

Jan Smith, National RMA Secretary
Report of the virtual RMA Conference 2021 held on 19 October 2021

After the welcoming of everybody a minute's silence was held in respect of Liz Blackman, Joe Isaacs & Trevor Fellows & all other colleagues, friends & family.

My report to Conference was given in welcoming National Secretary Jude Brimble & looking forward to the RMA becoming more involved with GMB & that we would look to seek to be able to submit a motion to the GMB Congress.

The Conference heard from 20 motions & out of them there were 2 composites plus two emergency motions submitted by the National RMA. All motions were unanimously carried.

London Region's two delegates Duncan Lynsey & Heather Hamblin moved & seconded our Motions & spoke very well.

Conference was addressed by Barbara Plant GMB National President who reported on her attending the Nottingham Office on the opening of the Liz Blackman Library & that the GMB have now got 3 Women Regional Secretaries.

Gary Smith the GMB General Secretary welcomed the Conference & pleased that Jude Brimble had become the National Coordinator & grateful for the service the RMA gives. Gary spoke on

- the Financial growth areas that are falling down to furlong & the loss of members either through Covid 19 or Closing of Workplaces & close to running a deficit.
- The Union is going to make changes to Unionline.
- Need to do what we know best on organising the Workplaces .
- Have spent too much energy in Politics & not enough time listening to our Members.
- Refresh the GMB@Work which everybody have a part to play.

From listening to some of the motions there is an area for campaigns in Care Work making work better.

George Georgiou National Pensions Officer said we have got the worst Pension system & that the Labour Party & GMB support the Triple Lock. The Triple Lock was to be honoured as in their Manifesto. The Government is going to have to make a decision on what it's going to give later on & the latest on earnings should be reinstated next Year.

We were given a update on the position of WASPI Women.

Steve Kemp the Retired National RMA Coordinator also spoke on the Government's decision to reduce the triple Lock & said what is the Government going to do after the Pandemic are they going to rehash the Triple Lock. During Steve's period of time as the coordinator he spoke on how there was always a debate on Social Care his involvement with the NPC & the representation on the TV Licences Campaign. He is looking to become involved with Yorkshire RMA.

Steve thanked Pat Gannon for all her hard work alongside Derrick Baker & Jan Smith in doing so he welcomed Jude on becoming the National RMA Coordinator.

All speakers took questions from the Committee, Delegates & Visitors

Jude Brimble congratulated the members on the excellent speeches giving lots of scope for future campaigns.

Jude Brimble reported that she had taken Steve Kemp's role on the NPC Executive so GMB will continue to have a voice. Research has been done across GMB and there are 82,000 Retired Members- the Pandemic has exposed lots of inequalities-

Jude thanked Jan and GMB Staff for their help & support in making the Conference a success and will start working on a Conference for Next Year hopefully it will be Face to Face including if necessary, hybrid.

Jan Smith
October 2021