



## NME Report – Owen Meredith September 2008

### Responsibilities:

- **Student Development** (*Fresher's Packs*)
- **Working Life**
- **Region 4:** Staffordshire, Shropshire, Herefordshire, Warwickshire & Worcestershire, Birmingham & Solihull
- **Development in Wales**

### INTRODUCTION

*It's been a huge 2 months, with the freshers' campaign coming to a climax, the improvements to the CF structure, consultation on working life and Wales. I've now moved to London and started work at ICE (Institute of Civil Engineers) in Westminster.*

### DETAILED REPORT

#### **Freshers' Packs and the Student Campaign**

Earlier this month I [reported specifically on the freshers' campaign](#), which gave a lot more detail on the specifics which I won't repeat here.

We are in the middle of the freshers' season and have some events still to happen, but the early signs are good. Membership is up, our message is being well received and we are active on more campuses than ever before.

This year's campaign has focused on promoting the Conservative Brand to prepare for the up-coming General Election. Getting out the student vote will be vital for our success, and we will be continuing to support branches throughout the year to keep up this presence.

I have also been trying to visit as many freshers' events as possible to get a better understanding of the working of CF on the ground.

I am very keen to make sure we make the most of 2008 - taking the highs and the lows to improve for the future. I have set up a short little survey for you to give us your views on the campaign this year, so that as Branch Chairman, Freshers' Manager, life-long Conservative or a new member you can give us your opinion. Please take a moment to complete the short survey:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=uiR7q\\_2fgScE7IFiBKN9G6PA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=uiR7q_2fgScE7IFiBKN9G6PA_3d_3d)

## **NO2ID CAMPAIGN**

CF is launching a huge campaign that will be the first National Policy Campaign for CF. We will be fighting on every university campus, with the support of [NO2ID](#). In October Patrick Sullivan will be posting a draft motion on the exec blog, which branches will be encouraged to pass through their student union council. We aim to get a motion passed at NUS Conference opposing ID cards.

This campaign is a real opportunity for CF to achieve something big.

## **The NME Tour**

I have updated my map on my website ([www.owenmeredith.co.uk](http://www.owenmeredith.co.uk)), which contains details of my visits across the country in my capacity as NME member. Hopefully this will demonstrate by the end of my term that the NME is not London centric and will allow CF members to ensure I am working as hard as you expect.

## **Working Life**

For the past few months I have been looking at ways to revitalize Working Life. In the past there have been success stories, but also less successful moments.

In order to give Working Life a future, we are consulting with the membership over the way forward. In July I put up a post on the Conservative Future blog ([executive.cfbranch.com](http://executive.cfbranch.com)) asking for your thoughts, comments and feedback on Working Life. I received several useful and thoughtful replies, but I wanted to expand the consultation to engage as many young people as possible.

Therefore, I set up a short survey to covers some of the basic points about working life in order to build up a picture of how you, the members, see Working Life continuing in the future.

If you haven't already done so please take a moment to complete it:  
<http://news.conservatives.com/a/tBlznKrBYN0mpB7TEkQBWFSYESG/cf1>

## **Wales**

CF in Wales is growing from strength to strength. We had had some great successes with recruitment over the freshers' season. I have been consulting with some key people in Wales on the way forward for CF in the Principality, and will be arranging a meeting in the next month to finalise plans for moving forward in Wales.

We are working on a new package of measures to support CF in Wales and strengthen the organisation and its links to the Welsh Party and CF nationally.

Anyone with any views they want taken on board, should email me on [owen@owenmeredith.co.uk](mailto:owen@owenmeredith.co.uk).

## **Final Word**

I would like to thank everyone for all their hard work with the freshers' campaign. Without the dedicated work of people on the ground, my efforts from a national level would be meaningless.

I have also learned this week of the resignation of Anastasia Beaumont-Bott from the NME. ABB has been a highly valued member of the national team for the last 6 months - doing some amazing work on Social Action. I know she will continue working hard for the party through Social Action Network and LGBTory, she will be missed greatly, and I wish her every success with her future activities.

If anyone has anything they would like to discuss with me, please do not hesitate to contact me on 07816 156925 or on email: [owen@owenmeredith.co.uk](mailto:owen@owenmeredith.co.uk).