Made of Stone?

A SERIES of comeback gigs by well-known indie band Stone Roses at Manchester’s Etihad Park in July was preceded by a “quite appalling” contract being sent to photographers who were due to cover the gigs, Ian Tilton, who was among the NUJ member photographers who helped organise a photographers’ boycott of these Stone Roses gigs, told the Guardian that the initial contract offered by the Stone Roses allowed the pictures to be used only in the publication that commissioned them. Far worse, for a flat £1 fee, the Stone Roses would own all rights to use the pictures on their own merchandise, forever. Stone Roses management declined offers to negotiate on the terms of the contract.

NUJ Freelance. Organiser John Toner explained that “a photographer must have the right to license editorial use of images without obtaining the band’s permission for each… The band’s intransigence on this point has led to the organisation of a boycott.”

The NUJ boycott gained the support of the British Photographic Council, the Royal Photographic Society, Master Photographers Association and the British Institution of Professional Photography. One music website that was contacted by the Stone Roses’ PR company then enquired of the NUJ about the boycott, as a result of which their photographer joined the boycott as well. In the event, the gig was covered by some professional photographers. But despite Stone Roses’ PR manager, Murray Chalmers, telling the British Journal of Photography “there is no boycott,” the media trade press and music press widely reported a boycott by “dozens” of photographers. For a short while, a Google search on “Stone Roses” would take you to “Stone Roses photographers boycott.” As result of the considerable publicity generated, several rock photographers joined the NUJ.

New Ways to Make Journalism Pay – Brussels

NEW WAYS to Make Journalism Pay was already a successful NUJ event when Brussels Branch decided to import it. The format remained the same: journalists who had successfully (profitably) launched their own internet news services told our audience of around 40 how they did it, followed by a busy question and answer session.

We had two excellent speakers: Duncan Lumsden, managing editor and co-founder of MLEX, a Brussels-based regulatory risk newswire that now employs more than 50; and Hugh Wheelan, managing editor and co-founder of responsible-investor.com, which is based in Paris.

They told us how they managed to make money from journalism – an increasingly remarkable feat – and walked us through the potential pitfalls. When should you discount?

Google settles with publishers over books

GOOGLE has settled the lawsuit brought by the Association of American Publishers, leaving the Authors Guild to carry on the fight over the copying of 15 million books, with hearings not expected before late 2013. The AAP said: “The settlement acknowledges the rights and interests of copyright-holders. US publishers can choose to make available or choose to remove their books and journals digitized by Google for its Library Project.”

As the Authors’ Guild notes, the AAP statement “does not say whether Google is compensating publishers for their unauthorized uses of the books, nor does it address whether

Crispin Aubrey

CRISPIN AUBREY, who came to wide public notice through involvement in 1977 with a defence campaign for fellow journalists Phil Agee and Mark Hosenball, threatened with deportation for uncovering the GCHQ spy operation, died of a heart attack aged 66 on 28 Sep-

Pay – Brussels

Google will continue scanning books without permission.” Author’s Guild executive director Paul Aiken said: “The publishers’ private settlement, whatever its terms, does not resolve the authors’ copyright infringement claims against Google… Google continues to profit from its use of millions of copyright-protected books without regard to authors’ rights, and our class-action lawsuit on behalf of U.S. authors continues.”

Meanwhile, micropayment

CNet News reports, meanwhile that Google had relaunched plans to allow users to pay for Web content using Google Wallet. It says individual

articles will cost an average of $0.25 to $0.99 each – and that Google says: “Once users buy the page, they will own it forever’. That last bit exhibits a certain lack of understanding on someone's part of how copyright and authors’ rights work. Surely users won’t have the right to sell the work on – but who’s going to tell them this?

Google describes the scheme as “an experiment to see if users will be prepared to pay for individual web pages if the buying process is sufficiently easy” and features Dorling Kindersley and Oxford University Press as partners.

A fair deal for creators: sign up!

The European Parliament has approved a report with interest. Meanwhile, the European civil service, with interest. From the Commission, the Organisation for Fair Trade for Creators (fair-trade-for-creators.org) has approved a report

www.change.org/petitions/fair-deal-for-creators and spread the word about it.