

LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH

Chair's report April 2023

I'm afraid I can't be at the meeting. Deborah will take the chair. This is my report:

BBC Freelances: I sent the motion passed at the last meeting to the General Secretary who replied that the union was already involved in the review process after the Lineker debacle. Nonetheless I suggest we go ahead with the decision to submit a Late Notice Motion to the Delegate Meeting (DM) on the subject and have drafted a text. This will raise the issue for discussion, and the NEC can make a positive response.

Journalist v journalist: Our DM motion on journalists' libel actions has been set up for a lively debate at conference by an article by Duncan Campbell in the Journalist magazine. DM, the biennial national conference, the NUJ's main event, will be held at the TUC HQ in Bloomsbury on April 28-29. We are also planning to table the motion that's on this evening's agenda to ask the conference to commemorate all the journalists killed around the world last year by a minute's silence to mark Workers Memorial Day which is April 28.

Our 9-strong delegation will be led by Jenny Vaughan. The delegation will hold its preliminary meeting online on Wednesday (April 19). Our secretary Alistair is collating the documentation to discuss the motions for debate, this evening and on Wednesday.

Membership of Honour: In response to our nomination of Marc Wadsworth the NEC decided to award him the union's Gold Badge, a lesser honour but an honour all the same, and the process is scrupulously untainted. The badge is presented not at the DM but at the member's own branch and I wrote to the GS expressing the committee's disappointment and asking that a top union person should make the presentation. The committee will work out the best way to do it; I will have a proposal at its meeting next week.

Hybrid meetings: We have not yet had a response to our request for an assurance that the audio set-up in the NUJ's main meeting room has been upgraded to a standard to permit the branch to resume live/hybrid meetings there. The committee will have to decide next week where to hold its meetings from May onwards. I will try to get an update by then.

Tim Gopsill