CONGRESS 2017 - PLYMOUTH

Wow, even though Congress was cut short because of the General Election what a packed schedule it was for delegates from Yorkshire & North Derbyshire region. We were at the rostrum more than 30 times to move an array of motions put forward by our branches in the region.

The highlight for us was the presentation of the President's Leadership in Equality Awards which we won for the Most Inspirational Equality Project for Organising, plus carrying the national banner in the opening ceremony. We managed to hit the headlines too with reports on our shocking findings about violence in schools, insecure work and the gig economy and the scale of job losses in the UK manufacturing industry.

We also heard from Brendan Cox who paid tribute to his wife Jo Cox, former MP for Batley & Spen who was murdered last year.

Even though our time at Congress was cut short our delegation managed to pack so much in and play a pivotal role in the proceedings. They were a credit to the region and did us proud.

To watch the opening congress video click here: https://www.facebook.com/GMBunion/videos/302358560187945/

Jo Cox Awarded A Special Posthumous Eleanor Marx Award at Congress

We were proud to have welcomed Jo Cox’s husband Brendan to join us at Congress to present him with a posthumous award for Jo, former MP for Batley & Spen.

If you would like to see GMB’s tribute to Jo Cox then please click here.
The Activist@Congress

Ben Cain from Bradford Public Services Branch speaking on motion 138: Foster Carers

Yusra Hussain from Bradford District Care Trust Branch speaking on motion 244: Humanity & Racism

Mark Hirst from BASF Branch speaking on motion 367: Stop British Bombs Falling On The Yemen

Alex Burton-Keeble from Barnsley Health Service Branch speaking on Motion 13: Organisers’ Toolkit

Neil Derrick, Regional Secretary speaking on composite 12: ASOS

Amanda Burley from Leeds Civic Branch speaking on motion 284: Justice For The Innocent

L to R Andy Irving, Maria Ford and Neil Derrick

Members taking part in the vote

THE ACTIVIST
GMB - Grove Hall - 60 College Grove Road - Wakefield - WF1 3RN
0345 337 7777  www.gmbyorkshire.org.uk

2
ASOS – TUC Decision
‘Community Must Leave The Site’
We are delighted to advise that we have now received the decision of the TUC Disputes Panel which was considering our complaint about Community activities at the ASOS/XPO site in Barnsley. Neil Derrick, GMB Regional Secretary, announced at GMB Congress in Plymouth that the TUC has made the following award:

- Community has clearly and significantly breached TUC Principle 3 in relation to their activities at the Barnsley site
- Community should approach the employer with a view to securing union recognition for the GMB at the Barnsley site
- Community must withdraw its organisers from the Barnsley site and cease all recruitment activities with immediate effect.

The TUC will review the position within three months and if need be make a further binding award to ensure compliance by Community.

We at the GMB believe that given the circumstances this is the right and appropriate decision by the TUC and we very much welcome that they have found in our favour.

We are more determined than ever now to ensure that we give the workers at ASOS/XPO in Barnsley the voice they deserve and that they get the union of their choice, not the employer’s choice, which is the GMB and always will be.

We will be back campaigning at ASOS/XPO with immediate effect to secure recognition and build the union further.

President’s Leadership Award for Equality 2017
The region was honoured to have been awarded the President’s Leadership Award for Equality 2017 in Category 3: Most Inspirational Equality Project for Organising.

This is in recognition of the fantastic campaign ‘Mental Health Matters’ which has been devised and run predominantly by our brilliant Young Members’ Group within the region. The campaign included exemplary use of digital media to raise awareness, engage and encourage activism on the issue of mental health. This led to increased knowledge on mental health and support from the Labour Party. The award was made to Beccie Ions, a member of our Regional Young Members’ Committee and also our National Young Member Observer on the CEC at Congress. This is a prestigious award that our Young Members’ Section thoroughly deserves and our congratulations go to them for campaigning on such an important issue.
Europe’s Public Service Workers Deserve A Pay Rise  Public Service Day 23 June
GMB’s European affiliates, European Public Services Union (EPSU), has organised ‘A Pay Rise for Europe’s Public Service Workers’ Day’ on and around 23 June.

Now the general election is over the GMB’s Public Services Pinch activity is being stepped up and whilst time is tight we are hoping workplaces can get involved in the campaign. We want to get our message out that it is time for our recovery, with a need to increase wages after years of pay restraint and freezes. We hope you can get involved on the day by uploading pictures of workers and union members to social media with messages of support.

These pictures and media actions help underline and make visible that all of Europe’s Public Service Workers support each other and deserve a pay increase.

So it’s relatively easy to get involved and the European hashtag will unite us with Public Sector workers across Europe.

Materials to download include: A briefing and press release on how the pay of public service workers has suffered since the financial and economic crisis. We have adapted the Pay Pinch materials to add the EPSU logo for the action. They can be found and downloaded here used in various combinations. We ask you to use the hashtag for the action #PublicServicesDay in combination with #OurPayRise & the GMB hashtag remains #PayPinch

Please get involved and support the European Day of Action that will help to unite Public Sector Workers.

Care On Tour
Earlier in the year we held a series of events in eight different locations across the region for those who work in care. Long shifts, concerns around low staffing levels, breaches of the National Living Wage, unpaid breaks that are rarely taken and bullying are all issues that we regularly confront for these low paid workers.

Loretta Nonxoloba, a team-leader for Creative Support in Leeds attended one of the sessions and won our prize draw. Congratulations to Loretta who will put her £125 voucher towards a new laptop. Thanks to branches, stewards and members for both supporting the tour and in helping us raise the profile of our fantastic GMB carers.

Foster Care Fortnight
As a part of Foster Care Fortnight the GMB hosted coffee mornings to bring together foster carers from different local authorities. We took the opportunity to consult with foster carers about what to include in the GMB report which was submitted to the latest government inquiry regarding fostering - the National Fostering Stocktake. This report is now available on the national website at http://www.gmbyorkshire.org.uk/foster_carers

Foster carers continue to join the GMB across the UK. They are considered to be self-employed and have turned to GMB for support in fighting for improvements to the current fostering system and for the professional recognition they deserve.
Meet GMB Representatives At UNIONLINE

UNIONLINE is your trade union law firm, established by the GMB and CWU just over 3 years ago.

Over 100 employees work from the site in Sheffield offering support to union reps and a broad range of legal services to our members up and down the country.

For those that are not aware, UNIONLINE is wholly owned by GMB and CWU and as such operates on a not for profit basis which means that they can focus on providing the best possible service and value to members, rather than focusing on profit.

Deanne Ferguson, GMB Organiser, said: “Due to the hard work and commitment by all staff, UNIONLINE is going from strength to strength.”

“Four new GMB representatives have been elected, making a team of 5. The team has worked hard securing their 2017 pay claim and organising membership on site to well over 80%.”

“I am proud we offer such a dedicated service to GMB members and it’s a pleasure working with such a fantastic group of people.”

Latest Inflation - 2017
Consumer Prices Index (CPI)  2.9%
Headline Inflation Rate (RPI All items)  3.7%

@GMBCampaigns
GMB Yorkshire and North Derbyshire Region
The Activist

Election Round-Up

Labour's John Grogan is the new MP for Keighley in West Yorkshire following the general election. John took the seat from Conservative Kris Hopkins but only by 249 votes. John Grogan said although he didn't vote for Jeremy Corbyn as leader, he gave the party a "marvellous campaign". He added that the Labour leader has given the party hope.

Paula Sherriff was re-elected for Dewsbury. Paula said "I'm incredibly proud to have been re-elected to represent Dewsbury, Mirfield, Denby Dale and Kirkburton in Parliament."

Holly Lynch defended a 1% majority to hold the seat for Labour. Her majority is now more than 5,000. She said "I'm really delighted. It was quite a defensive campaign to start with and I was just really hoping to win. I'm delighted to win with an increased majority."

Tracy Brabin hails "beautiful and brilliant Batley and Spen" as she is re-elected. Tracy holds the Batley & Spen seat for Labour with a turnout of 67.3%. She celebrated the people she spoke to on her campaign, dubbing them the best of diverse, beautiful and brilliant Batley and Spen. She added "Last October you gave this girl from Howden Clough the honour of her life and now you've given it again."

Stephanie Peacock wins Barnsley East. The former GMB official said she was "incredibly proud to have been re-elected to be the MP for Barnsley East. "Thank you to everyone who has put their trust in me."

Judith Cummins wins Bradford South despite talk of a serious challenge from the Conservatives. Judith increased her majority to 6,700 winning more than half of all votes cast.

Alex Sobel wins Leeds North West. Alex snatched the Leeds North West seat by more than 4,000 votes, overturning a Liberal Democrat 2,900-vote majority.

Richard Burgon who "really enjoyed the general election campaign" was re-elected for Leeds East. He said "In this election, I was proud to stand on Labour's manifesto, For the Many – Not the Few."

Rachel Reeves was re-elected in Leeds West she said voters in Leeds had "chosen hope over cynicism, our schools and our hospitals over austerity and a more equal society over a more polarised one."

Jon Trickett holds Hemsworth for Labour - Jon was more than 10,000 votes ahead of his nearest rival.

Yvette Cooper holds Normanton Pontefract and Castleford and maintains a healthy majority for Labour.

Rachael Maskell retained North Yorkshire's only Labour seat, York Central, with a huge majority of 18,000, making it one of the party's safest seats anywhere. She says there is "real hope for the country."

Labour's Jared O'Mara was elected the new MP for Sheffield Hallam, ousting Nick Clegg of the Lib Dems - the party's former leader - in the process. He's the first ever Labour MP for the constituency.

Hilary Benn was elected in Leeds Central. Hilary increased his share of the vote in his seat by 15.2% with the Conservatives also making a small gain of 3.2%.

Labour gain Colne Valley Tory seat, Labour's Thelma Walker was victorious in the Colne Valley seat.

Mary Creagh holds Wakefield for Labour.

Fabian Hamilton more than doubled his majority to 16,991 to retain the Leeds North East seat for Labour.

Also Victorious For Labour...

The Great Get Together
Inspired by Jo Cox

Fun In The Sun
Team GMB joined forces with More In Common, a charity set up in Jo Cox’s memory, and a number of Asian organisations in Batley & Spen to unite in a weekend of community celebrations as part of The Great Get Together. On Saturday, June 17 Batley Market Place was transformed into a giant tea party blazoned with red and white gingham. The baking heat didn’t put people off either as more than 300 people turned out for the Big Iftar in the evening.

Neil Derrick, Regional Secretary, came along to show his support for the event and to sample some local delicacies. "It was humbling for GMB to take part in something so special in the constituency which Jo Cox loved so much, said Neil. “Unity and togetherness was the order of the day and the people of Batley & Spen certainly demonstrated that.”

The ‘Innes’ Sierra Nevada 3 Peak Challenge for Help Refugees
With so much going on in the world, the terrible continuing suffering of refugees, many of them children, mustn’t be forgotten. Retired Legal Officer, Bill Innes and his two youngest daughters Morag (19) and Rhona (14) wanted to do something to assist and have set themselves the challenge of climbing the three highest mountains in Spain on one continuous three day trek to raise funds for the charity Help Refugees.

Since it was set up in August 2015 Help Refugees has become the biggest facilitator of grassroots humanitarian aid across Europe. The charity gets aid to where it’s needed most and operates in refugee camps in Greece and northern France. It also funds more than 70 projects across Italy, Serbia, Turkey, Lebanon and Syria such as empowering previously trafficked women in Sicily by supporting them to set up a micro-farming business.

Bill, Rhona and Morag will attempt to climb the three biggest mountains in Spain - ‘Los Tres Picos’ in the Sierra Nevada range are Mulhacen (3482m), Veleta (3394m) and Alcazaba (3371m). It’s very rugged terrain and altitude will make it tough going, with about 9500 feet of climbing involved (although it’s the descents that are likely to be the most painful on Bill’s knees!!). The challenge takes place over the 16,17 & 18 August so it’ll also be pretty hot.

You can sponsor Bill, Morag and Rhona safe in the knowledge every penny donated will go to Help Refugees. Just go to https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/billmoragrhona. If you don’t have access to a computer please make cheques payable to Help Refugees and send c/o Lesley O’Mara at GMB Wakefield Office.

Many thanks from Bill, Morag and Rhona Innes and from Help Refugees.
York General Branch are proud sponsors of the York and District Table Tennis Association. The annual awards evening was held on the 19th May 2017 at Holgate Club. Trophies and awards were presented by Clive Warley from GMB York General Branch. Pictured with Clive (right) is James Rule who won the York Closed Singles trophy and the Division One Singles title.

GMB members took up the offer of free tickets and a VIP treat at the last home game of the spring series for our sponsored football team Sheffield FC Ladies. As well as enjoying hospitality before and during the match, the attendees selected their Player of the Match and made the presentation on the pitch at full-time. GMB has tickets for both the ladies and men’s first teams, so why not grab yourself a ticket. 2017/18 fixtures will be circulated as soon as they are made available. For further information contact Paul O’Brien by email on: gmbd20branch@outlook.com

Player of the Season: Sheryl McCue pictured with GMB’s Paul O’Brien

Player of the Match: Ellie Gilliatt pictured with Paul O’Brien

GMB Sponsor Final Home Game of Sheffield FC Ladies

Top Ten Company Growth Chart
May 2017

#MoreInCommon

#RunForJo
Family Fun-Day

Sunday 25 June 2017 Oakwell Hall & Country Park
6.5k cross-country challenge and 2.5k fun-run
Inspired by Jo Cox

Book online: https://racebest.com/races/runforjo-6k or https://racebest.com/races/runforjo-fun-run
email: runforjo@gmail.com tel: 01274 699142

THE ACTIVIST
GMB - Grove Hall - 60 College Grove Road - Wakefield - WF1 3RN
0345 337 7777  www.gmbyorkshire.org.uk