

Variety Officer Report			
Branch Meeting Date:	20/10/2025	Report Date:	20/10/2029
Branch:	London South	Prepared by:	Belle Fin
Next Branch Meeting Date:	19/11/2025	Role:	Variety Officer
Key dates:	Variety Conference	08/10/2025	
	Variety Meeting	15/10/2025	
	Comedian's Network	22/10/2025	
General matters:			
Branch Variety Officers Meeting			
Comedian's Network: This meeting was postponed to 22/10/25			
Variety Conference: This was a very productive day organised by Iain Croker who is the Equity official for the south east. It was the first of its kind and aimed to bring equity members of all disciplines from London and the south east together. There was some interactivity throughout the day including a walking tour of the area surrounding Guild House regaling stories of historical LGBTQ+ equity members. Discussion points included the Variety motion that was passed at Conference and whether or not the term Variety is suitable for modern day working.			

Equity Nightlife Pay Audit:

Nick Keegan (with input from VO's) is developing a survey to support the work around the motion and this survey is expected to go out to the wider variety membership over the next few days. Non equity drag and cabaret performers will also be invited to complete this survey. He's really hoping for a big response, because these stats will really help get a snapshot of the industry to use when campaigning for better pay and conditions. The more people that fill out the survey, the stronger that will be.

Variety Meeting:

The Drag Network (started by the Manchester branch) is hoping to extend this to Cabaret and Burlesque. There is a drive by staff to identify variety workers who currently may not view equity as a union for them. They are looking at how to find, train and manage Variety Deps given there is no one fixed work place. Trials have begun but this is a WiP.

VCEC Campaigns:

BGWMC - There is an open letter, see below for link.

Lift the Birmingham Busking Ban - See below for a link to the petition.

Street Performer Ban in Leicester Square - we are working with the Music Union to appeal the ban but there is no court date for this as yet.

Alex Proud - continually opens new cabarets and then the business goes bust owing performers money. Working with LA's but it currently seems impossible to prevent new licences being granted dues to him setting up new businesses each time. Latest news however is that he plans to go to Panama.

Links of Interest:

Iain Coker's email	icroker@equity.org.uk
Crowd Fund to save BGWMC	https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/save-bgwmc
Lif The Brum Busking Ban	https://www.change.org/p/lift-the-brum-busking-ban?link_id=9&can_id=1589110c37aae5eb11e7250577f3d614&source=email-news-from-equity-37&email_referrer=email_2871703&email_subject=news-from-equity&&

Open letter to Tower Hamlets Mayor Lutfur Rahman: Buy BGWMC!	https://www.megaphone.org.uk/petitions/open-letter-to-tower-hamlets-mayor-lutfur-rahman-buy-bethnal-green-wnc-and-save-our-venue
Networks:	
Circus Network	https://www.equity.org.uk/get-involved/networks/circus-network
Comedian's Network	https://www.equity.org.uk/get-involved/networks/comedians-network
Drag Network	https://www.equity.org.uk/get-involved/networks/drag-network
Equity Conference	https://www.equity.org.uk/about-us/how-we-run/equity-conference
Puppeteer's Network	https://www.equity.org.uk/get-involved/networks/puppeteers-network
Wrestler's Network	https://www.equity.org.uk/get-involved/networks/wrestlers-network
My actions and news:	
Attend the Comedian's Network and report back.	
What you can do:	
Tell us when you hear of performance venues being at risk. The earlier Equity hears about a potential closure, it may be possible to assist in keeping the venue open.	
Support @equitycomedians on Instagram	
Tell me how I can support you or Variety in general. My contact details are below.	
Acronyms:	
BGWMC	Bethnal Green Working Men's Club
VO	Variety Officer
VCEC	Variety, Circus and Entertainment Committee
Belle's Contact Details:	

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