

# Unison NBMC

## 2023

East Midlands (Southern Branch) attendance report

Attendees – Hasmukh Mistry

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Attending this year's conference in Edinburgh seemed daunting as it was a long way to travel however it was worthwhile and in general very well attended.

Arrived late afternoon Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Jan a little later than I had set out to due to traffic on A1 gridlocked near Newcastle hence traffic diverted away.

I had my registration done so no hick ups! Managed to catch up with East Midlands Regional Delegates Gilly and Nadeem. Regrettably many didn't make the timeline for the delegates meeting as they had not arrived due to transport. I did manage to have a good catch up with Service Group and Standing Orders Committee colleagues. This was a great time to discuss Agenda, Motions, Points of order and speeches.

Gilly and Nadeem had organized an evening meal at a local restaurant for our branch delegates. I was starving and had a long day driving so decided to do my own thing.

My hotel was a ten-minute walk from the EIEC and well located in the city Centre for bars, restaurants and entertainment places.

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> 9:30am after a brief update the conference began with SOC report followed by guest speaker Unison President Andrea Egan who outlined the importance of our commitment to all aspect of our members needs and also touched on Presidential charity – Endeavour Project. To mark 2023 being Year of Black Workers all the delegates gathered had their group photos taken in the hall.

To honour his achievements, the NBMC present the Nelson Mandela Awards each year to a Black member who has gone above and beyond. The award was presented to Carol Sowell for her relentless drive to make the difference in workplace, within the Unison and the communities.

Following on our guest speaker Professor Gus John who is a campaigner, lecturer and researcher made some noteworthy speech. This is a man on a mission and his contribution to fight injustice in all aspect race relations, equalities and education is highly commendable.

Certainly, a busy day to say the least as we had twenty-five motions to get through by Sunday lunch time. Getting through the first three Motions seemed like going on forever, and it was all speeches for and no against so should have been straight forward, but it wasn't.

After lunch break it was obvious a change was required to limit the speech times as there seemed to be a lot of speakers too and had to get through a lot. By the end of the day we had

not gone through half of the motions and I wondered if we were likely to get through at all on Sunday in half a day.

So far, all the motions covered were carried and looking through the agenda and order of business it concerned me. The conference start was delayed as not all the committee and SOC had arrived at the due timeline.

Conferences resumes with SOC report 3 and to returning order of business. The motions were carried forward it was realized there were many similarities with international motions it was agreed to carry with minimum speech times so that we can get through.

At closing remarks it was clear all the motions were supported. Emergency motion not admitted on to the Agenda – was Not an emergency.

Conference closes just gone 13:00 hrs.