



Every day we campaign for **Security of Employment, Fair Reward** and **Dignity at Work.**

01/2011

February 2011

## WORKING FOR YOU In West and Northern Ireland Region

### Your REC for W & NI Region is:

**Keith Sartain** – Chairperson  
**Andy Seed** – Vice Chair with special responsibility for membership including recruitment and retention of members  
**Vicky Hunt** – Health and Safety co-ordinator  
**Donna Whyte** – Secretary

The committee is supported by Accord Regional Officer – Sue Johnson

### Agenda Items and outputs:

#### Welcome

I have been to a number of pathway inductions in Manchester recently and have really enjoyed meeting all new colleagues joining the retail network. Majority of new starters have joined Accord and I want to welcome you all and wish you every success in your new roles.

We have also had a number of new branches opening in the region and wish you all every success also.

If you do not have an Accord Rep in your Branch then please let me know if you are interested in standing for this role by dropping me an e-mail to [Sue.Johnson@AccordHQ.org](mailto:Sue.Johnson@AccordHQ.org)

I hope you are all enjoying the revamped Accord magazine and can I encourage you to send in any contributions you wish to make.

#### Membership

It remains very important that you advise your rep of any change to your contact details – home address, mobile phone number or personal e mail.

This will ensure that we can get information out to you in the most efficient way and keep you up to date.

If you still pay your subs direct from salary can you arrange to swap to direct debit. All you need to do is ring Union HQ on 01189 341808 and we will sort this out for you in one quick phone call.

Reps – please make sure that you book some time out to talk to any new starters at your branch.

### Partnership:

#### REC

Your REC together with your Accord Regional Officer will meet quarterly with the Regional Director and Regional HR Business Partner.

We recently met on the 20/1 with Jo Barker, HRBP, and reviewed a number of topics impacting the region at the moment. Our next meetings will take place on the 5/5 – 14/7 – 13/10. Your Area Reps will collect any issues to be raised at these future meetings.

**Area Reps** You should also meet quarterly with reps in your area and LDs whenever possible. If you arrange the dates for your area for the rest of the year please send the dates and venues through to Sue Johnson and Keith Sartain.

**Branch Reps** You should be meeting with Branch Manager on a monthly basis – if this is not happening in your Branch can you set this up please.

**New Reps** If you are a new Rep, please forward your details to Keith Sartain and he will organize your Union training with Krisna Lakhani.

Thank you all for your continued support – remember Accord membership is the best insurance you can get and its great value too.

Best Wishes

Sue

## General Updates

Ged Nichols, General Secretary, released the following update by email on the 28th of January:

"I'm writing to let you know the results of the recent ballot of Accord members on the Bank's proposals for the 2011 Pay review.

We asked members: "*Taking everything into account should Accord sign an agreement to implement the bank's pay proposals*"?

- 27% of the eligible members voted.
- 49.4% of them answered **yes**
- 50.6% said **no**

The Union's Principal Executive Council (PEC) met in Birmingham earlier this week to consider these results and the analysis provided by the independent scrutineer, Electoral Reform Services.

The PEC concluded that the ballot result means it has no mandate to sign a collective agreement on Pay 2011 with the Lloyds Banking Group at this stage.

Accord is therefore calling for urgent further talks with the Bank and for the Bank to agree to conciliation talks at ACAS if an agreement cannot be reached.

Moving forward, Accord will be seeking:

- A settlement that reflects the increase in living costs that members are experiencing
- A mechanism to get members who are below their market rates of pay and performing effectively up to the market rates within an agreed time period
- Some recognition for the heritage HBOS staff who are in the Market Plus pay zone or above their grade maximum as a result of the introduction of the new terms and conditions in 2010

Some changes to the Performance Management processes in the Bank to ensure that they have the confidence and support of the workforce.

More information on the headline ballot results is available: on the Accord website

[www.accord-myunion.org](http://www.accord-myunion.org)

There is clearly more work to be done on this issue and I will keep you updated as discussions progress

Feel free to discuss this matter with your local Accord Rep and if you have any other comments or queries please contact me direct at [ged.nichols@AccordHQ.org](mailto:ged.nichols@AccordHQ.org)

If you didn't vote and you think the ballot should be re-opened and extended please let us know."

## Update your details

If you didn't receive this email update, please email [hollie.suter@AccordHQ.org](mailto:hollie.suter@AccordHQ.org) or call 01189 347887 with your personnel number or union membership number to register your email address.

This will ensure you are kept up to date with all the Union's communications.

Ged is also now on Twitter! Follow him at <http://twitter.com/GedNichols> for important updates.

## Have You Switched to Direct Debit?

**Win £1,000**

It's never been more important for you to have a voice in your workplace. Being part of ACCORD gives you that as well as a host of other benefits.

We need you to help us to continue to make a difference by changing the way that you pay your subscriptions. Payroll deduction may not be available soon, so please swap to Direct Debit now.

All you need to do is ring Union HQ on 01189 341808 and we'll sort it out for you in one quick phone call.

Alternatively, you can change your payment method online at [www.accord-myunion.org](http://www.accord-myunion.org).

Log into the members' section and click on the 'Update Your Details' button.

Switch to DD by 31st March 2011 and you'll be entered into a **special prize draw to win £1,000.**

## Directory

The updated regional directory with details of all workplace reps is set out below. If you have any amendments to this please email Keith Sartain. If you see that your Branch does not have a REP please put yourself forward for this very rewarding and important role.

## A guide to your local contacts

**Sue Johnson: Regional Officer West**  
07500841573 [Sue.Johnson@AccordHQ.org](mailto:Sue.Johnson@AccordHQ.org)

**Jim Fielding: Regional Officer NI**  
07786664119 [Jim.Fielding@AccordQ.org](mailto:Jim.Fielding@AccordQ.org)

**Diane Robinson: PEC member**  
07534892845 or 01612 539762  
[DianeRobinson@Halifax.co.uk](mailto:DianeRobinson@Halifax.co.uk)

**Carol Knowles: PEC co-optee member**  
07813094938 or 01204 511530  
[CarolKnowles@HBOSplc.com](mailto:CarolKnowles@HBOSplc.com)

**Keith Sartain: Chair REC**  
07508726296 or 01515 519221  
[KeithSartain@Halifax.co.uk](mailto:KeithSartain@Halifax.co.uk)

**Vicki Hunt: Vice Chair/Health & Safety REC**  
07815843551 or 01270 455910  
[VickiHunt@Halifax.co.uk](mailto:VickiHunt@Halifax.co.uk)

**Andy Seed: Vice Chair/Recruitment REC**  
01772 407852  
[AndySeed@HBOSplc.com](mailto:AndySeed@HBOSplc.com)

**Donna Whyte: Secretary REC**  
07889281688 or 02838 770405  
[DonnaWhyte@Halifax.co.uk](mailto:DonnaWhyte@Halifax.co.uk)

**Karen Johnson: Area Rep Lancs West**  
07804927394 or 01612 528705  
[KarenJohnson@Halifax.co.uk](mailto:KarenJohnson@Halifax.co.uk)

### Branches:

Atherton - Steve Carroll  
Crosby - Marion Stout  
Leigh - Eddie Davies  
Maghull Westway - Vacant  
Ormskirk - Tracey Reich  
Skelmersdale - Julie Watts  
Walkden - Karen Johnson  
Wigan - Greg Eckersley

**Gill Cookson: Area Rep Fylde Coast**  
07792409052  
[GillCookson@Halifax.co.uk](mailto:GillCookson@Halifax.co.uk)

### Branches:

Blackpool Church St – Kelly Hesketh  
Blackpool Lytham Rd – Gemma Gwilliam  
Cleveleys – Dominic Bradley  
Fleetwood – Vacant  
Southport – Joyce Love  
St Annes – Fraser Todd

**Andrew Nevett: Area Rep Lancs Central & East** 07549928072  
[AndrewNevett@Halifax.co.uk](mailto:AndrewNevett@Halifax.co.uk)

### Branches:

Accrington – Val Pollard  
Blackburn – Janet Francis  
Bolton – Carol Knowles  
Burnley - Misba Tabassun  
Chorley - Vacant  
Leyland – Eleanor Baxendale  
Nelson – Susan Roberts  
Preston City – Andy Seed/Andy Nevett  
Rawtenstall – Amy Appleby

**Anne Williams-Dodd: Area Rep Outer Liverpool**  
07930451995 or 0151 551 9825  
[AWD@Halifax.co.uk](mailto:AWD@Halifax.co.uk)

### Branches:

Birkenhead – Anne Williams-Dodd  
Ellesmere Port – Charlotte Hawkeswood  
Huyton – Kelly Spencer  
Wallasey – Sue Oasgood  
Heswall—Carol McGowan  
Hunts Cross—Kelly Spencer  
Prescott—Julie Robinson  
Crosby—Marion Stout

**John Bowness: Area Rep Inner Liverpool**  
07704778974 or 01518029717  
[JohnBowness@HBOS.co.uk](mailto:JohnBowness@HBOS.co.uk)

Bootle – Sharon McGrady  
Liverpool Allerton Road – John Bowness  
Liverpool Bold St – Keith Sartain  
Liverpool Old Swan – Caroline O’Keefe  
Liverpool Paradise St – Sheena Oram

### Vacant: Area Rep Wales North

### Branches:

Bangor – Meirwen Owen  
Colwyn Bay – Derek Kirkby  
Denbigh – Emma Giblin  
Llandudno – Paul Rooney  
Mold – Kate Johnson  
Oswestry – Bali Andrew  
Rhyl – Emma Giblin  
Wrexham – Kerry Griffiths

### Vacant: Area Rep Cheshire

**Branches:**

Chester Frodsham Street– Matt Hawkeswood  
 Chester St Werburg Row - Alison Mellor  
 Northwich – Ann Timms  
 Runcorn – Caroline Holland  
 St Helens – Teresa Heaton  
 Whitchurch – Susan Nowell  
 Widnes – Patricia Bowyer

**Vacant: Area Rep Cumbria**

**Branches:**

Barrow-in Furness – Robert Ives  
 Carlisle – Gemma Johnston  
 Kendal – Vacant  
 Lancaster – Tracey Sanders  
 Morecambe – Elaine Ashton  
 Penrith – Helen Atkinson  
 Whitehaven – Lucy O’Neil  
 Workington – Sue Garrett

**Vicki Hunt: Area Rep Cheshire East**

07815843551 or 01270 455910

[VickiHunt@Halifax.co.uk](mailto:VickiHunt@Halifax.co.uk)

**Branches:**

Altrincham – Vacant  
 Crewe – Vicki Hunt  
 Macclesfield – Devi Dobson  
 Warrington - Jenny Blackburn  
 Wilmslow – Vacant  
 Wythenshawe – Vicky Haughton

**Donna Whyte: Area Rep Belfast & East Coast**

07889281688 or 02838 770405

[DonnaWhyte@Halifax.co.uk](mailto:DonnaWhyte@Halifax.co.uk)

**Branches:**

Bangor – Fiona Wright  
 Belfast Castlecourt – Michael Donald  
 Belfast Connswater – Lillian Ross  
 Belfast Donegall Square – Chris Henning  
 Belfast Shaftesbury – John Burns  
 Newry – Craig Harris  
 Newtownabbey – Christine Nugent

**Donna Whyte: Area Rep Northern Ireland**

07889281688 or 02838 770405

[DonnaWhyte@Halifax.co.uk](mailto:DonnaWhyte@Halifax.co.uk)

**Branches:**

Ballymena – Usha Carter  
 Coleraine – Noelle Lucas  
 Enniskillen – Alison Coulter  
 Larne – Barbara Murray  
 Lisburn – Jaquie Devlin  
 Londonderry – Lynn Doherty  
 Lurgan – Donna Whyte  
 Omagh – Rachel Gibson  
 Portadown – Fiona Cusack

**Although Accord’s primary aim is to protect your interests at work, we also provide a range of excellent benefits which make membership great value for money.**

**Legal Helpline** All union members and immediate families are entitled to use the legal helpline. This gives you access to a qualified legal adviser on any matter. The advice is completely confidential, **FREE** and easily accessible at all hours of the day or night.

**Call 0800 884 0118.**

**Personal Injury Claim line** If you’ve been injured in an accident, our legal experts can help. Our personal injury claim line is provided by Russell Jones & Walker (RJW), one of the UK’s leading law firms. It’s a **FREE** service to members and their families. All you need to do is pick up the telephone.

**Call 0800 884 0114.**

**Personal Accident Insurance** Your Accord membership automatically provides you with **FREE** personal accident insurance.

For details call **0870 905 0668.**

**Accord Travel Club** Before you book **ANY** holiday / tour / flight / hotel / car **ANYWHERE**, ring **0800 953 1263** and checkout your Accord Travel Club Discount.

**Commission Cashback Scheme** The Union’s Commission Cashback Scheme specialises in sourcing level and decreasing term assurance, critical illness and income protection policies for Accord members and their families. Members then receive cashback of up to 9 times their monthly premium. The average lump sum cashback paid out this year under the scheme is **£400**. Since its inception, the scheme has paid out over £2.5m. Ring our brokers on:

**Lifelink: 01189 349800**

**Valley: 01706 218719**

**Tax & Pensions Advice Line** For **FREE** confidential access to taxation and financial specialists you can call **0870 428 1909.**

**These benefit schemes aim to make your membership value for money, but the most important reason for joining Accord remains the individual and collective rights you enjoy. We will never leave you alone to tackle a work related problem and will support you to the end to ensure that you are treated fairly and with dignity at work.**