

## Minutes of the Unite Glasgow Retired Members branch 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017

Chair suspended Standing Orders so that we could hear our speaker Dave Sherry, who spoke on his book, "Russia 1917". He referred to the role of Women Textile Workers who went on strike on International Women's day in February 1917 and how the political scene developed from there. He also explained the effect on the rest of Europe, how it ended the Tsarist regime, hastened the end of the First World War and three other dynastic empires. It saw the formation of Workers Councils (soviets) on Clydeside. But Russia was left isolated and American, British and French ruling classes combined to fund the White Army. Although the Red Army won the civil war, it was at great cost. By 1921 the Russian Economy was only 18% of its 1914 output. It was noted that it led to the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, the Irish Uprising and led to the first Black Listing. David was thanked for his contribution and members were recommended to buy a copy of his book at the special rate of £10.

The branch then stood for a minute's silence in memory of Charlie Duncan who died suddenly. The chair welcomed 31 members to the meeting including two new members.

1. Apologies – J. Friel, D. Paterson, I. Graham, B. Beagan, J. Flynn, G. Convery, M. McGhee, J. Ferguson, P. Rankin, G. Kirk, A. Henderson, D. Edwards, J. Conroy, R. Littler, A. Colognori, W. Foxton, J. Goldie.
2. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as correct.
3. Matters Arising
  - a) Bobby Brennan stated that Claire Malpas thanked us for the kind reception she received.
  - b) Summer Outing – Mick reminded us that we are eating in the Rio Restaurant and that some people still had to fill in menu choices. He still had 4 tickets left for the Waverley Trip.
  - c) Pensioners' Parliament, Blackpool – train tickets handed out and meet at Central Station on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 11.00am.
4. Correspondence – SPF Conference Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June in Dundee. Delegates are Jake McLeod, Pat Milligan, Bill Newman and John Rodgers. Bus leaves George Square at 8.15am.
5. Nomination and election of delegate to Area Activists Committee – Ian Findlay agreed.
6. Treasurer's Report - Carried Forward from 2016

	£4,886.11
Income	£2,279.24
	£7,165.35
Expenditure	£3,319.80
Balance	<u>£3,845.55</u>

Treasurer reported that we had received a donation of £500 from the Construction Branch. Members were reminded that we would appreciate donations from other industrial branches to which members used to belong.

7. Reports
  - a) Branch Committee – we are seeking information to clarify members' benefits in relation to funeral benefits. Different criteria will apply depending on members original organisation. As a retired member branch this is going to be more relevant for

us. Committee will meet in July, since there is no branch meeting that month and hope to look at the "Awards for All" application.

- b) Equalities Officer – Anita reported that Lorna Glen is new officer for region and a meeting had been organised on "Be Bold for Change". Anita had also attended the WASPI demo in George Square on 25<sup>th</sup> May.
- c) Action Sub-Committee – Bill Newman reported that since the EIS dispute was over, no speaker necessary. Education follow up courses will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October. It was also agreed that "Pensioner Matters" should be a Branch agenda item.
- d) Scottish Pensioners' Forum – Maureen Gardner reported on the latest SPF Executive meeting. This included a report of meeting with the Scottish Government Transport Minister who stated that the current concessionary travel scheme cannot be sustained. Various options were being considered including payment, distance travelled times of travel and increasing the age at which pass is issued. With BBC considering means testing for TV licences for the over 75's the SPF is very concerned about this trend, as well as the threat to the Triple Lock. Also discussed its relationship with the NPC and the large donations made by Trade Unions to this organisation which does not operate in Scotland. It was suggested that we get a speaker from the Unite Bus Workers group to talk about re-regulation.
- e) Trades Council – no report since it now only meets bi-monthly.

8. Any other business –

- a) Only one week until election – members encouraged to give help to those who need it.
- b) Mick reminded us that Song Club meets on third Thursday of every month from 12.30pm till 2.30pm in the downstairs lounge of the Roderick Dhu, Waterloo St.
- c) Chair reminded us that next branch meeting is on 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

Meeting closed at 1.45pm with vote of thanks to chair.

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Minutes of Branch Committee 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017

1. Apologies: A. Shelton, J. McLeod, D. Sherry.
2. United Nations Day of Older People. – Agreed to recommend that Branch members participate in the SPF lobby of the Scottish Parliament on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September. As a branch, we should organise an "event" at the Donald Dewar Statue from 11.00am to 1.00pm on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September. Mick to check if Unite has a "Pull Up Banner and a gazebo in case of inclement weather. Since theme for this year is "Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society," Maureen to look at wording of current leaflet and suggest any necessary changes. Also sing some songs and announce at Song Club, have a few speakers and get signatures for SPF petition. Inform Youth Committee and Women's Committee.
3. Xmas Lunch Arrangements – Roderick Dhu booked for 7<sup>th</sup> December – 12.30 for 1.00pm
4. Union Song Club – booked for 14<sup>th</sup> December. Invite Arthur Johnstone and his guitarist (cost £100). Have a buffet like last year and we subsidise this up to £100. (Income from Song Club collections more than expenditure). Mick also proposed themes for song club – with "pop-up" 10-minute talks on singers like Paul Robeson, Joe Hill etc and ask Dave Sherry to do these.
5. Summer outing – 3 tickets left which we agreed should be sold to song club members at a reduced cost if necessary.

**6. Treasurer's Report -**

<b>Balance from 2016</b>	<b>£4,886.11</b>	
<b>Income</b>	<b>£2,279.24</b>	<b>£7,165.35</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		<b>£3,319.80</b>
<b>Balance</b>		<b><u>£3,845.55</u></b>

**Maureen highlighted that our expenditure was more than our income and that was after receiving a donation of £500 from the Construction Branch.**

**7. Motion – Committee recommended the Branch agree the motion submitted by Bill on Unite Funeral benefits, saying that we need a schedule which is comprehensible unlike the one we received from Mary Alexander**

**8. Any other business –**

- a) **Mick to find out who of our branch members are delegates to CLP's.**
- b) **Speakers for Branch meetings- Irene is speaking at August meeting. Maureen to contact Elinor McKenzie to speak on pensioners' issues for September meeting, and Mick will contact Len McCluskey for a date when he may be in Scotland and also Mike McCartney, N.O. for Retired Members.**

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**Action Sub-committee**

**Unite Glasgow Retired Members' Branch**

**6 July 2017**

**In Attendance:** David Paterson (Chair), Maureen Gardner, Irene Graham, Ian Woodward, Bobby Brennan, Mick Rice, Ian Findlay, Frank Murphy and Bill Newman.

David Paterson welcomed members to the meeting with particular attention to Ian Woodward whose first meeting this was and to Irene Graham who had returned from her work in Bangladesh.

**UN Day of Older Older People.** a) The Scottish Pensioners Forum are organising a Rally to Holyrood on 28 September with a coach leaving George Square and Branch members will be urged to take part. Maureen will provide details on departure time etc.  
b) It was reiterated that the Branch will conduct a campaign on behalf of Pensioners by having a stall, preferably by the Donald Dewar statue on 30 September from 11.00 to 13.00. Anita is acquiring the appropriate permit and Mick proposed that the Song Club should be invited to participate. It was felt that our Youth Committee and Community Branch should be invited to join us as should the Scottish Pensioners Forum. It was felt that we should involve ourselves more closely with the SPF, not least as the Scottish Transport Minister had hinted at curbs to the present system of travel passes.

**Awards for All.** It was agreed that if the Branch's proposed trip to Manchester and Liverpool were to take place as indicated next Spring then a formal request to Awards for All needed to be compiled in the near future. Mick agreed to contact Phil Wiseman from Liverpool (our representative on the National Executive) to seek liaison for our trip and to investigate contact

between our Branches and the links between our Cities. He will see if we can get him to address our October Branch meeting. He also suggested it might be possible to involve our members from the Song Club on the trip.

Maureen agreed to contact Caledonian Travel to get some costings for the trip.

It was agreed that Irene, David and, if possible, Ian's son should get together to put together a formal application.

**Industrial Action.** It was reported that the industrial action amongst lecturers in further education had been resolved though the full implementation of the agreement was still lagging. WASPI campaigning was continuing and it was wondered whether it would be possible to target non-attending women members through membership printouts, particularly those affected by the arbitrary and instant raising of the state pension age, and invite them to our meetings. It was confirmed that every Branch agenda should contain an item on pension and pensioner matters. The difficulties in approaching UCATT members to attend our meetings was again discussed.

**Education Courses.** David confirmed that the Follow-up two-day course after our preliminary course was in place for 4 and 18 October and that it was still hoped to have another initial course though the take-up to date had been poor. A further effort would be made at the next Branch meeting to attract more interest

**Speakers.** No response had as yet been received to our invitation to our General Secretary to address the Branch, but reminders would be sent. Irene will report on her work in Bangladesh at our August meeting and Eleanor McKenzie of the SPF will be invited to our September meeting. Hopefully Phil Wiseman will be able to attend our October meeting.

**Activists Committee.** Ian and Bobby had attempted to draw members attention to the discrimination suffered by retired members and had been asked to provide detailed evidence. Bill agreed to provide evidence from the Rule Book. Ian had been elected to attend the national Activists Committee.

**Date of Next Meeting.** 10 August at 12.30. pm