

Glasgow Retired Members' Branch
Action Sub-Committee
12 April 2018

12 members present. Apologies received from Bob McKenna, James Ito and Maureen Gardner. The Chair welcomed members to the meeting with a particular welcome to Alan Richie whose first ASC meeting this was.

Area Activists Committee: It was reported by our two delegates to the Area Activists Committee Executive that they had received no notice of meetings since their last attendance last December. Moreover, Ian had not as yet received compensation for the rail fare for his attendance on behalf of the Committee at the Scottish Policy Conference which he had subsequently been barred from attending. He would enquire why no invitations had been received and would urge at the next meeting that the Committee should affiliate in its own right to the Glasgow Trades Council and urge unaffiliated branches to join.

The issue of **discrimination** against retired members was again raised and it was felt that the issue needs to be raised continuously at the Regional Coordinating Committee meetings and by the retired members delegate to the Scottish Executive meetings.

It was considered important that the Branch **agenda** item on pensioner matters should also include industrial disputes.

It was regretted that industrial relations **communications** to named ASC members which had commenced earlier in the year seemed to have tailed off. Although it was acknowledged that it was unreasonable to finance members attendance outside Royal Bank of Scotland Branches outside our immediate area, it was thought that Retired Members could be used to protest in their areas if notice were given of such action. It should be considered by the Branch to send a group of members for the proposed demonstration at the RBS HQ at Goggerburn for the Bank's AGM.

It was reported that the Branch Chair and Secretary had attended a **Community Branch** meeting and that the Branch was very healthy. It was felt that representatives of the Branch should be invited to one of our Branch meetings and that increased communication between our Branches would be productive.

Our Branch Chair reported on the continuing **Aberdeen bus** drivers **strike**. A third offer was being balloted upon, but the employer was bussing up to Aberdeen scab drivers from as far away as Plymouth. Nonetheless, the strike was solid.

The threatened destruction of the **Inchgreen** Dry Dock will be raised at the next Trades Council meeting and the Branch Chair will raise the matter at his upcoming visit to United Left construction members in Liverpool.

Anita undertook to raise the whole issue of the **victimisation of** Union officials (Fujitsu, Grangemouth, etc.) at her final attendance at the National Retired Members meeting in London.

Branch Recruitment Leaflet. It was agreed that the Branch Committee should be asked to consider who should draft a text for a Branch recruitment leaflet and though it was stated that the Branch Committee had not felt the design by Bobby Brennan for a new Branch banner was suitable, Bobby's expertise was acknowledged and,

once his design had been located, it was felt that the Branch should see it and consider the next move.

The Branch's motion on the removal of **VAT on energy charges** was mentioned but it was not known whether the motion had been considered by the Scottish Executive Committee. It was reported that Dundee Branch had contacted the energy companies to lobby their support.

The reemergence of **TTIP** on a bilateral US-U.K. basis was discussed and it was felt important that the ASC should monitor developments.

Speakers: It was hoped that John Keenan from Rolls Royce could possibly address the Branch or Committee in May. It was also felt it would be useful to have a union official to address the Branch on pensioner poverty bearing in mind the recent OECD survey showing the U.K. has the lowest State pension among developed countries.

Education. The annual residential education course for retired members in Eastbourne in October was mentioned and Branch members should be asked for those who wished to attend.

Date of a next meeting: 10 May . 12.30. John Smith House