures that all weapons are

marked and recorded to help police trace weapons to those who legally bought them; include convertible weapons in European countries' gun control laws; and ensure that people with violent crime convictions are not able to buy guns.

The inclusion of convertible weapons was particularly good news for the UK. While the UK has the strictest standards on gun control in the EU, it was possible to buy guns which fire blanks or gas, and then smuggle them into the UK where they are modified to fire live bullets. Nearly half the weapons seized by police in Manchester are conversions.

So there you have it, a measure that will cut crime in the UK, raise standards across the EU towards those in the UK, bring the EU member states into line with the UN Protocol on Firearms and was endorsed by every political party and group in the European Parliament and the police - but not UKIP.³²

And unlikely allies of Robert Mugabe

In 2007 Andrew Reed, a UKIP candidate at both the 2001 general election and the 2004 European elections and advisor to Nigel Farage, accused Western governments and the BBC of demonising the Mugabe regime in Zimbabwe.

For good measure, he described Zimbabwe as "essentially democratic".

Moreover, he absolved the Mugabe regime of responsibility for the bloodshed and starvation inflicted on the Zimbabwean people, arguing that Zimbabwe is "under siege from the international community" and contending that there is no "adequate justification" for humanitarian intervention.³³

So the UKIP attitude to the plight of Zimbabweans is to blame the EU and stick their heads in the sand. Dangerous, deluded and despicable.

³⁰ <http://ukipwatch.org/2007/05/ukip-vote-against-tackling-female.html>

³¹ <http://iaindale.blogspot.com/2006/11/ukip-comes-to-rescue-of-internet-tv.html>

³² <http://ukipwatch.org/2007/12/ukips-shameful-stance-on-gun-control.html>

³³ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/pandora/out-now-margarets-myopic-view-of-the-world-445042.html>

LINKS WITH THE FAR RIGHT

Far right unite - UKIP and the BNP?

A proposed BNP pact collapsed in October 2008 when UKIP rejected the idea. However, the proposal was brought to them by an active member of UKIP, former tennis star Buster Mottram. 2 members of UKIPs NEC were subsequently expelled/resigned.³⁴

Links with the far-right

In an interview in 2006 with LBC, a London news station, Conservative Leader David Cameron referred to UKIP members as "fruitcakes, loonies and closet racists".³⁵ UKIP supporters were outraged and claimed Cameron had gone too far? But are UKIP actually racists? Let's see.....

Robert Kilroy Silk labelled Arabs "suicide bombers, limb amputators and women repressors" on his BBC Talk Show in 2004.³⁶

Mike Nattrass once stood as a candidate in the Dudley West by-election as a New Britain Party candidate, a party calling for forced repatriation of immigrants and somewhat racist. His UKIP colleague Jeffrey Titford was also a member.

Ukipwatch couldn't possibly comment on the alleged "closet racists" but the media and fellow UKIPwatchers may wish to consult the following list:

Alastair McConnachie - former UKIP candidate - Holocaust denier³⁸

Martyn Heale – Former UKIP South Thanet Branch Chairman, now Agent and Campaigns Manager - former National Front branch organiser and candidate.³⁹

Meanwhile, UKIP NEC member **David Abbott** donated

£40,000 to the BNP.⁴⁰

Nigel Farage said he was happy to be branded a fruitcake, a loony and gadfly afterall... "I'm wearing the gadfly tie today", but denied the "racist" remarks claiming... "We are a non-racist, non-sectarian party..."⁴¹

But, even elected UKIP MEP **Robert Kilroy Silk** admitted in 2005 that UKIP were "bloody right wing fascist nutters".⁴² Very confusing!

WHAT THEY'VE ACHIEVED

³⁴ http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7706857.stm

³⁵ 4th April 2006 - http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/4875502.stm

³⁶ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/3393095.stm>

³⁷ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Britain_Party

³⁸ 27th February 2007, "UKIP hit by new row over holocaust denier" - <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2007/feb/28/eu.politics>

³⁹ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2004/oct/21/uk.otherparties>

⁴⁰ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1544527/Revealed-Ukip-official-gave-money-to-the-BNP.html>

⁴¹ http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/4875026.stm

⁴² <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/ukip-is-party-of-fascist-nutters-says-kilroysilk-488832.html>