

National Executive Committee Report

May 2022

This is a report from Mark Wareham, south-west male seat, of the hybrid NEC meeting that took place on 25th May 2022.

Obituaries

A minute silence was held to remember members and activists of the union who had died recently, including staff member Alan Fox.

General Secretary Report

Christina's written report covered the 18th of June TUC demo, pay and cost of living campaign, the new social care national partnership forum, the pending national Covid enquiry, the legal judgement on unlawful discharges into care homes during the pandemic and international trade union concerns in Iran, Belarus and Palestine. There was a wide-ranging debate on our response to the cost-of-living situation and on local election outcomes. The RMT dispute was also referenced, with possible further government clampdowns on the right to strike as a result, and the ASLEF dispute in Scotland.

Liz Snape, Assistant General Secretary (AGS), elaborated on the work, advertising, messaging and support to try to encourage members and activists to attend the demo in London on the cost-of-living crisis. It was however noted that it had been a struggle so far to organise the biggest union demo in almost seven years, and that we need to reflect on why this may be.

Emilie Oldknow, AGS, gave a briefing on membership and unfortunately, we are down 21% on recruitment levels in the last year. It is a concern that we have lost members from the 27-39 age group and that a majority of our members are now over 50.

Stephanie Thomas, AGS, gave a brief update on the member engagement and activism project, that formed part of our recent Get Active event in the southwest, and we should get a more detailed briefing at a future meeting.

National Delegate Conference

We received a report on deferred motions, including noting that motion 121 'Speak Up and Speak Out' had been readmitted to the agenda on appeal. The D&O committee recommended that the NEC opposed the motion based on part two of the instructions being 'unrealistic'. I voted to support the motion, but the NEC voted by 24 to 13, with 12 abstentions, to oppose the motion.

We went through all the amendments to motion and agreed our position on each of them. There was a vote on amendment 65.5 which the NEC voted to support, I voted to oppose.

An NEC motion on a review of legal services was ruled out of order and not printed in the conference documents, we agreed to ask for Standing Orders to print this motion.

I informed the NEC about the motion that was passed at Southwest Regional Council on 20th May to censure the NEC for the decision to 'disinvite' or 'reject the officer proposal', whichever way we want to put it, and to reinvite / invite Angela Rayner to NDC. The Chair had not received the motion from SW region by the time of our meeting, although Liz Snape advised that an emergency motion had been submitted for NDC, and he did not take a vote on my proposal to reconsider the matter. Liz reported that Angela has been invited to a fringe Labour Link event at NDC.

We agreed an emergency motion on the government failure of protecting residents in care homes during the Covid pandemic.

Disciplinaries / Staffing

Reports were noted, and one point of clarification was addressed on a staffing matter.

Vacancies / elections

It was noted that a vacancy from the Northern Region on the NEC had arisen, and it was noted that a vacancy had also arisen on the Labour Link Committee from the NEC due to the same resignation. Election procedures and timetables were agreed. The composition of our delegation to the TUC was also agreed.

Reports

We had reports from our various sub-committees which included a review of industrial action procedures and the new membership system Merlin going live in July.

Motions

Several branch motions on various subjects, such as 'Not in our name' criticising decisions made at October's NEC meeting, were noted, although it was also noted that there is no formal process for branch motions to be considered by the NEC. There were also several regional motions all on NEC decisions and it was agreed to note those on a vote of 28 for 6 against and 6 abstentions, and it was noted that regions can send motions direct to the NEC.

Next meeting

14th June, immediately prior to national delegate conference.

National Report

Here is a weblink to the summary of the meeting produced by the centre –

<https://www.unison.org.uk/news/article/2022/05/unison-vows-to-keep-up-the-pressure-on-cost-of-living-crisis/>

One of your south-west reps



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