



GMB Northants Community Branch Minutes 27th February 2025

Secretary, Alan Irwin,
www.gmbnorthants.org

Correspondence.

- 38 Degrees – NHS update.
- NAU, Q3 audit.
- Pat – Regional Equalities Training
- Pat – MPs response to WASPI.
- GMB Education – Confidence building.
- Members correspondence.
- Pat – Michelle Mc Crossen – Equality Award.
- Martin Allen – Future Strike Pay proposals.
- Team NHS – NHS privatisation.
- Adrian – website update.
- Adrian – Website invoice.
- Jackie – foodbank – now setup!
- CEC minutes.
- Martin Allen – vacancies.
- Rachelle – school visit.
- Kettering LP.
- 38 Degrees – Royals charging the NHS.
- Special branch payments – submitted.
- Richard Taylor – tutors required.
- Adele Atkiss – delegates to Congress
- Wortley Hall.
- Neil – H&S Forum.
- Adel Atkiss- GMB vacancies.
- Preet Kaur – MP- Co-operative Party.
- Keir Starmer LP update.
- CEC – Region minutes.
- Adele Atkiss – Red Flag Festival, 30th May 2025.
- Retired members – letter out by Secretary.
- Richard Taylor – Case work systems – course.
- East Midlands LP – election May 2025.
- Nicaragua – update.
- Gordon – Auditors Q3.
- LGBTQI – Corby 2025.
- Workers Memorial 2025.
- Durham Miners – Refurbishment Fund.
- Ian Cameron – Election. Secretary – paper candidates.

Branch Secretary's Report

- Secretary reported on the meetings he has engaged with during the month.
- Workers Memorial Day – no response from other local unions on events that may be taking place. Secretary to further report.
- Branch election, June 2025. Nominations to open in March and for the opportunity for prospective candidates to talk to branch officers.
- Letter from the Regional Secretary – Martin Allen regarding future strike benefits/payments. Branches, could potentially, be expected to contribute in the future. General discussion around branch funding in other regions.
- Retired branch members meeting – reasonable turn out. The meeting concentrated on gaining better constitutional recognition in the future.

Presidents Report

- The President gave a full and comprehensive report on the following items raised at regional committee:
- Branch Development plans. Concerns expressed about the lack of reports coming through from the branches.
- Jackie reported on her community work at Irthlingborough Food Bank. Very strongly supported in the area and very pleased that the branch are supporting them with funding.
- Jackie reported that she is standing in Wellingborough in the forthcoming Unitary Council elections in May.
- January regional committee. Report on ongoing disputes in the region.
- Regional correspondence available on request.
- 'Branch Development Plans – 42 received to date.
- Time for Dads' – time for dads following bereavement.
- Will Thorne Award. Criteria to be decided in the coming months.
- Congress 2025 – 74 nominations – region allowed 64 delegates.
- Legal cases; report on personal injury cases settled.
- Report on employment case assessments.
- Equalities report from Sarah James.
- Report on regional recruitment and retention.
- Regional Secretaries report. Available on request.
- Report on industrial disputes in the region.
- Sponsorship and financial requests.

Jackie was thanked for her report.

Digital Communication Office

- Website activity (GA4) for last 30 days: we had 218 (-52) website visits (sessions) by 167 (-20) people (users)
- News Items Added to Website:
 - [Northants Community Branch Retired Members Meeting 20th Feb 2025](#)
 - [Confidence Building and Assertiveness Course](#)
 - [Young People Need Trade Unions](#)
 - [Alice Hawkins Event Monday 10 March 2025](#)
 - [February 2025 GMB Northants Branch Meeting](#)
- WhatsApp Group has 49 (+4) members
- The February Email Newsletter was sent out on Friday 21st February 2025 to 1,685 members (January members list) and has been opened by 762 members, a 45.4% opening rate
- Retired members Email was sent 18th February 2025 to 103 members, and has been opened by 54 members, a 52.4% opening rate
- The Young Members email was sent out 18th February 2025 to 110 members, and has been opened by 48 members, a 43.6% opening rate
- X / Twitter: 787 (-5) Followers.
- Facebook: 446 (+0) Followers. Last 28 days: Posts Views 292 (+371%) Seen (reach) 65 (62.5%)

Equality Officers Report

- Pat reported on the recent equalities conference and all the themes that were covered, e.g. fighting the far right.
- Pat was re-elected regional committee.
- Pat thanked the branch for her recent award for tireless work in equalities.
- Promotion of the GMBs Motor Drivers Fund and the Credit Union.
- Jackie, spoke about WASPI campaign – Funding needed to keep the campaign going. Branch agreed £200. Secretary to follow up. There is a debate in Parliament on the 17th March 2025. Locally, Lee Barron MP supporting the campaign.

Youth Officers Report

- Verena reported on the scheduled young members meeting on the 3rd April 2025 via Zoom.
- Reported on mental health training that is available on-line, mostly free of charge.
- Verena reported on recent pay claim within the NHS.

Accompanying Reps Report (ARs)

- Alan reported being extremely busy recently withing the branch areas.
- New system being developed for allocating cases withing the Midland region.
- Secretary reported on some excellent feedback from members represented.

Workplace Report

- Abi doing short videos, as part of their recruitment drive, including quizzes about the history of the GMB, which was “incredibly popular” with members.
- Continuing to get information out to the members about union benefits.
- Health and Safety update in the store.
- Report on a workplace inspection and issues raised in-store.
- More recruitment scheduled.
- Report on event for Workers Memorial Day 2025.

Any Other Business

- Pat – feedback from WASPI – thank you for the proposed donation.
- Pat nominated to attend Women’s TUC conference.