We were delighted to be in Brighton for our 101st GMB Congress for what was a packed political and industrial agenda. Sectional Conferences kicked-off Congress week on Sunday and the main business started on Monday morning with a tribute to Mary Turner, who was a big part of Congress for many years and was sadly missed.

Delegates from Yorkshire & North Derbyshire Region quickly got stuck into motions and robust debate; it was democracy in action. We had some fantastic fringe meetings on making Brexit work for working people, the gig economy and organising young workers. We also tried out workshops, after delegates asked for more interactive sessions. We had some great social media action and grabbed the headlines too with stories on Amazon, manufacturing, our free schools meals campaign, security and our campaign to change the law for emergency workers.

We elected our new President. Huge congratulations to Southern Region’s Barbara Plant on being elected to the role and we wish her every success.

It was great too to hear from Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn, who backed our Take Back The Tap campaign and also pledged to pay every Labour Party employee at least £10 per hour as a result of the campaign run by our young members. In his speech General Secretary, Tim Roache, celebrated the achievements of GMB members and activists who make a difference to the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. If you want to catch the Making a Difference video, you can see it and share it here:

https://www.facebook.com/GMBunion/videos/440635863026880/
The Activist @ Congress

Neil Derrick

Manufacturing Conference Delegates

Pamela Dalton (Transport & Distribution Branch)

Cindy Gavin (Leeds General Branch) & Tom Kowalski (GMB Organising Branch)

Pauline Kiely (Yorkshire Ambulance Service Branch)

Glyn Wydell (Kirklees Branch)

Ian Kemp (Parkgate Branch) and Karen Rowling (GMB Organising Branch)

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PROUD TO SUPPORT RAINBOW LACES

GMB is proud to support Stonewall’s Rainbow Laces Campaign. The campaign is a way for everyone involved in sport to show their support for LGBT equality & inclusivity. National teams, leading clubs, top athletes, fans and grassroots players are lacing up to Come Out for LGBT people in sport. Our region submitted Motion 289: Support for the Rainbow Laces Campaign at Congress which was moved by Johanna Early from BASF Branch.

Leeds United, my team, are supporting the Rainbow Laces Campaign and the LGBT+ community. This season saw the launch of the first LGBT+ Leeds United supporters group ‘Marching Out Together’. For the first time Leeds United will be a sponsor of this year’s Leeds Pride. When it was announced that Leeds United were supporting Leeds Pride there were mixed responses on the Leeds United facebook page. Some comments were vitriolic. I’ll share some of the less abusive comments: ‘This is an embarrassment’ – ‘If it’s true I won’t buy a season ticket’ – ‘They’re pandering to political correctness’ – ‘It’s an abomination’ and ‘why don’t we have a straight Pride day’?

To that question I’d answer because it’s straight pride day every single day of the year. You’ll never be bullied at school for being straight, refused service in a restaurant or a room in a hotel because you are straight, you’ll never be refused a job or promotion because you’re straight, you’ll never be beat up or murdered because you are straight. Right now there are people in the world feeling isolated and afraid to come out and be themselves.

Justin Fashanu became the first black footballer to command a one million pound transfer fee in 1981. He made history in 1990 as the first professional footballer to come out while playing at top level. He was also the very last. 20 years ago on May 2nd 1998 Justin Fashanu took his own life aged just 37.

It’s estimated there are at least 20 footballers in the Premier League who are gay, but nearly 30 years after Justin Fashanu’s very brave step, players are too afraid to come out. There is a long way to go before we have acceptance in our own country let alone oppressive and restrictive regimes around the world.

The wearing of Rainbow Laces during the world cup matches would be a very simple but strong statement by the England team at what is one of the biggest global events. The World Cup will be watched by half the population on the planet. Let’s send a message to the world."

Visit us at the GMB stall at the #RunForJo (see page 9) to get your free pair of Rainbow Laces and let’s wear them with pride!

ELEANOR MARX AWARD 2018

Our region was the lucky recipient of two awards this year at Congress. The first was the Eleanor Marx Award 2018 (Special Award) which was given to Sarah Kelly from Yorkshire Ambulance Service Branch. Sarah is an ambulance technician and has been pivotal in telling her story around her sexual assault by a patient in the ambulance whilst on duty. Sarah was faced with a lack of support from her employer, so through her GMB branch a campaign was started called Protect the Protectors. With the help of local MPs a bill was produced that calls for a new offence of assaulting an emergency worker, new sentencing guidance and new powers to take bodily samples from suspects.

PRESIDENT’S LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR EQUALITY

The second award was the President’s Leadership Award for Equality in which our region was highly commended for the work of our Equality Forum. The award was picked up by Ian Kemp from Parkgate Branch.

L to R: Tim Roache, Sarah Kelly and Margaret Gregg

ELEANOR MARX AWARD 2018

L to R: Margaret Gregg, Ian Kemp and Tim Roache

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A NEW DEAL FOR WORKING PEOPLE: MARCH & RALLY

GMB activists from across the region joined tens of thousands of protesters in London to take part in the TUC’s ‘New Deal’ march and demo, which took place on Saturday 12th May 2018. It was one of the best attended demonstrations for years, with trade union members, politicians and peace campaigners coming together with the general public to call on the Government to put an end to zero-hour contracts, increase the Minimum Wage, repeal the Trade Union Act, crack down on tax dodgers and to improve funding for education, the NHS and other public services.

GMB Regional Secretary, Neil Derrick, speaking before the march started, said: “People have had enough of low pay, insecure employment and the thought of no prospects for the future. They are sick of making ends meet, having to manage multiple jobs and raising their kids on poverty pay. The mood is changing and people are no longer going to sit by while this Government slowly dismantles our NHS and public services. The sheer volume of trade union activists here today demonstrates that. We call for a new deal for working people, and I am incredibly proud to be here standing shoulder to shoulder with GMB members and other trade unionists from across the movement.”

The march set-off from the Victoria Embankment at 12.00 noon under a river of banners and flags and made its way through London to the beat of the music made by the dozens of musicians dotted throughout the spectacular procession; arriving at Hyde Park at 1.30pm to listen to an array of guest speakers. Not even the wet weather could dampen the spirits of those present.

Speaking at the rally leader of the Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn, said: “The party will proudly support workers and give them more power at work, by strengthening their rights and freedoms to organise together to improve their lives.”

TUC General Secretary, Frances O’Grady, said: “There is a new mood in the country. People have been very patient but they are now demanding a new deal.”

All in all it was a fantastic day, one in which trade unionists across the UK came to together, to march in solidarity for better pay and job security for everyone.

Latest Inflation - May 2018
RPI: 3.3%
CPI: 2.4%

GMB Yorkshire and North Derbyshire Region
@GMBCampaigns
WITH BANNERS HELD HIGH

Historic miners’ and trade union banners, including the GMB regional banner, were carried with pride through the centre of Wakefield for the first time in more than 30 years, as trade unionists came together to reflect on past battles and the many challenges ahead.

Cheers and applause from onlookers greeted the procession which marched off from Wakefield Cathedral following a blessing by the Bishop of Huddersfield, Jonathan Gibbs.

The trade union banner parade marked the opening of the fourth With Banners Held High festival and the culmination of the week-long Collective Spirit Festival sponsored by regional unions and the Trades Union Congress as part of their 150th anniversary.

Neil Derrick - GMB Regional Secretary, Francis O’Grady - TUC General Secretary, Jon Trickett - MP and John McDonnell - MP, were the headline speakers, all of whom spoke passionately about the need to grow the trade union movement.

CHESTERFIELD MAY DAY RALLY

GMB activists and members from our Chesterfield and North Derbyshire branches turned out in force this year for the annual Chesterfield May Day Rally.

Over the years, Chesterfield May Day has developed into one of the best attended and well supported May Day events in the country. With a large and colourful march through the town led off by the Ireland Colliery Band.

Jon Smith, GMB Organiser, based in Chesterfield said: “It was an honour to be with our members and reps from the Chesterfield and North Derbyshire area. It is such a fantastic event and it seems to go from strength to strength every year.”
UK MAIL DRIVERS FURIOUS OVER FURTHER ATTACKS TO PAY

Delivery drivers at UK Mail in Gildersome, West Yorkshire, have been told by management that they are to face yet another pay cut if they work on certain rounds. This is on top of a 4% cut in pay forced upon them only a few months ago.

UK Mail, which is part of the DHL giant, is one of the UK’s leading postal services, delivering and collecting 3 billion items each year.

Andrew Aldwinkle, GMB Organiser for the site in Gildersome, said: “This new attack on pay will leave some drivers earning less than £5.00 per hour which is way below the National Living Wage.

“Workers at the site have refused to accept this new round of cuts and many are now approaching GMB to fight their cause. Some workers have had four pay cuts in the last two years.”

“DHL claims to be a fair employer that treats its workers with respect and dignity. None of that is evident at the Gildersome site. Members are fed up with constant cuts to their pay rates and the bullying behaviour of senior managers; GMB will fight to ensure workers receive fair pay for a day’s work.”

“These drivers are working excessive hours just to make ends meet and the current pay cut puts them on poverty pay. GMB is calling on the management at DHL to reverse any pay cuts and to start treating these drivers with the respect they deserve.”

“Working excessive hours could lead to some serious incidents like those that have been witnessed at DHL’s competitors. Unfortunately, this is only the tip of a very big iceberg.”

Order your new GDPR compliant joining forms

The most secure way for GMB members to join is to use online joining. Online joining means that nothing is written down on paper and that all information is transferred directly to GMB. However, if members do want a paper copy to complete then ensure it is the new GDPR compliant application form (all other forms should be recycled). You can order copies from regional office or download them at: http://www.gmbyorkshire.org.uk/gmb-application-form

If members want to join on a paper form:

Don’t keep paper copies unless absolutely necessary
If you need to send forms in the post, make sure it’s in a sealed envelope to your designated GMB office marked ‘private and confidential’.

AN AUDIENCE WITH...

The first in a series of ‘An Audience With’ sessions was held on 17th May 2018, when Richard Burgon MP and Shadow Justice Minister, joined Officers and Regional Executive Committee members for an informal discussion about what is really going on in politics at the moment. The evening held at Grove Hall was part of the region’s on-going Political Education Programme for staff and reps. It allowed trade unionists to discuss, in detail, Labour’s current policies, its strategy for the next election and gave a fascinating insight into what life is really like for a Member of Parliament. Further sessions similar to this with senior politicians will be held throughout the rest of the year.

AN AUDIENCE WITH...
WE SAY BON VOYAGE TO RACHEL HARRISON

“I’ve been privileged to be a part of the GMB Yorkshire and North Derbyshire Region for 18 years. I first started out on reception in the Sheffield office before becoming a Secretary. Then 8½ years ago I was successful in my application to become an organiser as a member of the Regional Organising Team (ROT) based in Wakefield. I have loved every second of being part of the ROT and the many challenges this has presented to me over the years. I have mixed emotions about leaving not only the ROT but also the region as I take up my new role at GMB national office.

I will be joining the Public Services’ Section as national officer starting in June on a 12 month secondment. I am looking forward to the new challenge and eager to get started, but will greatly miss my Yorkshire & North Derbyshire family.

The region’s newest ROT organiser, Jake O’Malley, will be taking over as young members’ officer. Sarah Barnes, also a ROT organiser, has been the region’s lead on academies and she will be picking up responsibilities for schools. I know both of these roles are safe with Jake and Sarah.”

ICING ON THE CAKE FOR JAKE

For the last three years Jake held the position of lead GMB representative at Amey in Sheffield, which is an outsourced contract to Sheffield City Council delivering PFI highways services in the private sector. He was responsible for over 250 GMB members which was an ‘amazing experience for him and the steward network he worked with’. “Getting the chance to work for GMB is a fantastic opportunity, says Jake, “especially working with a great team of organisers within the Regional Organising Team. As the newly appointed young members’ officer, I look forward to building on the fantastic work that has already taken place within our Young Members’ Section.”

FULL-TIME WHISTLE BLOWS FOR STEVE AS WE WISH HIM A HAPPY RETIREMENT

The region would like to wish Steve Morris all the best as he bows out of the hustle and bustle of GMB life to take up the more sedate role of a retired officer. Steve began his career with GMB following the amalgamation of NUTGW in 1991 and worked from our regional office when it was based in Leeds. Transfers have seen him move from the Wakefield team to the Brighouse team before making the final move to the Sheffield team.

He’ll be greatly missed and his absence felt. He was an integral part of the GMB team and has dedicated most of his working life to the trade union movement, scoring many victories for our members over the years. We wish him a long and happy retirement with his beloved Manchester United and his lovely family.
WAGES NOT BASED ON AGES
CAMPAIGN DAY

GMB young members across the whole country took to the streets on Saturday, 19th May 2018, to raise awareness of their Wages Not Based on Ages campaign. Each region held its own campaign day and all were a huge success with hundreds of people spoken to about the campaign. Yorkshire & North Derbyshire Region young members Damon Cooper, Joshua Smith and Ben Hawkins spent the afternoon in Leeds City Centre.

Young people’s bills are not 46% lower - so why are their wages? GMB young members are campaigning to end this pay discrimination and are calling for the National Living Wage to be extended to include under 25’s. On the 6th July 2018, there is due to be a parliamentary debate on the issue and we are calling on everyone to contact their MP and ask them to attend the debate in favour of the campaign. You can keep in touch at:

- #LivingWageBill #WagesNotBasedOnAges
- @gmbyoungyorkshire
- Facebook: GMB Yorkshire & North Derbyshire Young Members

For more details on GMB young members’ campaigns and to get involved contact: Jake O’Malley (Young Members Officer) on email: jake.omalley@gmb.org.uk or tel: 0345 337 7777.

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THE ACTIVIST

HEALTH & SAFETY FORUM
The first Health & Safety Forum of the year was held at GMB regional office in May and the attendance was fantastic, the best attended Health & Safety Forum to date. The agenda covered various health & safety issues, including the National Hazards Conference which will take place at Keele University (Stoke-on-Trent) between the 27th-29th July 2018. The region has two places for the event and if you are interested in attending please contact Colin Kirkham at regional office to request an application form (this will be on a first come first served basis). The next Health & Safety Forum date will be confirmed shortly and all health & safety reps will be invited to attend.

NOBLE GESTURE
Pictured are Dave Noble and Sally Ryan, who are both GMB Convenors in Leeds. The picture was taken on Workers’ Memorial Day, which coincided with Dave’s 70th birthday, so he was given the honour of laying a wreath outside Leeds City Library to commemorate the day.

Darran Travis, GMB Organiser for Leeds, said: “I thought it was a fitting tribute to Dave for him to lay the wreath on Workers’ Memorial Day. Dave has been a long serving member of the Convenors’ team in Leeds and a GMB member for almost 40 years.”

JOIN US FOR THE GMB SPONSORED #RUNFORJO AND FAMILY FUN-DAY WHICH WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, 24TH JUNE 2018, IN MEMORY OF JO COX. THE EVENT IS PART OF THE GREAT GET TOGETHER WEEKEND.

If you would like to take part in the run then simply turn up on the day and register. You can register from 8.30am. The fun-run (2.5k) starts at 9.30am and the not-so-fun-run (6.5k) starts at 11.00am. If you don’t fancy running then why not just come along, soak up the atmosphere and watch the England World Cup game on our giant screen from 1pm.

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#RUNFORJO & FAMILY FUN-DAY
Sunday, 24th June 2018 - Oakwell Hall, Birstall

#MoreInCommon
@DrueKateokc

Join us for the GMB sponsored #RunForJo and family fun-day which will be held on Sunday, 24th June 2018, in memory of Jo Cox. The event is part of the Great Get Together weekend.

If you would like to take part in the run then simply turn up on the day and register. You can register from 8.30am. The fun-run (2.5k) starts at 9.30am and the not-so-fun-run (6.5k) starts at 11.00am. If you don’t fancy running then why not just come along, soak up the atmosphere and watch the England World Cup game on our giant screen from 1pm.

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