

# THE **BIG** WEEKEND

**1–3 MAY 2020**

Hilton at Ageas Bowl  
West End  
Southampton SO30 3XH



# WELCOME

We look forward to welcoming you to the first UNISON South East BIG Weekend, taking place this year at the Hilton at Ageas Bowl in Southampton. The BIG Weekend combines our two biggest regional events, Branch Officers Training Weekend, and the Regional Strategy Weekend, to create the biggest gathering of South East activists outside of National Delegate Conference!

The weekend kicks off with the Regional Council meeting followed by drinks and our awards celebration dinner in the prestigious Ageas Ballroom. Guest speakers will present awards to branches who have gone the extra mile this year, before we dance the night away!

Branch Officers training will run until Sunday lunchtime (with a carvery lunch to finish off the weekend), and delegates attending the Strategy workshops will have the opportunity to book two, half day workshops, featuring a exciting and diverse range of topics to take your organising to the next level!

This is a residential event, delegates attending the Branch Officers training will be automatically booked 2 nights' accommodation at the hotel, delegates booking onto the half day workshops will be booked 1 night accommodation. All meals are included.

The weekend is all about networking, making new friends, and catching up with colleagues, whilst sharing ideas and learning from the experience of others.

This is our BIG event for the year, you won't want to miss it!



*Mark Chiverton*

**Mark Chiverton**  
Regional Convenor



*Steve Torrance*

**Steve Torrance**  
Regional Secretary

# WHAT'S ON?

Friday 1st May 2020 (All events take place in the Ageas Ballroom)	
12noon – 4.00pm	Regional Council Meeting (including lunch)
4.30pm – 5.30pm	Big Weekend registration opens
5.30pm – 6.30pm	Drinks reception
6.30pm – 9.00pm	Gala dinner and awards evening
9.00pm – Late	Disco

Delegates choose ONE pathway below



Branch Officers Training Saturday 2 May	
9.30am – 12.30pm	Branch Officer Training
12.30pm – 1.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm – 4.30pm	Branch Officer Training
5.30pm – 9.00pm	Dinner and quiz
Sunday 3 May	
9.30am – 12.30pm	Branch Officer Training
12.30pm – 1.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm	Event ends

Strategy workshops Saturday 2 May	
9.30am – 12.30pm	Strategy workshops (choose ONE of the four options)
12.30pm – 1.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm – 4.30pm	Strategy workshops (choose ONE of the four options)
4.30pm	Event ends

# HOW TO APPLY

The BIG Weekend has strictly limited places, so you'll want to book as soon as possible!

You can find the full details, list of courses available and download an application form from the South East website: Application form:

<https://southeast.unison.org.uk/events/the-big-weekend/>

**Closing date for applications:** 1 April 2020



## REGIONAL COUNCIL

The second Regional Council meeting of 2020 will take place on Friday afternoon of the BIG Weekend.

All registered delegates to Regional Council will be invited to the meeting in the usual way, but please consider attending the BIG Weekend as a delegate.

**We encourage all BIG weekend delegates to attend the Regional Council meeting.**

# BRANCH OFFICER TRAINING

These courses are aimed at newly elected branch officers, or Branch Officers who missed the training last year.

Please select **ONE** course only. Please note you can only opt to do a Branch Officers course **OR** the workshop sessions at the BIG Weekend, not both.

## Branch Officer Courses:

- Branch Secretary
- Branch Chair
- Health & Safety Officer
- Equality Officer
- Education Coordinator
- Women's officer
- Communications Officer
- Labour Link Officer
- International Relations Officer

Weekend residential, including gala dinner and two nights' accommodation. All meals included.



**Registration opens:** 4.30pm, Friday 1st May

**Event ends:** 1.30pm, Sunday 3rd May

**Cost to branches:** £250

Branches are responsible for travel expenses for all delegates

# STRATEGY WORKSHOPS

These courses are aimed at ALL activists.

You will need to choose **TWO** courses, one from the morning options and one from the afternoon. These may be subject to change. If any of the workshops are changed, we will let you know if this affects you, and endeavour to offer an alternative option.

Please note you can only opt to do a Branch Officers course **OR** the workshop sessions, not both.

## Morning Courses (delegates choose one)

- Dealing with the press / media
- Green UNISON and climate emergency
- Public speaking skills
- Women in the trade union movement

## Afternoon courses (all delegates choose one)

- Creating digital video content for campaigns
- Tackling racism and the far right
- Organising skills – 1 to 1 conversations
- Confidence and assertiveness skills

Please note that if you are booked onto Strategy Workshops then you will **NOT** be able to attend the Branch Officer training.

Weekend residential, including gala dinner and two nights' accommodation. All meals included.



**Registration opens:** 4.30pm, Friday 1st May

**Event ends:** 4.30pm, Saturday 2nd May

**Cost to branches:** £125

Branches are responsible for travel expenses for all delegates

# COSTS

If you wish to attend this event please discuss with your UNISON branch in the first instance.

The registration costs for delegates stated below are to be paid by branches. Partner rates are payable by the member and are included below for information. Any other associated costs such as delegate travel or subsistence are payable by your branch.

DELEGATE COSTS		
Delegate Type	What's included	Cost
Branch Officers Course Delegate	Gala dinner and two nights' accommodation. All meals included. Admittance to one of the branch officer training courses.	£250
Strategy Workshops Delegate	Gala Dinner and one nights' accommodation. All meals included Admittance to two strategy workshop sessions.	£125
<b>How to book:</b> Complete the BIG Weekend application form on the SE website: <a href="https://southeast.unison.org.uk/events/the-big-weekend/">https://southeast.unison.org.uk/events/the-big-weekend/</a>		

PARTNER COSTS		
Type	What's included	Cost
Partner rate 1	Gala dinner & Saturday breakfast.	£44
Partner rate 2	Gala dinner, Saturday breakfast, Saturday dinner, Sunday breakfast.	£88
<b>How to book:</b> Contact <a href="mailto:educationse@unison.co.uk">educationse@unison.co.uk</a>		



## GET IN TOUCH

[educationse@unison.co.uk](mailto:educationse@unison.co.uk)

[www.southeast.unison.org.uk/events/the-big-weekend](http://www.southeast.unison.org.uk/events/the-big-weekend)

