

active trade unionist until his death in 1974.

People who volunteered to play in support of Len's statue included Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham, legendary boxers Ricky Hatton and Anthony Crolla, and TV stars from Coronation Street, Waterloo Road, All Creatures Great and Small and Gogglebox.

They faced off against FC United Legends, a team of former FCUM players which included Tommy Greaves,

Mike Norton and Rhodri Giggs. At the end of an energetic game, the teams had drawn 3-3, leading to a penalty shootout which FC United Legends narrowly won 7-6.

Joining fans on the day were trade unionists from a number of unions including the RMT, as well as many members of Len's extended family. Speaking to *RMT News*, his great-granddaughter Darianne Brown said: "I was so proud and honoured to see so

many people come out to celebrate Len's life and legacy.

"His story is finally being told and is reaching people, which is more than a dream come true for me and the rest of my family – it fills us all with so much gratitude that he's being recognised for the true champion he was," she said.

Meanwhile, match organiser and player Lamin Touray - who was also awarded the Man of the Match for his efforts putting the event together – told *RMT News*: "It's been

emotional to see so many people come together to celebrate Len Johnson's legacy.

"I'd like to give a shout out to everyone who made the effort to come out, and would urge anyone who has been inspired by Len's tragic but inspirational story to chip in to the campaign to ensure Len Johnson is honoured in the right way," he said. ■

You can donate to the fund to build a statue to Len Johnson here: <http://www.gofundme.com/ff/manchester-needs-a-len-johnson-statue>

President's Column

PRIVATISATION HAS FAILED: TIME FOR NATIONALISATION

The news that offshore windfarm construction companies boycotted this year's UK government auction of renewable electricity generating contracts, which guarantee energy prices for 15 years, exposes private sector limitations in developing critical strategic infrastructure.

This biggest clean energy policy failure in a decade occurred when companies found offshore energy costs had jumped by 40% due to supply chain inflation. The absence of giant new offshore windfarms makes UK climate targets difficult to achieve.

Just six months ago RMT backed calls by workers in the UK offshore oil, gas and renewables sector for public ownership of energy companies to ensure that transition to net zero protects jobs, communities and the environment.

The private sector is failing future energy generation needs, as it failed our railways for thirty years. Today, private firms run less of our rail network than any time since Tory rail privatisation in 1993.

Out of seventeen passenger train operators across Britain, seven are run by the

Department for Transport's Operator of Last Resort (OLR) or its equivalent in Wales and Scotland, three by foreign state-owned companies, and three by joint ventures that include foreign state-owned companies. Only four train operators are now run by private companies.

Rail privatisation was (mis)sold to the public as a way to bring competition, innovation and investment from the private sector. A total illusion, of course. Competition among train operators was always limited as a few bidders carved up the franchise cake. Genuine innovation requires long-term investment in research and development and private sector investment was minuscule.

The privatisation illusion relied on endless growth of passenger numbers and profits, guaranteed by periodic 'franchising reviews'. Private passenger train operators are a net drain on the taxpayer.

It is easy to forget, that British Rail privatisation was sold as a model for the rest of the world to follow. Instead, the shutdown in world trade in 2020 during the Covid

pandemic exposed the inadequacies of privatised rail and logistics systems worldwide.

While the People's Republic of China has constructed the largest high-speed rail network in human history - entirely in state ownership – and is reshaping the global economy through 'One Belt One Road' - a logistics network of rail, road and docks linking Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe - rail privatisation in Britain has proved to be incapable of delivering sustained investment at scale.

In July this year, the official infrastructure watchdog report into HS2, Infrastructure and Projects Authority, stated: 'Successful delivery of the project appears to be unachievable.'

Yet, the ideological vested interests that feed parasitically off public sector investment continue to see public transport and freight logistics as a cash cow.

On 18 January 2023, the European Commission opened an investigation into 'illegal state aid' by French railways (SNCF) to its own publicly owned rail freight company, SNCF Fret. From 2007 to 2019



SNCF Fret is estimated to have received €4.3 billion, cancellation of financial debts of €5.3 billion, and a one-off capital injection of €170 million when it became a commercial company in 2020.

French railways is now preparing to liquidate SNCF Fret with the loss of 500 jobs, abandoning a third of its rail freight market and being banned from bidding for it for 10 years, transferring its locomotives to private operators and breaking SNCF Fret into two subsidiaries for private takeover.

As with our renewable energy needs, private ownership of passenger and freight rail is a drag on the technical and social developments needed to achieve modal shift from road to rail. Rail privatisation isn't working. We need to move on. Alex Gordon

NUNEATON AWARD

Andy Gould of Nuneaton branch was presented with his 50-year badge on the picket line at Nuneaton recently after actually 53 years membership of the union.

Nuneaton branch secretary Paul Reilly, Alex Croxall (Local Rep WMT) and RMT Midlands regional organiser John Watson did the honours.



FAREWELL

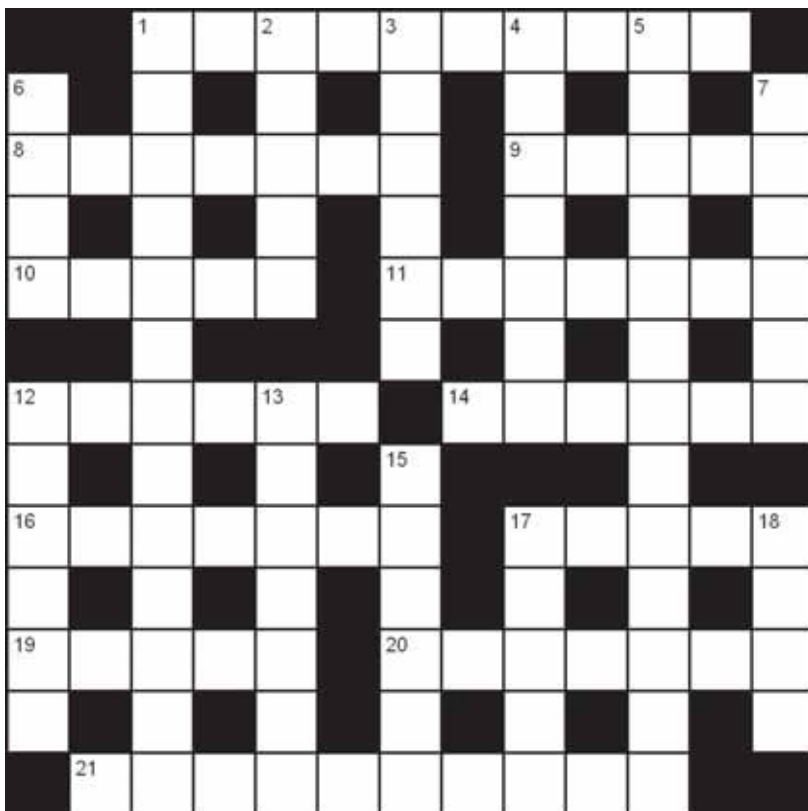
Norwich branch sadly announced the passing of Balfour Beatty Rail Plant Rep Brother Peter Dyble who recently passed away following a short illness.

RMT regional organiser Stephen Skelly said that Peter was a member of the union for over 43 years and an active member of the branch.

"He was a rep for many years and very well respected amongst his colleagues," he said.



£50 PRIZE CROSSWORD



Last month's solution...



Send entries to Prize Crossword, RMT, Unity House, 39 Chalton Street, London NW1 1JD by October 4, 2023 with your name and address.

Last month's winner is Mr R O'Neil, Dawlish.

Please supply bank account details and sort code to receive your prize quickly.

ACROSS

- 1 Mound (10)
- 8 Very old (7)
- 9 Scorch (5)
- 10 Entice (5)
- 11 in Gaza (7)
- 12 Insensibility (6)
- 14 Reach (6)
- 16 Innocence (7)
- 17 Fight (3,2)
- 19 Headdress (5)
- 20 Despotism (7)
- 21 Easily seen (10)

DOWN

- 1 Exclude from church (13)
- 2 Cry (5)
- 3 Lower (6)
- 4 Male kneader (7)
- 5 Peaceful protest (13)
- 6 Handle (4)
- 7 Tenant (6)
- 12 Upper house (6)
- 13 Control (7)
- 15 Group of six (6)
- 17 Clean (5)
- 18 Chalcedony (4)



RMT CREDIT UNION LTD.

Finance Department, Unity House, 39 Chalton Street, London NW1 1JD

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER

RMT CREDIT UNION APPLICATION FORM – please complete your application along with the attached Direct Debit.

Please use **BLOCK CAPITALS** and **black ink**.

1 PERSONAL DETAILS.

Surname Address

Forename(s)

Home phone

Mobile phone

Email address

Date of Birth / /

Postcode

National Insurance Number

2 **Marrital Status** married partner single divorced Drivers Licence No.

3 Your Employment.

Employer RMT Branch

Job Description

4 Mr Mrs Ms Miss

5 Membership Status

RMT TU Member Retired RMT TU Member RMT Family Member

6 **How much do you wish to save** £ This is the amount you wish to save by Direct Debit monthly on the 28th or date you next get paid weekly if 4 weekly (Fri) date here.....

7 Normally your payments are made once a month (28th) to RMT Credit Union Ltd.

8 **Next of Kin**

Address

.....

.....

9 I undertake to abide by the rules now in force or those that are adopted.

Your signature

We are checking new member identification electronically. To do this, we now carry out searches with credit reference agencies who supply us with relevant detail including information from the Electoral Register. The searches will not be used by other lenders to assess your ability to obtain credit.

I agree to my identity being checked electronically

If we cannot verify your identity and address by this method, we will ask you to provide paper documentation instead. Full details of these can be supplied to you by calling 020 7529 8835.

Date / /



Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit



Please fill in the whole form including official use box using a ball point pen and Send to: RMT Credit Union Ltd., 39 Chalton Street, London NW1 1JD

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To: The Manager Bank/Building Society

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

Bank/Building Society account number

Branch Sort Code

Originator's Identification Number

9 7 4 2 8 1

Reference Number

FOR RMT CREDIT UNION LTD OFFICIAL USE ONLY
This is not part of the the instruction to your Bank or Building Society.

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society.
Please pay RMT Credit Union Ltd Direct Debits for the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with RMT Credit Union Ltd, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s)

Date

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions from some types of account

This guarantee should be detached and retained by the Payer.

The Direct Debit Guarantee

- This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit RMT Credit Union Ltd will notify you seven working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed.
- If you request RMT Credit Union Ltd to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by RMT Credit Union Ltd or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society. – If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when RMT Credit Union Ltd asks you to.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.



JOIN RMT



BRITAIN'S SPECIALIST TRANSPORT UNION

Visit www.rmt.org.uk to join
online or call the helpline on
freephone **0800 376 3706**

Problems at work? Call the helpline



Keep your RMT membership details up-to-date

In the light of draconian anti-trade union laws that have been used against the union, members should keep their personal data up to date. It is also important to note that in order to keep members informed your union requires your mobile telephone number and email address.

Members can do this via the RMT website, telephone the RMT helpline above, or writing to the membership department at RMT head office, Chalton Street, London NW1 1JD.

