



# Branch Newsletter

**March  
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2010**



## Just getting on with the job

Our Branch AGM took place on the 9th February where the election of branch Officers also occurred. Probably the most significant outcome of those elections was the decision of the incumbent Branch Treasurer Steve Beckley to finally hang up his cheque book and stand down from his role.

Steve has been a magnificent servant to this branch, the former East Anglian Branch and the Norfolk Branch before that, which gives you some idea as to how long he has held this important and sometimes difficult role. Steve has always given me and the rest of the committee one less thing to worry

about in terms of Branch funds due to his ability to “just get on with the job”

Expenses, invoices, and annual returns all done on time and in meticulous fashion, his end of year Chancellors speech was a joy to behold, and I’m sure some people only turned up just for that moment. So it is not without a tinge of sadness that I offer a huge and sincere thanks to Steve for everything he has done on behalf of myself, the branch committee, our members and UNISON over the years, sending with him our good wishes and good health for the future. (Picture L-R Jackie R Ross S- Kevin R- Steve Beckley- John Toomey)

On that note I would also take this opportunity of welcoming Wendy Senter onto the Committee as the new Branch Treasurer. Wendy somewhat bravely put herself forward for the role, and I look forward to working with her in the future. I have every confidence that she will do an excellent job for the members and the Branch finances will be in good hands. To that I would also like to add thanks to all the other volunteers that put themselves forward for Committee members once again this year for what can sometimes be a very challenging, time consuming, but often rewarding role, Thank you.

On the 28th of January I met for the very first time with the Trust’s new Chief Operating officer, David Donegan where we had a very worthwhile and forthright discussion about the Trusts future Strategic Direction, partnership working and funding issues. David offered his commitment to working with UNISON on key projects, and of his desire to harmonise outstanding legacy policies such as Meal Breaks, annual leave, bank holiday working, and the deployment of relief staff to name but a few.

Several dates have been put into diaries and some discussions have already taken place. We will be reporting back and consulting with members, on some of those discussions, so keep an eye out for the newsletter and visit the website regularly. You may also have seen in recent editions of Focus East that the trust has recently appointed two new directors, Dr Pam Crispin, and Sheila Reavey, whose main spotlight will be in the area of Patient care. Although I am yet to meet either Pam or Sheilagh, I look forward to doing so, and as professional clinicians involved in the care of patients, I’m sure everyone in the Trust will be keen to see the clinical programme back on the Trust’s priority agenda.

I have called a meeting of Senior Branch Officers on the 17th March where we will be reviewing our Branch structure and exploring ways that we can become more efficient in offering a service to our members. Until that has taken place I would like to remind members that if they have a local dispute or enquiry regarding their work, that the first port of call should be their local departmental rep or County lead, this should elicit a timely response and resolution. I would respectfully ask that members refrain from going straight to the Branch or Divisional Secretaries wherever possible, the reason being that due to the almost impossible workload we find ourselves under at the moment there will almost certainly be a lengthy delay in getting back to you, our desire is to offer the best and most efficient use of our representatives that we can, so your cooperation in this matter would be much appreciated, and hopefully beneficial to all.

K Risley Branch Secretary

## Branch Committee Update on Branch Officer Posts at February 9th AGM)

**Essex & Herts membership ballot required**

**Branch-wide membership ballot required**

**(nominated but confirmation of acceptance required)**

**(nominated but confirmation of acceptance required)**

**Cambridgeshire membership ballot required**

**Norfolk membership ballot required**

The table below shows the outcome of the recent branch officer and county lead elections which took place at the Annual General Meeting, held in Cambridge on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Ballot preparations are underway and voting papers along with individual candidate's addresses will be posted out to member's home addresses in due course.

Jackie Robinson  
Divisional Secretary  
Beds & Cambs.

### **Please Note.**

This page reflects the status of Branch Officer positions at the time of going to print and as such will vary very slightly with the Branch 2010 Officers chart on the back page of this Newsletter.

By next month Ballots will have decided outcomes, and confirmation of unconfirmed posts will be known, and the final 2010 listings will be shown in full on the back page of the Newsletter as usual. Many Thanks  
E. M. Comms

# Thank you for updating your membership details, please keep it up....

## Membership Details Update

I'd like to start by thanking those of you who took the time to send your current home/workplace addresses, contact numbers and job title information to the [detailsupdate@eeas-unison.com](mailto:detailsupdate@eeas-unison.com) address published in last month's newsletter.

Having done this, you will have found that it only takes a couple of minutes to do it and once we have received the e-mail from you, it takes us less than 5 minutes to update the membership records accordingly, so even if you haven't changed your details for years, it would be really helpful if you could still e-mail them over to us and we will then make a file note on your record indicating that the details listed are current as of that date.

With a branch-wide ballot about to be undertaken and papers being sent out to your home address, it is highly likely that a number of you won't receive any because your home address details are out of date on our system which in turn will mean that a number of potential and important votes may be lost and all for the sake of not making time to send a brief e-mail to your branch membership officer. Out of date and incorrect membership records cause unnecessary delays and difficulties.

Don't miss out on your chance to vote...update your records today!! Jackie Robinson

## Tory threats to Unions

Dave Prentis, General secretary of the Public Services Union UNISON, accused the Conservative party of 'reverting to type' by threatening to tighten anti-union laws"

Tory leader David Cameron told the Daily Telegraph newspaper "he would be very happy to strengthen the law to stop public sector workers staging walkouts over his plan for a wage freeze" Dave Prentis said "This is typical of Cameron's Tories who are reverting to type" Instead of attacking their rich friends in the city who caused the recession, they turn their fire on ordinary hard working public servants.

## Introducing Craig



I was elected as LGBT Officer at this years AGM, and am very happy to take on this role and serve our members. Over the years I have staffed a 'Helpline' for people who identify as LGB/T, or for those who are seeking support on 'coming out', organised award evenings to promote local role models from this community, and sat on a multi-agency homophobia reporting committee.

As an Ambulance Trust we do seem to attract a diverse workforce, but there is still much we can do within the wider community as there are still inequalities within the National Blood Service, and unfortunately still too many reports of homophobic hate crimes. As LGBT Officer with UNISON, I would like to ensure that all staff who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender, are represented through decision making, and feel inclusive within their working environments, whether this is as operational staff or within HEOC or other supportive roles. I have started to develop a database of support groups in each locality, and would invite members to email me contact details of any organisations, social groups, or LGBT venues in your area, so I can ensure that my list is kept up to date. If anyone has any ideas on developing social/ support groups within your locality for staff, Please Contact me on— [craigab@hotmail.com/07716890070](mailto:craigab@hotmail.com/07716890070)

Craig Borrett, LGBT Officer Thanks Craig

Fancy Sponsoring me ?

Yes I'm at it again, but this year I've upped the ante and am extending the distance for one of the runs...

Although I'm still going to do the Cancer Research 5K's. I decided I'd like to share my fundraising efforts with another worthwhile charity- The Multiple Sclerosis Trust, so I've signed up to the BUPA Great Manchester 10K run in May as well.

Please do not feel in any way obliged to sponsor me for both or either of the events because I fully appreciate that there's rarely a day goes by without someone rattling a tin or waving a sponsorship form under our noses, so I won't feel offended if you would rather decline.

However, if you would like to, you can either do it using the paper form I will be carrying around with me, or on line at the "justgiving" sites. Multiple Sclerosis Trust- BUPA Great Manchester 10k Run (16th May 2010 <http://www.justgiving.com/blondbird>

Cancer Research- Racefor Life 5K's 13th June and 25th July.

(All contact details for Jackie also on the back page).

<http://www.raceforlifesponsorme.org/blondbird>

Whatever your decision, Thanks for taking time to read this Jackie Robinson

Jackie's on the run !



## General Secretary's Election on the way

There will be an election for the general Secretary of UNISON this spring decided by the Executive Council. The meeting voted to set the process in motion for a five-month election period, which will see nominations take place from February 4th to 1st April, with a Ballot starting on the 17th May and ending on the 11th June. ahead of the Unions National Delegate Conference later that month. The result of the election will be announced on the 22nd June. The NEC noted that the current General Secretary Dave Prentis was entitled to remain in office until May 2013, under Trade Union legislation and his current contract of employment. However Mr Prentis made it clear that he wished to submit himself for re-election this year. He said "I have always believed that the democracy of our union is paramount, and also because a new democratic mandate for the General Secretary in the difficult times we are entering into, will help build a strong united union capable of defending the interests of our members, which is needed now more than ever."

The NEC agreed a timetable that will allow the election of a new General Secretary with a mandate to go forward to meet the new challenges of whichever new government is elected in the general election, and take forward the policies decided at June's National Delegate Conference. Dave Edwards

## UNISON Branch Officer Listing 2010

Please note where a Branch Officer has taken on other roles these are also listed below

Chairperson Ross Stanton 07733225887 ross.stanton@eastamb.nhs.uk  
& Equalities Officer zolaisgod@hotmail.co.uk

Secretary Kevin Risley 07866573149 Kevin.risley@eastamb.nhs.uk

Treasurer Handover taking place from Steve Beckley 07765423849  
Stephen.beckley@eastamb.nhs.uk to Wendy Senter wsenter@eeas-unison.com

Divisional Sec Barry Jarvis 07725065539 Barry.Jarvis@eastamb.nhs.uk  
Norfolk & Suffolk

Divisional Sec Essex & Herts to Ballot John Davey or John Lee  
Divisional Sec Jackie Robinson 07890357493 Jackie.robinson2@nhs.net  
Beds & Herts jrobinson@eeas-unison.com

Branch Health & Safety Officer 07736110725 alan.chamberlain@eastamb.nhs.  
Safety Officer To Ballot Alan Chamberlain or Rik Gray  
Communications Eric Miller 07787644678 eric\_miller@talk21.com  
Newsletter Tele/ Fax 01603-737176

Herts County Lead Rep Stuart Reeves 07772479434 sreeves@eeas-unison.com  
Young Members Officer and sreeves@btinternet.com  
Membership Officer  
Education Ian Cook 07932680885 Ian.cook@eastamb.nhs.uk  
Co-ordinator ickook@aol.com

Welfare Alan Chamberlain 07736110725 alan.chamberlain@@eastamb.nhs.uk  
Job alan@archamberlain.co.uk  
Shared with Carole Taylor 07745549287 carole.taylor@eastamb.nhs.uk

Non Emergency Carole Taylor 07745549287 carole.taylor@eastamb.nhs.uk  
Services  
Disabled Dave Edwards 07884327916 dave.edwards@eastamb.nhs.uk  
Members & Norfolk County H & S lead redfire@googlemail.com  
To Ballot with Rik Gray rgray@eeas-unison.com  
Information Darren Meads 07534900247 dmeads@eeas-unison.com  
I. C. T. Officer & Website

Pensions Ian Mc Kenna & 07870544241 ian.mckenna@eastamb.nhs.uk  
Retired Members Officer iantracey@mckenna2003.fsnet.co.uk

LGBT Members Craig Borrett 0771680070 craig@hotmail.com

Women's Officer Carole Taylor NSC 07745549287 carole.taylor@eastamb.nhs.uk  
Job Shared with Lesley Hilton BHE 07989786661 lesley.hilton@sky.com

Beds County lead Rep Jackie Robinson 07890357493 jrobinson@eeas-unison.com  
Cambs County Lead Rep Ballot Tim Killick or Peter Davis tkillick@eeas-unison.com  
also Life-long Learning Rep / ULR Rep. p.davis21@ntlworld.com  
Essex County Lead Rep John Davey 07713259924 johndavey@essexamb.nhs.uk

Suffolk County lead Rep Tim Ingall 07920442315 tim@driftway.plus.com

Essex County H & S lead Peter Kelly peter.kelly@essexamb.nhs.uk  
Peter.kelly@talktalk.net

Black members Officer anand pillai 07904450087 anand.pillai@eastamb.nhs.uk  
(Interim) Anandm.pillai@ntworld.com  
John Lee Labour Link Officer 07719660747 John.Lee@essexamb.nhs.uk  
Branch Accounts Auditors Andy Broad & Candy Tilson  
Environmental Officer Gary Applin gapplin@eeas-unison.com  
International Officer Richard Lewis rlewis@eeas-unison.com

John Toomey Regional Organiser UNISON j.toomey@unison.com

## Health & Safety 2010

We are now well into the New Year, so may I send best wishes for 2010 to you all. Hopefully the New Year will meet all your expectations.

Speaking of expectations, the Branch is committed to focussing on the improvement in the quality of Trust Workplace Inspections for the coming year.

It has been identified that historically the amount of inspections carried out in the past has been only a very small proportion of areas within the Trust. This situation has in the main been caused by the lack of workplace representatives, time and geographical area of the Trust.

In order to rectify that situation, at the end of 2009, a Branch health and Safety Action Plan for 2009/2010 was formulated.

### Statement of Intent

In accordance with that Action Plan, it is the Branch's intention to target and prioritise Workplace Inspections within the Trust. A bold initiative indeed.

The intention is that Workplace representatives, County Health & Safety Leads, liaising with relevant Branch County Lead Reps and appropriate managers, will carry out as many Workplace Inspections as possible in each county within the trust, and that workplaces not previously visited will be given a high priority. Copies of all inspections carried out should be sent to the Branch H&S Officer so that the premises requiring attention can be identified.

### Health & Safety Representatives

Workplace ballots have taken place but as yet some results are unknown. Hopefully there will be many of you who have an interest in Health & Safety and have put yourselves forward for election. If you haven't already done so, think about it and give your County Health & Safety lead or the Branch Health & Safety Officer a call.

### County Workplace Health & Safety Reps

It is envisaged that meetings of the Health & Safety representatives of each county will be held on a regular basis under the Chairmanship of the relevant County H&S Lead in order that there can be more dissemination of information, concerns and ideas. Minutes of these meetings will be published.

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