

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE UNISON BRANCH

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I reach my first year in office, I realise what a steep learning curve it has been and I am indebted to the Branch Officers for their ever ready and expert advice.

As a branch and as a union we have had a very busy year with some very large projects , one of the biggest being the work carried out on the NQP newly Qualified Paramedics, and the endless work to reduce the preceptorship period down from 2 years for as many of our members as possible.

Our colleague here tonight, Alan Lofthouse, needs to be congratulated for the work he has put into the project.

The Branch Officers have been engaged on many other projects, working in partnership with Senior Management to agree and negotiate unsocial hours policy , along with all the policy's that gets approved at the JPF. These tasks are fitted in around the bread and butter work they all do of representing members at various meetings and hearings, for this I again would like to thank them for the hours they put in

On a more personal note working in the 111 environment , I am pleased to announce we now have recruited 45 new members which is encouraging , and at least 1 new steward at 111, and 2 new stewards at Ashford Make Ready with more people interested in becoming stewards.

As 111 is predominately a young person's environment, I am pleased that I have a number of candidates, we as a branch, are proposing to send one person to the young person's weekend, where UNISON is arranging to spend a whole weekend with young members outlining Trade Unions, and what they do, and how young people can be protected by being in a trade union

Again we are having regular meetings with the Senior Management and ensuring the Members rights are protected with new contracts being bid for, and working conditions being monitored.

So as we move forward into the new year, I see the branch growing in membership and determination, with an excellent team of officers always ready to champion a cause or protect and defend members rights.

Please remember the newly refurbished web site, and the information on Branch news, and events on our SECAmb UNISON members Facebook page which we encourage you to post on.

I have put myself forward for re-election as Branch Chair and if elected, can confirm I will continue to strive to make our Branch progressive, and ensure all members are encouraged to enhance unity, and cohesion, to make sure united we stand, and never to be divided and allowed to fall.

Clive Goddard