

ANNUAL REPORT.

2018

BRYAN HOPPERTON.

SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE (EAST).

As we are all aware the last year has been quite an eventful one for the Trust and we in the Union have been kept busy by the volume of work from both our members and by the number of meetings we are required to attend with Management.

Last year saw the end of my full time career in Secamb when I retired from 111 at the end of May but remained as a Bank Paramedic with the Trust.

I have continued in the Union role of Senior Rep based on 15 hours a week as sponsored by our Branch Secretary and supported by the Trust.

JPFs.

This has enabled me to continue to support Peter at the long list of Joint Partnership Forums and Extraordinary JPF's where we have been able to make good progress in discussions with Senior Management as well as maintaining a comfortable relationship with the other Unions, which has enabled a united front to be shown to Management on most occasions.

As we have developed a closer working relationship with the new Directors, we have also learnt their methods and management style.

With so many Policies and Procedures requiring updating, it has been a busy time.

The discussions on the New Rota Parameters, a new Meal Break Policy and Unsocial Hours to name but a few.

We have honoured our part of the bargain by joining in rigorous debates and discussions but have on a number of occasions found Management to be lapse in putting those policies into practice.

Be reassured we will continue to do our part and be accounted for our actions which are and have always been honourable and will persist in getting Management to do the same.

Job Evaluation.

I have also been heavily involved in Job Evaluation and am getting to know Crawley HQ quite well!

It has become very apparent that it is Unison that is offering most of its valuable time to be dedicated to this very important process.

Representation.

I have represented a number of members in all levels of Grievance, Disciplinary and Sickness and hope that the advice and support I have given has been appreciated.

I am pleased to say that seems to be the case so far but of course it is not possible to win everything or get the perfect outcome every time but I am happy to feel that where there has been a compromise reached it has been supported by both parties.

I have deputised for the Branch Secretary on a few occasions too which has given me the opportunity to gain an even greater insight into the workings of the Secamb Machine.

One concern that has been highlighted is that of sending Single Responders to inappropriate addresses, where there is either a perceived or actual risk.

With the new Ambulance Response Programme taking effect, we have been assured that there will be less lone workers on the front line as we move to more dual crewed ambulance responses instead.

There is a continuing concern that possibly due to inexperience we hear of unnecessary confrontations with abusive patients, when walking away when told to leave by the "patient" is not being used as the best and safest outcome.

It simply requires for EOC to be informed so that the individual can exit with an acceptable cause given.

It is simply not acceptable to be abused either verbally or physically by anyone, whether a patient or not.

From a personal point of view I look forward to continuing in my role until someone else is confident and experienced enough to replace me.

To this point I am personally delighted to see three new Stewards join us in Kent and I am confident that with support and guidance and further training a volunteer will be found perhaps by this time next year.

I am mindful of the fact that the senior team are becoming more "senior" and younger blood is needed to reinvigorate the Branch and take on the responsibility of being there to help our fellow members when needed.

Benevolent Fund.

I have been able to carry on in my role of Chair of Secamb Benevolent Fund and sincerely appreciate the support given by our Branch to this worthy cause.

I hope that our Chair and Branch Secretary will continue to allow our Branch to show its support via our News Letter and website and perhaps request that our Communications Officer will get the word out to our members via Face Book and Twitter too.

Don't forget your membership will allow us to help those less fortunate than yourselves and be there when and if you are the one needing help.

We are Unison.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the last 22 years that I have spent in the Ambulance Service have been immensely rewarding but on many occasions rather demanding.

In the same vein I would like to say that my involvement in Unison initially many years ago in Kent Ambulance and for the entirety of its life, in Secamb has been both rewarding and gratifying as it has given me the opportunity to help when help is needed at all levels and have the chance to speak and be heard on behalf of my colleagues in the workplace and especially my fellow Unison members.

Whilst I still intend to continue in this task with your support, I am very aware that we all need similar minded individuals to take on the mantle in the not too distant future.

Bryan Hopperton.

Senior Representative (East).

Unison Secamb Branch 20111