

**L26 BRANCH MEETING
WEDNESDAY 28TH MAY 2025
GMB RICHMOND AND WANDSWORTH**

CHAIR & MINUTES: Sonya Davis

ATTENDEES: Maureen Campbell (MCA), Dave Pottinger (DP), Patrick Duggan (PD), Ewan Coates (EC), Sonya Davis (SD) Kathy Kettell(KK), John Gray (JG), Maria Charles (MC) Morgan Harris(MH), Michelle Powell (MP), Kath McDonnell, Jennifer Edwards (JE), Gena Grant (GG), Spencer Barnshaw (SB), Craig Prickett (CP)

APOLOGIES: Carla Smith (CS), Sabi Okunnu (SO), Steve Cox (SC) Charmaine Hyman (CH)

SD welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

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MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Minutes were agreed

MATTERS ARISING

Awaiting to find out about Bradstow Academisation.

SD thanked Naima Jim who has now stepped down as a rep as she is no longer employed at Bradstow

Minutes were agreed

BRANCH CONFIDENTIALITY

SD reiterated and reminded everyone that what we discuss in the Branch Meeting remains in the meeting. If anyone feels offended or wish to discuss any concern please discuss with a Branch Officer. It was agreed this was now a Branch By-Law

BANK ACCOUNT

Bank account discussed. Expenditure regarding Congress

Contractors Forum

SD informed everyone that Gary Smith General Secretary of GMB attended a meeting with Wandsworth HR, Alex Etches, Steve Pryle & Spencer Barnshaw from BWTUC, Cllr Aydin Dikerdem & Simon Hogg Leader of the Council. It was a good meeting and what was discussed and agreed is to start a Contractors Forum. The rationale for this is to identify issues that the members who are contractors are experiencing. Pat Duggan will lead on this and has been promoted to the Lead Contractor for the Branch. Kath McDonnell and Spencer Barnshaw will support Pat with arranging meetings and getting this off the ground.

PD, KM & SB spoke about their vision for the contractor's forum, and both agreed to start the groundwork first and get the membership growing for the contractors.

PD, KM & SB will liaise and design the flyer and arrange meetings with REPs to build the membership.

CONGRESS

Congress was discussed. Five motions were submitted, our delegates will speak on four of the motions.

NJC Offer

SD discussed the 3.2% increase re NJC pay points. A discussion took place as to why we are requesting to **reject the offer**.

EC raised his concerns surrounding his members. SD asked why people were not enthusiastic about not speaking up about their pay.

EC advised that he has informed members about the GMB Strike Fund, EC said he believes his members are feeling deflated as we never hit the target when they vote.

JE highlighted concerns surrounding voting and strike action. JE highlighted that Support Staff are doing multiple jobs.

SD emphasised strike is the final option but what we really would like is to get back around the table to negotiate a better offer.

SD asked about school reps relationship with NEU as they agreed at their Conference to recruit Support Staff.

EC said he has 90% of support staff at his place of work

JE has a good working relationship with her NEU Rep and over 90% are members of GMB

PD to contact SD in relation to the members who are NJC

MH stated no concerns re NEU.

Health & Safety

JE raised a question regarding H&S training and spoke about the challenges she has been experiencing. JE thanked MC for all her support.

SD spoke about the grant Wandsworth has received for environment. SD asked the question at Battersea Labour if there has been any consideration to renovate the Toilets in the Town Hall. Battersea Labour said they would feedback

EQUALITIES

MC reported that the REF are arranging an event for Windrush. They are also going to invite a few elders to talk about their journey.

SRN are arranging a Race Conference on October 4th. MC will provide update

There will be a Race Fringe at Congress.

Webinar for Equalities

EC discussed a potential Equality issue and was advised.

SD spoke about members who are anxious and stated that our role is to support, represent and advise our members. We must signpost our members if we have concerns to EAP, Occupational Health or their GP. SD reiterated the importance for representatives to ensure they put boundaries in place to maintain their health and wellbeing.

SD discussed the survey results for the name change for BAME which is now Ethnically Diverse.

SD informed everyone that Gavin Davies is the Interim Regional Secretary for GMB Southern since Justin has retired.

SD also informed everyone that she has written to Gavin Davies about Women's Conference

GG reported that she attends the Pensioners Conference in June

GG asked if the branch are able to support her expenses to Kells, Ireland. The branch agreed to donate £200 to BWTUC.

SOCIAL MEDIA

SD reported that Leya is updating our Social Media pages however is still waiting for representatives to state what they would like added to the newsletter.

MC stated that we could add events but would come back to Leya with dates. It was agreed for Leya to submit the newsletter prior to the All Members Meeting in August.

REPRESENTATIVES UPDATE

MC reported that she is extremely busy. MC spoke about her experience with AFC.

MC said that as a branch we need to communicate more effectively.

SD thanked MC for all of her support

CP stated that there are pay talks commencing on 6th June 2025 for the SEND Transport.

MH reported that members are waiting for the update re Bradstow.

MH stated that members are leaving Bradstow and going to different workplaces. SD advised MH to inform those leaving Bradstow to inform GMB Regional of their new place of work.

SD thanked Morgan for everything that he does.

A discussion relating to MH & PD honorarium was discussed and agreed.

SB reported that on 5th July BWTUC will be holding their annual John Burns Event. Everyone is invited.

MCA reported everything is fine

PD reported only concern that keeps coming up is the new orange Kringle's uniform. PD will raise the concern at the next meeting with Management

MP no concerns at Atlas

RECRUITMENT

SD stated that there are 2700+ members.

SD stated that both Goldfinch & St Annes Schools are closing.

SD reported that Alex Etches, Michelle Gordon and SD will be meeting up with the MP for East Thanet.

AOB

CP reported that Region will be balloting Kingston APCOA.

Awaiting an offer for Wandsworth & Richmond APCOA.

SD stated that the next meeting will be **an ALL-MEMBERS MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 27th August 2025 @ 1pm