

**Glasgow & Renfrewshire Area Activists**  
**Triennial Meeting**  
**31 May 2018**

The meeting was well attended with about 50 members present and an equal gender balance being apparent. Alan Campbell, Frank Murphy, Bill Newman and Dave Sherry were present from our Retired Members' Branch.

The Regional Official, James O'Connell, gave a report on the next 3 year strategic plan. The British Executive have established energy and construction as the areas of focus for activity and recruitment. Each region has been given a target of a 5% increase in membership over the period. It was pointed out from the floor that both energy and construction were male dominated sectors. This was acknowledged but it was pointed out that these sectors had an increasing number of women workers, a trend in outraged by the Union.

In responding to questions on why a number of activists had not received invitations to attend the meeting, Bro. O'Connell said that those on the Regional Activists list had all been invited, though no explanation was given as to how or by whom this list had been compiled. He went on to explain that nominations to the Activists' Committee from the Region's 13 sections would be accepted from those nominated in advance but also from those sectional members present, either by other members or by self-nomination. To be nominated a nominee had either to be present or to have sent apologies for non-attendance. This meant that, as our Branch had made no nomination in advance, neither of our previous Committee members (Bobby Brennan and Ian Findlay) could be nominated.

Stevie Dillon, the UCATT Officer, then gave a comprehensive and impressive list of the Sector's activities. The Sector was currently working to recruit workers on wind farms and to improve safety there. The Sector had worked hard and successfully for the Union to appoint an officer for apprentices. The Sector had also had meetings with Scottish Government representatives to attempt to get preprocurement meetings with Unions (ie before Government contracts are signed) and had had a sympathetic response.

Continuing efforts were continuing to be made to ensure that foreign workers received the appropriate pay and conditions. Firms used every effort to avoid this, through gang masters and even housing foreign workers on ships to avoid national regulations.

Dealing with local authorities, it was explained that the recent pay proposals by COSLA had been rejected. Particular problems in both West and East Dunbartonshire were summarised and the reduction in the number of workers in local authorities was emphasised. The cuts in local authorities expenditure were even worse than in England and it was surprising that the public did not seem to be aware how bad the situation was. A demonstration beside the fire fighters' memorial at Central Station is to be held at 12.30 on 14 June to pay tribute to the role of firefighters in the Grenfell Tower tragedy and to demonstrate opposition to the alarming cuts to Scotland's fire service.

Two motions were then passed unanimously; one from David Smith dealt with the necessity to be aware of the dangers of mental health problems, not least suicide potential. The other in the name of James (Hamish) Campbell called for a limitation of gambling outlets.

Elections to the Regional Activists Committee were then taken. As explained earlier, it was not possible to put forward Bros Brennan and Findlay's names and Alan Campbell and Dave Sherry were nominated from the Retired Members' Section. They were duly elected as our delegates to the Activists' Committee.

Bill Newman