

# UNISON news

News from Central Sussex Hospitals Branch of UNISON

Autumn 2018

## Welcome...

**When we took over the role of joint Communications Officers we promised that we would bring you a regular Newsletter that's relevant for you in this workplace. Well... here it is! Brand new and just for you!**

This is your space and we welcome your views and news. Every edition will focus on a member of our Branch called, rather cleverly 'Meet the Member' and this edition, Micki Lake is starting us off.

Also, in this edition, we have ways for YOU to get involved with YOUR Branch. The AGM is coming up in March and this year wouldn't it be great if you could come along not just to find out what our Branch does but also the Union that you pay into as a whole and who knows, you may find that you want to get more involved too!

The AGM is also a chance to socialise with other members of the Central Sussex Hospitals Branch and this year the social is going to be a very special one...why? Well look out for the next Newsletter for more news about that... In the meantime, enjoy this one and, if you wish to comment on or have an article you would like enclosing in the next, then do let us know ok?

**Marce Quinn & George Scott**  
*Joint Communication Officers*

## Quick Quiz

*Answers on the back page (no cheating!)*

- 1) What date was UNISON formed?
- 2) What unions merged to create UNISON?
- 3) Who is the leader of UNISON?
- 4) How many members does UNISON have?

## Ever thought about becoming a Union learning representative? Here's some help!

The core course for new union learning representatives explains UNISON's approach to lifelong learning and helping working people to gain skills and qualifications and learn for personal fulfilment. With a focus on those who have traditionally been excluded from learning, you will learn how you can work with members and employers to identify learning needs, promote UNISON's learning offer, and organize around learning.

Follow-on training is also available on topics such as Dyslexia in the Workplace. Contact the branch office for more information via [office@unison-csh.org.uk](mailto:office@unison-csh.org.uk) or take a look at the websites: <https://southeast.unison.org.uk/education/> <https://learning.unison.org.uk/>

## Dates for your diary

### **Black Members' Conference:**

Where: Venue Cymru, Llandudno  
When: 18 – 20 January 2019

### **Women's Conference**

Where: Bournemouth International Centre  
When: 14 – 16 February 2019

### **National Health and Safety Seminar**

Where: 2 Lanyon Place, Belfast, BT1 3WH  
When: 13 March 2019 9:00am – 4:30pm

## Contact the branch

UNISON Central Sussex Health Branch  
Room 104, Downsmere,  
Princess Royal Hospital,  
Lewes Road, Haywards Heath  
RH16 4EX

**Tel:** 07908 157436

**Email:** [office@unison-csh.org.uk](mailto:office@unison-csh.org.uk)



# Meet the Member

**Micki Lake**, Secretarial Services Manager MSK/Neurosciences/Specialty Medicine and UNISON member. Micki is a champion archer... we asked her questions and she answered...

## How did you get started with the archery...

I started by just accompanying my son and daughter when they became interested and a few years later, in 2013 when my daughter changed to field archery (this meant that I needed to follow my daughter around a course rather than sit behind the line with a book) then I thought I'd like to have a go too and so I undertook a beginner's course and to my amazement I found I was really rather good at it for a beginner. So, good in fact that I entered a competition and won!

## What sort of archery do you do...

I do bare bow archery which is just the bow with no additional aids that you see on Olympic bows, like sights, stabilisers. So it is just me, my bow a quiver full of arrows. The targets vary depending on which speciality I am focussing on that day, so I could be shooting 3D which are plastic animals or field targets which mean that I am hiking through woodlands, Welsh quarries etc and shoot targets that have been placed around a course a few miles long.

## Tell me about your kit...

I use one of three bows – depending which bowstyle I am shooting on that particular day and of course a quiver – which is the bag the arrows go in, arrows (of course) and that's really it!

## What competitions have you taken part in and what success have you had...

I am the current British Champion for Ladies Traditional Field Archery and have been for four years now. I competed in the World Masters Games and won four gold medals, myself and my partner being the only archers to get a clean sweep of sweep of gold medals.

## What particular challenges do you face...

Well, I guess what could hold someone back is that all this is self-funded. For competitions I have travelled to New Zealand (for the World Masters Games), France, Estonia, Italy and Slovenia (where I won the silver medal in bare bow instinctive), but you can imagine this can be financially draining.

I was lucky enough to be given some arrows by UNISON



but I'm down to my last three now and obviously arrows get broken or lost and at £13.00 an arrow you can imagine this adds up on top of which I pay for my own travel and accommodation, food and a sports therapist and of course I have to pay to actually enter the competitions so any financial help I can get is amazing!



## Don't forget!

If you have a story for the next CSH Branch Newsletter or any feedback then Marce & George want to hear from YOU!

[communications@unison-csh.org.uk](mailto:communications@unison-csh.org.uk)

## Get Involved and Make A Difference:

Do you have a passion for social justice? Do you want to help promote BSUH members issues within CSH Branch and BSUH as a Trust? If so, then put yourself forward for the elections at the 2018 Branch Committee at our AGM in February. Watch out for nomination paperwork in January.

You may already know **Alex Knutsen** by reputation if not in person. He works as Advisor and Caseworker for UNISON and particularly this Branch. It was therefore with great sadness and regret that we heard that his wife, Denise, had lost her long-fought battle with cancer and died in July.

Denise, like Alex, was a committed member of UNISON working for the members of Brighton & Hove branch and her members in schools, for whom she worked so tirelessly. Denise will be remembered with love and deep affection and respect. When we heard that Alex had decided to put his grief to one side to fight in Denise's name for justice against greed, we felt it only right to invite him to write a piece about that work...



## Profits Before People – An Immoral Tale!

On 7th July this year, my wife, Denise, died in A and E at the RSCH of “locally advanced” oesophageal cancer. She had fought the tumours for nearly three years, with tremendous bravery and determination, with the help of our “heroes” in the NHS. Her story of this battle, which she and I considered was successful, is recorded elsewhere (available from [alexknutsen@yahoo.com](mailto:alexknutsen@yahoo.com) on request).

In typical fashion, Denise left her two children and myself, two main tasks that sum up a remarkable woman – the kids were to fundraise for the Sussex Cancer Fund to provide practical items for those undergoing chemotherapy via a Just Giving site, and I was to take forward a campaign that arose from the political aspects we had come across over those 3 years.

Whilst UNISON is committed to defending and improving

the NHS, one major aspect of our policies appears to have received little attention – the role of the 5 biggest Pharmaceutical Companies. All of these are involved in a “race” as we speak, to develop, and patent, a form of immunology that would successfully treat a range of cancers. For these organisations it is a “Holy Grail”. Of course, it also applies to other “races” that they are involved in, for a range of diseases. The financial figures are vast. Last year, a leaked report from one of these companies noted that it was investing £2 Billion in research and development with an expected minimum profit, if it won the “race”, of £40 Billion!

So, we have 5 Big Pharma's carrying out the same R and D, spending in the region of £10 Billion.

A simple question arises – why can't they pool this research? I note here, that I do

not have a problem, in principle, with them making profits, but do object to the cut throat way in which they are putting profit before people.

When Denise died, one of the people she had worked with for her beloved Schools Support Staff, was our General Secretary, Dave Prentis, himself a great campaigner over the issue of MRSA. Through my Branch, and with his support, next year's National Conference, will be asked to support a campaign to raise this issue with Government and internationally, to force Big Pharma to pool research in the interests of people – of us! Impossible to achieve?

Maybe it is, but if you don't ask, you don't get. And for millions of people, worldwide, it is simply a matter of life and death. I am 61 years old, and I am asking – will you?

**Alex Knutsen**

Members of UNISON are typically from industries within the public sector and generally cover both full-time and part-time support and administrative staff. The majority of people joining UNISON are workers within sectors such as local government, education, the National Health Service Registered Nurses, NHS Managers and Clinical Support Workers. The union also admits ancillary staff such as Health Care Assistants and Assistant Practitioners, including Allied Health Professionals. Probation services, police services, utilities (such as gas, electricity and water), and transport. These 'Service Groups' all have their own national and regional democratic structures within UNISON's constitution.

# You don't look a day over 21!

## Helping to celebrate the NHS @ 70 are:

Mark Sargent, CSH Branch Secretary and Stuart Thorp, UNISON Health & Safety Representative and Branch Chair.



## Answers to the Quick Quiz

Questions on the front page.

1. UNISON was created in 1993.
2. UNISON was formed out of the merger of three unions – National Union of Public Employees (NUPE) which was founded in 1908, the Confederation of Health Service Employees (COHSE) which was founded in 1946, and the National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO) which was founded in 1905.
3. UNISON is a member led union with democratic structures to ensure that its membership determine its direction of travel. It does have an elected General Secretary, Dave Prentis, who is at the head of this structure.
4. UNISON is Britain's biggest trade union with more than 1.3 million people in its membership who work in education, local government, the NHS, the police service and the energy sector.

The pay rise in a nutshell...

## Pay rise for NHS staff in England

UNISON members working for the NHS in England voted overwhelmingly to accept a three year pay deal and changes to the NHS pay structure negotiated by UNISON and the other 13 NHS unions.

All 14 NHS unions have been consulting their members on pay collectively endorsed this deal which has been overwhelmingly supported by NHS staff.

UNISON led the negotiations and the Treasury agreed to find £4.2bn of new money to ensure that these pay increases do not come at the cost of jobs or patient care.

The deal will also give an immediate £2,000 increase to lower-paid staff taking them above the living wage.

The deal also delivers substantial increases to starting salaries, meaningful pay rises on promotion and faster progression through most pay bands.

UNISON members voted yes by a large margin with approximately 84% voting to accept and 16% voting against. Over 83,500 members voted in a turnout of around 30%.

Staff, including hospital porters, 999 call handlers, healthcare assistants, nurses, midwives and others will see pay increases of 6.5% at the top of bands with more for those below – through a combination of cost of living and faster incremental increases – over the three-year period.

Every NHS worker in England will now be paid at least £8.93 an hour (18p above the real living wage of £8.75 an hour), or £17,460 a year if they work full-time.

To find out how this pay rise works out for you:

[www.unison.org.uk/nhs-pay-calculator](http://www.unison.org.uk/nhs-pay-calculator)