

Minutes of the Unite Glasgow Retired Members Branch Meeting 7th March 2019

Chair welcomed 43 members to the meeting.

Standing orders were suspended to allow the invited speaker, Phil Taylor, co-author of the book '100 Years of the Fire Brigades Union', to deliver a talk on the centenary of the F.B.U.

Phil proceeded to give a most informative talk on the history of the F.B.U., on how in its first 100 years the union has secured extensive rights, including improved pay, working conditions and safety standards for fire fighters. In addition, the F.B.U. has been consistent in actively expressing solidarity with the aims and objectives of the trade union movement in the cause of democratic socialism, both nationally and internationally.

On conclusion, Chair gave thanks to Phil on behalf of the Branch. A round of applause was given and thereafter, standing orders were reinstated.

1. **Apologies:** Margaret Campbell, Rosemary Carmichael, Gerry Convery, Agnes Fox, Albert Gleadhill, Thomas Gordon, Irene Graham, Frances Heaney, John Johnston, Joe Keenan, James McGregor, Joe McDonald, Terence McGahan, Marie McGhee, Russell McLintock, John McNally, Jessie Morrison, James Patrick, Margaret Reilly, Brian Robb, John Robertson, George Scott, Daniel Sharpe, Robert Smyth, George Stewart, John Thomson, Lilian Thomson, Terence Tochel, Jennifer Webb, John Wright, Jim Friel, Jim Bell and Dennis O'Donnell.

Maureen Gardner agreed to send cards to Jim Friel, Jim Bell and Dennis O'Donnell on behalf of the Branch.

2. **New members and/or members attending a Branch Meeting for the first time** were welcomed to the meeting
3. **Minutes of the previous Branch Meeting held on 7th February** were agreed with the following amendment: **Item 5.a) Age Scotland National Conference to be held on 20th March (corrected from 20th February).**

4. Matters Arising

Reference item 9 Awards for All Application: The Assistant Secretary confirmed that the application was lodged with the National Lottery on 15th February 2019. Result of the application should be expected within 10 weeks, i.e. sometime in May 2019.

5. Reports from Meetings / Conferences attended

- a) The Secretary reported on matters discussed at the Branch Committee Meeting as follows:

- 1) **Protocol for election of Branch Delegates to CLPs:** The Secretary outlined the Branch position on this matter, stating that he had

prepared a paper (copy attached) and proposed, subject to Branch approval, that the paper be sent to Jackson Cullinane, the Scottish Political Officer. It was also proposed to invite Jackson to a future Branch meeting to discuss the issues raised. Branch approved the proposals unanimously.

- 2) Summer outing: Prices for members agreed as £15.00 and £35.00 for guests. Only one guest permitted per member.
 - 3) Gold Badge for Jim Friel: Secretary agreed to send letter to Pat Rafferty asking that this is attended to as a matter of urgency.
 - 4) Recruitment Campaign: Agreed to invite Roz Foyer to a future meeting to discuss matters, including the £10.00 payment or shopping voucher available from central funds for each new member recruited.
- b) David Paterson reported on the Action Sub-Committee Meeting held on 14th February 2019 (copy attached to agenda papers). Next meeting will be held on 14th March 2019. All members welcome to attend.
- c) Maureen Gardner reported on the Scottish Regional Retired Members Committee meeting held on 20th February 2019 (copy attached to agenda papers). It was agreed to resubmit the motion calling for the establishment of a Scottish Heritage Committee.
- d) Maureen Gardner reported on the Scottish Pensioners Forum Executive Committee meeting held on 19th February 2019 (copy attached to agenda papers).
- e) Bill Newman reported on the Trades Council AGN held on 27th February 2019 (copy attached to agenda papers). There were speakers present from the Kurdish community in Glasgow and the Scottish Educational Trust. There is a possibility that grants would be available to trade union branches from the Trust for relevant qualifying activities. The next Trades Council meeting is scheduled for 5th April 2019.

6. Education Officer Report.

David Paterson reported that a course on equality issues could be upcoming in May should sufficient interest from members be received. David was taking forward the proposal for a course on legal issues relevant to retired members, for instance: age discrimination, wills and powers of attorney, and would report back in due course. Names of candidates for the residential course in Eastbourne to be held in October require to be submitted to the Regional Retired Members Committee for consideration.

7. Auditors Report.

Auditors Bernie Beagan and Frank McLaren reported that Branch financial records appeared to be in very good order. It was pointed out however that any cash transactions should be avoided in future. Cheques to be used at all times. The Treasurer acknowledged the auditors' report. It was further suggested that the Union Song Club could be accounted for as a separate entity. The Secretary agreed to draft a constitution for the Song Club as a 'stand-alone' enterprise for consideration by the Branch. The Secretary also stated that he would be attending a meeting with Unison on 27th March to talk about the Song Club.

8. Stand Up To Racism Demonstration: 16th March 2019

Dave Sherry distributed leaflets to members advertising the demonstration and encouraged all members to attend. The demonstration is being supported by a wide range of trade unions throughout Scotland and it is important, given the rising tide of racism and fascism in the UK, Europe and beyond, that as big a turn out as possible is achieved.

9. Pensioner Issues.

Bernie Beagan gave a talk on the 'Energy Switch' service currently provided by the Union. Members were encouraged to make enquiries and ask for quotes from alternative energy suppliers by using the service provided by Unite. Significant savings can be achieved in most cases. Details of the service can be obtained on the Unite website or alternatively by phoning the Union office.

10. Disputes

EIS, UCLU and Glasgow Life Workers disputes currently ongoing.

11. Any Other Business

- a) Sammy Morris reported that he attended the unveiling of the monument on the Broomielaw for Scottish Seamen involved in the Spanish Civil War. Sammy recommended members to visit the monument.
- b) John Vale exhibited a draft design for the new Branch Banner. It was agreed to develop this further.
- c) Dave Sherry mentioned the recent strikes by school students protesting lack of action to combat climate change. It was agreed that this was a very worthy cause and the Branch should be lending support where possible.
- d) There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.25 pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair. D.O.M. Thursday 4th April at 12.30pm.