

## Minutes of the Unite Glasgow Retired Members Branch 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Chair welcomed 52 members to the meeting, several attending for the first time. He suspended Standing orders to hear our speakers. The first was Janette Findlay of UCU Glasgow. She updated us on the Academic and Related Staff Strike in Universities over the issue of pensions. Previously was defined benefits scheme but employers want a career average. Union are disputing employers' figures on viability. Strike continuing but have agreed an expert panel of 3 aside with a non-voting independent chair. After a few questions, Janette (who spoke before our triennial meeting) was thanked for her contribution and branch donated £50 to dispute fund.

Our next speaker was Ian Allinson of the Fujitsu Manchester IT Workers Group. He explained that there were 8000 workers in UK IT but not very unionised. He had worked for the company for 30 years, 26 of which he was a union rep. He was dismissed while on leave at a family funeral, and his group were taking strike action. Members were demonstrating at Japanese Embassy in London and Len McLuskey has contacted the head Office in Japan. Ian was thanked for his contribution and since the branch had already donated to the dispute fund, it was agreed to make a collection at the meeting. This raised £220.

1. Apologies: R. Allan, J. Banner-Rall, C. Boyd, R. Browning, R. Buird, A. Cameron, J. Clark, J. Clydesdale, M. Cochrane, G. Cowan, J. Docherty, W. Farrell, Jim Friel, I. Graham, I. Hubbard, G. Kirk, A. Lindsay, G. McCance, R .McCreath, M .McGhee, F .Murphy, P. Murray, M. Reilly, G. Scott, J. Wood.
2. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as correct moved by Bill Newman and seconded by Anita Shelton after she pointed out that the Play would be performed and not shown.
3. Matters arising
  - a) Summer outing – Tickets for Waverley would be available at next meeting – costing £15 for members and £35 for guests.
  - b) Committee were recommending £100 donation to the Inchgreen Dock Campaign and Secretary to contact Pat Rafferty about a letter being sent asking branches for donations.
  - c) Mick reported that following invitation which was sent to all branch members for the Triennial meeting, many members had phoned the office, including wives who explained that their husbands had sadly died.
4. Correspondence
  - a) Notification of Aberdeen Unite Bus Dispute – agreed to send letter of support.
  - b) Cheque for £1000 received as a donation from the Scottish Housing Associations and Co-ops Branch.
  - c) Letter from SPF re conference in Glasgow and re-affiliation. Agreed to re-affiliate at a cost of £35 and send delegates to conference on 5<sup>th</sup> June in Glasgow. Those nominated and agreed were Bob McKenna, Sammy Morris, John Rodgers, Bobby Brennan and David Edwards.
5. Reports:

- a) **Branch Committee - Treasurer recommended that we should pay Out of Pocket Expenses when branch delegates are away from home overnight. Agreed £10 per night. Also recommend we take out an advert in Socialist Worker to celebrate May Day at a cost of £30, agreed.**
  - b) **Equalities Officer – Anita referred to the death of Brenda Dean, the first female leader of a major trade union. She also spoke of the Unite support for the building of the Statue to honour the work of Mary Barbour and the unveiling of the statue in Govan. Stand Up to Racism demo was well attended. TTIP is raising its head again.**
  - c) **Action Sub-Committee – next meeting is 12<sup>th</sup> April. The next Education Course will cover the History of the British Labour Movement and will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> May in John Smith House and 6<sup>th</sup> June in the old Nautical College.**
  - d) **Scottish Pensioners’ Forum – Written report submitted by Maureen Gardner. Next meeting of Executive is on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April and report will be available at next branch meeting**
  - e) **Report of Regional Retired Members Committee – written report submitted by Maureen Gardner**
- 6. Any other business**
- a) **Chair thanked Bill and Anita for all the work they had done on behalf of our branch.**
  - b) **Jake reported that he will be attending the Retired Members Branch in Liverpool who meet weekly. He had attended the showing of the film made about the Rolls Royce workers in East Kilbride and the blacking of the engines from Chile following the military coup. It was suggested that we should ask John Keenan to speak to branch of that time.**
  - c) **Sammy Morris reported that he had attended the Community Branch and watched the film on Dennis Skinner. It was suggested that Branch should try to do this as well.**
  - d) **Chair reported that one of our members, Albert Wheeler was no longer able to attend branch meetings. Agreed to send him card.**

**Meeting closed at 2.30 with vote of thanks to the chair.**