

Unite Glasgow Retired Members' Branch
Action Sub-Committee
8 March 2018

9 members present.

Matters arising: Greenock Dry Dock. It was noted that the threatened closure of the Greenock Dry Dock (the second largest in the U.K.) could not be raised at the Trades Council AGM this month as the inclement weather had caused the postponement of the meeting. The threatened closure would be raised later.

UCU. Dispute. The speech by a striking member of the UCU prior to the Branch's Triennial meeting in March had to be postponed as the Triennial had also been postponed. This would be rescheduled for the April meeting.

Branch Constitution: It was reported that the Branch had approved the revision of the composition of the Branch Committee and that other changes to the Constitution could be suggested at a later date.

Industrial Disputes: Dave Sherry noted that Members' expressions of solidarity at UCU picket lines would be welcome. Gratitude was expressed that the relevant Unite press release by Bob Willie had been sent to Branch officials. It was noted that the demonstration by construction workers in Edinburgh to ensure that local authorities signed up to the 'no blacklisting' charter had been well attended despite the poor weather. The campaign to prevent branch closures by RBS had been vigorous with particularly effective interventions by Mary Alexander. A coordinated Unite demonstration for the Bank's AGM at its HQ in Goggerburn in May was being organised. It was reported that the future of BiFab did not look good but that Pat Rafferty would be meeting Keith Brown to look at positive prospects. The stance of some employers, private and public, on refusing pay when employees could not get to work during the weather red alert was deplored and it was felt that employment law needs to be devolved to tackle this and other problems.

Branch industrial Action: It was acknowledged that members of the Branch had been active in support of industrial action, but that too few had been involved, partly because we have not been able to alert members of action between meetings. It was felt that the Branch's web site could be used to publicise disputes as well as proposed action in support and that Unite's own web site which gives good information on such disputes. It was proposed that an agenda item on industrial disputes should appear on each Branch agenda. Some disappointment was expressed that the Area Activists Committee was not as representative or as proactive as it might be. For example, the Branch's delegates to the Committee had not been informed of the recent meeting. It was felt it would be useful to encourage as many members as possible to attend the next meeting and our delegates undertook to ascertain when this would be.

Community Branches: It was noted that the Glasgow Community Branch was now healthy and active and welcomed cooperation between our branches. They had complained about their lack of full rights in the Union's Rule Book, much as we have on behalf of retired members. Our Branch's Chair and Secretary had attended a Community Branch meeting and had been impressed by the enthusiasm shown. Combined meetings should be encouraged and we could jointly make an impact on the area's Activists Committee.

Education: Ian reported that he had met James Aitken (Head of Unite's Education Team) and had received a booklet listing Union education courses. He drew attention to the residential retired members Course in Eastbourne in the autumn. A further list of those willing to attend the May-June 3 day members Course was provided by the ASC Chair and further names would be requested at the next Branch meeting with a reminder to those already listed.

AOB. The Branch Chair stated that we need as a Branch to embed ourselves more deeply in those bodies we support in order to make our contributions more meaningful, notably in the anti racism campaigns.

Branch Recruitment Leaflet: Following the example of another Scottish Retirement Branch, it was felt it would be useful to prepare our own membership leaflet for distribution to active membership branches to distribute to members coming up to retirement. We need to ensure that our branch is well known by Union members in work.

Thankyou to Bill Newman for drafting this Minute.

Date of Next Meeting: 12 April at 12.30.