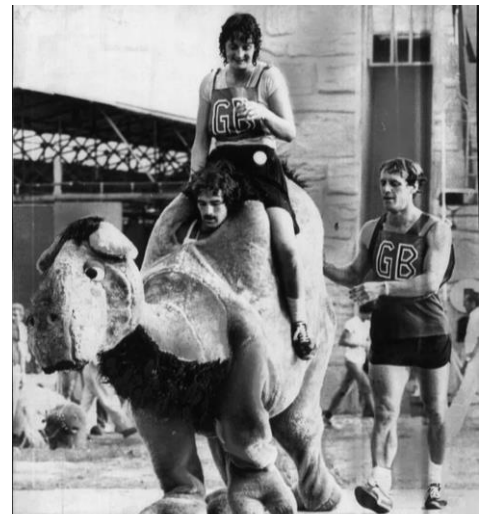


# When Sandwell Nearly Conquered Europe

Imagine joining your colleagues in competition with other areas, dressing up in fancy costumes to undertake physical challenges, whilst being laughed at by TV commentators when you stumble and fall, watched by millions on primetime TV? This was the basis of a top TV show called 'It's A Knockout', which attracted millions of viewers in the 60s, 70s and 80s.

In 1978, just 4 years after Sandwell was formed, a Sandwell Council team (pictured below) not only won the national finals. They then represented Great Britain in the European finals, coming second, just 2 points behind the winners.



After 14 years of Tory austerity, it is difficult to imagine a group of Sandwell Council employees being given such time to undertake such an adventure today.

The achievement of Sandwell in 1978 is just one highlight for the 50 years' service all Sandwell MBC workers have given to the public of Sandwell. The difference Sandwell Council has made to the lives of residents over the 50 years is immeasurable.

As public sector workers we all should be proud of the difference we make, despite the increasingly difficult challenges we all face. This is why we should celebrate Sandwell turning 50 in 2024.

UNISON will mark the occasion at our AGM, together with colleagues who were working for Sandwell in 1974.

**Come along and join us on the lunchtime Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March in the Council Chambers 1pm-2pm. The free UNISON members buffet opens from 12:45pm.**

## Did You Know?

- At one time more than half of all Sandwell residents lived in council housing.
- Sandwell was one of the first tenant and trade union campaigns to defeat stock transfer in 1997 after tenants voted against privatisation.