



**MINUTES OF SECAMB UNISON BRANCH  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
held on 8 February 2016  
at the East Court Mansion, East Grinstead**

**Present:** James Apps (Welfare East), Hazel Brown, Nigel Coles, Clive Goddard, Bryan Hopperton, Roger Laxton, Alan Lofthouse (Speaker), Kevin Long (Treasurer), Mark Hillier, Amanda Sands, Adriano Serrecchia, Peter Steventon (Branch Secretary), Nigel Sweet, Dave Wallace (Branch Chair) and Jenny Young (Welfare West)

**In Attendance:** Stephanie Cesana (UNISON Regional Officer)  
Danni Bruce (Regional UNISON Local Organiser)  
Ann Sephton (Minute Taker)

**Guest Speaker:** Alan Lofthouse, National Health Officer

**Dave Wallace, Branch Chair opened the meeting**

ITEM	AGENDA
1/16	<b>Welcome and Apologies:</b> The Chairperson welcomed everyone present to the AGM meeting. The following sent their apologies: Kevin Hedges, Sarah Reed, Mark Drayton, Roger New (Auditor).
2/16	<b>Ratification of Officer Posts and Stewards:</b> Peter Steventon – Branch Secretary Proposed by Mark Bailey and seconded by Amy Pattenden David Wallace – Branch Chair Proposed by Richard Baker and seconded by Steve Goode Senior Rep (East) and 111 – Bryan Hopperton Proposed by Hazel Brown and seconded by Clive Goddard The Welfare Officers agreed to continuing in their posts Kevin Long, Treasurer agreed to continue in his post Stewards: Amanda Sands, Andrew Brown, Chris Blewett, Clive Goddard, Eamonn Bell, Greg David, Jess Garland, Kevin Hedges, Nigel Coles, Nigel Sweet, Pip Griffin, Scott Robinson, Stephen Harvey, Stephen Hearson had all agreed to continue as Stewards. Nigel Coles is standing for Staff Governors Nigel Sweet agreed to be our Labour Link member and was willing to be the Communications Officer. This was accepted with delight.

ITEM	AGENDA
3/16	<p><b>Officers' Reports:</b> The Officers read their reports and they were thanked for the work they carry out on behalf of the membership. The Branch Secretary thanked the Stewards for their support and the good work done on behalf of members, which has been tough in the present climate.</p> <p>Kevin Long thanked Peter Croxford, Caseworker, for the work he had done on behalf of the Branch before his untimely death and to say how sorry we all were to lose him.</p> <p>Bryan reported on the situation in EOC which is on-going and how the Branch is helping our members. We will make sure our members are not disadvantaged through their pay while doing the new rotas.</p> <p>He also reported that there is a possibility of the East Kent module being used to assist the staff of 111. Increased funding has been promised for 111 from 1 April 2016 for 2 years.</p> <p>He also reported that all staff should be able to take advantage of Key Skills Training.</p> <p>A question was raised where the Managers who had been accused of bullying would be slotted in, although some were appealing the outcome. The Branch Secretary reported that the Trust are taking bullying and harassment seriously. It could also be poor management rather than bullying, which would be addressed by the Trust.</p> <p>Rotas were discussed but the Trust would not give 25% and people were on 17%. The Trust is now looking at Rotas again. A4C rotas were allowing up to 25% but the Trust will change this. It would be Relief Staff who would not be getting the 25%. He reported that the Thanet Trial worked out at 17%. One has to do 56% of a rota to get 25%. The 1 April will see the end of the pilot. The Unions have asked the Management to put staff on the original rotas as the Trust is having Trust wide rota meetings. These will have little variables in different areas but they are inside the parameters.</p> <p>Welfare Report - Jenny gave an update on First Assist and how it works when someone calls them. The Management are now on board and they are also signing the Blue Light pledge, which will also assist our members.</p> <p>James reported that in the East they were experiencing similar calls from members to those in the West, which he is dealing with.</p> <p>Sarah Reed, Caseworker's report was tabled.</p>

ITEM	AGENDA
4/16	<b>Minutes of 2015 AGM</b> – these were accepted as a true record.
5/16	<b>Questions</b> – no questions were raised.
6/16	<p><b>Ratification of Branch Accounts:</b> The Branch Treasurer distributed his financial report. He said we are holding more money as we are not sure what is going to happen under the Government's review. Once this is known it might be a more difficult time for the Branch and funding. Roger New was thanked for his work on the accounts and throughout the year. Kevin asked if the Branch would consider a Trophy in memory of Peter Croxford and the Branch Chair suggested that this should be brought to the Branch Executive. Kevin was tasked with finding out costings for such a trophy. It was <b>AGREED</b> that these were a true and accurate record of Branch accounts for 2015/16. Kevin was thanked for all his hard work as Branch Treasurer.</p>
7/16	<p><b>Guest Speaker – Alan Lofthouse, National Officer:</b> he reported on the NHS Pay and they had asked for evidence from all parties and National gave individual ambulance information. He reported that it will be a 1% pay rise for the next 4 years consolidated according to the PRB (Pay Review Body) report going out towards the end of February/early March. After that we can consult with Branches. He also reported that A4C is also going through structural changes. It is looking at the pay structure and the job evaluation scheme and how it matches into the pay structure and how long it takes to get to the top of the Band. The problem is there is no money. Scotland has a cost-of-living and we are trying to obtain this over all the country. There is a threat to unsocial hours and this will be consulted on once we know the decisions. Annex E has been left alone although we were going to have a legal battle over this.</p> <p>ERBO, impact of increasing the retirement age for ambulance staff. Recruitment and retention is a problem for all Ambulance Services. There is a high turnover of Paramedics. We have put in a large amount of work on this, with all joint Unions. PRB is considering paying an amount of retention to Paramedics. The Ambulance profiles are being reviewed under Job Evaluation. We are moving to Band 6 and we are asking the Employers to get ready for this. We have suggested there be a Bridge Band at 5 before we move to Band 6. Some Trusts are already paying Band 6 to those with a BSc. Employers are procrastinating and there has been no agreement yet.</p> <p>ERBO in the NHS Retirement Pension, one can pay a little more each year but this does not mean you are buying more years and people would lose this benefit if they left. It does mean though if one does pay in extra that one can bid to leave 3 years earlier. As from 1 April it will be 50/50 with the Employers. This is suggested to be for people with patient contact but the Employers have gone quiet on it. There has only been one meeting on Retirement for Staff. We are also talking about Paramedics health and well-being before staff become sick.</p>

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>AGENDA</b>
<p><b>7/16</b> <b>Cont</b></p>	<p>National have been looking at career pathways over all Trusts. Also how we can protect PTS staff from privatisation.</p> <p>National Ambulance Occupational Group is meeting on 11 February and we do need to put pressure on the people who hold the purse strings as there is always a cry, "there is no money". This must be done before 1 April for after that date there is no new money.</p> <p>Ambulance Response Programme is being considered as more time is needed to triage with urgent calls. There is an NHS initiative with 6 Trusts taking part with Sheffield University looking into the outcome. Ambulance Services are to be given more time and not sending out ambulances for everything.</p> <p>UNISON have signed up to MIND but the project comes to an end in April and it will need more money to continue to run this.</p> <p>PTS privatisation the companies taking this on are finding that in 3 to 4 years it is not working and the CCG's are paying more money. As from 1 April, anyone in Sussex requiring Dialysis will be means tested to see if they need PTS.</p>
<p><b>8/16</b></p>	<p><b>Questions and Answers</b></p> <p>We are meeting with CCGs on 23 February. We have seen some threats off and we won on the morale policy.</p> <p>Discussion then took place around Paramedics and Paramedic Practitioners and the Beacon sites.</p>
<p><b>9/16</b></p>	<p>The Chair thanked Alan very much for his input.</p> <p>He also thanked everyone again for attending and the meeting closed at 19.54.</p>