



<p><b>Branch Secretary's report (ER)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legal report and running total of compensation distributed. £1,290,668.06p of compensation has been won by the branch for its members since 1999.</li> <li>- Branch committee meeting dates for 2008 distributed. The meeting scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> March will now take place on 14<sup>th</sup> March.</li> <li>- Thanks received from the Ambulance Service Workers Hardship Fund.</li> <li>- Request from the Staff Council Executive for Health Care Trusts to increase mileage allowances by 10% in the light of escalating fuel costs. This, however, only affects 'business rates'.</li> <li>- NHS Healthy Workplaces Handbook.</li> <li>- Rebuilding Cuba's Havana Ambulance Control Room – Appeal going well with £42,000 of the £50,000 raised so far.</li> <li>- Cuba Solidarity Campaign affiliation renewal due. Committee agreed to renew.</li> <li>- Christmas Bonus £125 – The branch played a major part in achieving this bonus for all members of staff. ER approached management in order to see if a token payment could be paid to all staff for the role they have played in helping the LAS to become the highest rated Ambulance Trust. ER felt that the bulletin that informed staff of this should have named Unison as the catalyst and not "trade union colleagues" as this suggests other unions were involved.</li> <li>- FRU cleaning to be carried out every eight weeks by Make Ready teams.</li> <li>- Unsocial hours update – Ambulance service staff are being taken out of AfC negotiations in regards to unsocial hour's payments as there is the potential that the <u>majority</u> of staff would lose out financially. ER believes that we should have stayed in the negotiations as now the unsocial hours payment will be capped at 25%, and there may have been the possibility of NHS Trusts achieving 30-35% unsocial hour's payments in the future.</li> </ul>	<p>Agreed</p>
<p><b>Agenda for Change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bank holidays – still at Joint Secretaries.</li> <li>- Rest break group to meet after the Christmas and New Year period.</li> </ul> <p><b>Workforce Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This item is to be temporally removed from the agenda and replaced with Partnership Forum items.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Communication (RS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Result from the LAS Unison website poll regarding should their be a referendum on the E.U. Reform Treaty were 44 – YES 5 – NO</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Retired Members (MA)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No report.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Health and Safety (JW)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IL states that the situation regarding FRU driver training is ludicrous. To respond on motorcycle or a pedal cycle a specific course has to be passed but not the FRU. The FRU's already have a high accident rate and with the plan to double the number of FRU's the LAS have a duty of care to provide this extra training.</li> <li>- Due to a budget problem only 35 Mangar Elk's will now be purchased.</li> <li>- 130 LDV's still in use by the LAS. Finance has been made available to purchase 50 Mercedes A&amp;E units. However the tendering process is 3 months alone and with ordering/ production time we are probably looking at 8-10months minimum before any new vehicles arrive.</li> <li>- FRU cleaning will now be done by Make Ready every eight weeks.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Membership (PH)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PH - "A veritable smörgorsbord" of new members distributed and discussed. The committee <u>agreed</u> the list of new members.</li> <li>- Could all reps please audit the members in their workplace and update the membership officer and assistant with any changes in their circumstances i.e. new address, change of name, transferred to another station or left the service.</li> </ul>	Agreed
<p><b>Treasurer (GA)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A reminder for all members to pay their cheques for any expenses in ASAP</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PTS (GE)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Unfortunately the Kingston contract has been lost and will end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008. This will affect 14 members.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Welfare (AS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No report.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>EOC (RC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Election result for UOC/CTA representative – Michelle Bignall elected.</li> <li>- Negotiations ongoing over lost time for part time staff over rest breaks.</li> <li>- Staff unhappy at proposals by EOC management to introduce a relief week on core rota's which will mean more weekend working.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Equalities (DS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No report.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Education (MB)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All workplace representatives have to attend a stewards/representatives course to be accredited. The next two day course has been booked for 23<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 24<sup>th</sup> January 2008 and will be at the UCU Britannia Street WC1 (Kings Cross).</li> <li>- High proportion of book grants applications coming from full time degree students. ER stated as they are paid up associate members they qualify under the current Branch arrangements. The Branch Committee will monitor this for the future.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Labour Link (JG)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No report.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Pensions (PH)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NHS pension scheme booklet distributed with recent pay slips. Areas covered include nominating a partner to claim pension after your death.</li> <li>- One years grace on pension contributions until 2009</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Regional Organiser (PT)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No report.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Staff Council (EB)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Still waiting for minutes to be published.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>PH – Paramedic pre-entry update</b> – Objections were made as to the length of the application form and requirement to have &gt;95% CPI compliance. From the recent advert 160 staff applied, 91 were short listed for assessment in December 2007 and March 2008 and so far 43 have been successful and will be offered a course. There will be two adverts in the New Year for paramedic courses and the application process is being streamlined. Staff will apply through their AOM using one form. If approved there will be a tick box form to complete along with an interview with the AOM/DSO. CPI compliance will be taken into consideration and an upward trend towards high compliance is to be expected. If approved an assessment day at Fulham will follow. HR is refusing to move on the sickness criteria as they view the transition to paramedic as a promotion rather than career development. This will be taken to the next Staff Council.</li> <li>- <b>NP – Willesden Ambulance Station site</b> – The plan is to move Willesden &amp; Park Royal to a new site in Neasden Lane which as of June 2006 was 4<sup>th</sup> on London’s most polluted sites list for air quality. Nine months on the LAS had the air tested by their own air quality testing firm who stated that the air quality is acceptable. As a result senior management have signed a seven year lease and the site is to go live by September 2008 and state that all formal negotiations have ceased. ER states that if London Air states that this site is polluted then that is what Unison will stand by. The situation has been compounded by the failure of other union’s reps at the initial consultation to act responsibly and enter sensible negotiations.</li> </ul>	<p>PH</p> <p>NP/ER</p>
<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 14<sup>th</sup> January 2008.</li> </ul>	