

Minutes of the Unite Glasgow Retired Members Branch Meeting 4th April 2019

Chair welcomed 35 members to the meeting.

Standing orders were suspended to allow the invited speaker, Terry Renshaw of The Shrewsbury 24 Campaign.

Terry outlined the history of the campaign to overturn the unjust prosecutions of 24 building workers following the first national building workers strike in 1972. The workers, all UCATT members, were arrested and charged with conspiracy, unlawful assembly and causing affray, apparently just for organising and forming picket lines at a McAlpine construction site. At subsequent trials held in December 1973, January 1974 and February 1974, 6 workers were sent to jail whilst others received suspended sentences. The Shrewsbury 24 have since campaigned for their cases to be referred to the Court of Appeal and hopefully, to have these miscarriages of justice overturned. Such a Court action might incur significant costs, currently estimated to be in the region of £150,000. Unite the Union has pledged to underwrite a substantial portion of the costs, with the remainder being dependent on donations.

Chair thanked Terry for his presentation. Committee proposed that, in addition to RMBG affiliating to the campaign, a collection might be taken from members present. Branch agreed to the affiliation fee of £45.00 and the collection raised the sum of £237.00 by way of a donation.

On behalf of the campaign, Terry gave sincere thanks to the Branch for their support. A round of applause was given and then standing orders were reinstated.

1. **Apologies:** James Allan, Peter Allan, Allan Cameron, Rosemary Carmichael, Patricia Carmichael, Gerry Convery, James Docherty, John Ferguson, Ian Fulton, Frank Harrigan, John Johnston, Joe Keenana, R. Kelly, Ludovic Lang, Robert Littler, Myra Martin, Joe McDonald, Gerry McGuire, Russell McLintock, Jessie Morrison, Jim O'Rourke, Margaret Pacetta, James Patrick, Jim Payne, Thomas Reilly, Brian Robb, John Robertson, Anita Shelton, Donald Sime, Robert Smyth, John Thomson, Maureen Vass, Jennifer Webb, Jim Friel, Jim Bell, Charlie Taylor.
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 March were agreed as correct.
4. **Matters Arising**
There were no matters arising.
5. **Correspondence.**

The Secretary reported on correspondence received as follows:-

- a) Invitation from the Scottish Pensioners' Forum to send delegates to the Annual Conference to be held in Dundee on the 4th of June 2019. Branch agreed to send 8 delegates at a cost of £5.00 per delegate. Delegates selected to attend were: Bobby Brennan, Bill Newman, Bob McKenna, Albert Gledhill, Frank McLaren, Jake McLeod, Sammy Morris and John Rodger.
- b) Request to take a May Day Greetings column in the Socialist Worker. Branch agreed to take the column at a cost of £30.00. It was noted that a similar request from the Morning Star had not been received, Branch agreed that, if such a request was received then a donation equal to the amount pledged to the Socialist Worker would be granted.
- c) Request for donations to Scottish Hazards Group. Branch noted that a donation was made to the Hazards Group in January 2019.
- d) E Mail received from James Fearn, a Ph.D. student at Strathclyde University, asking if any of our members had working experience in heavy industry. If so, James would like to interview relevant members as part of his dissertation. Any member interested in assisting should contact the Secretary in the first instance.
- e) Request from Unite LGBT committee for a donation to Glasgow Pride. Committee recommended a donation of £50.00. Branch agreed.
- f) The long service Gold Badge for Jim Friel was (at long last) received. Branch agreed to make a formal presentation to Jim at the next Branch meeting. Invitations for Len McCluskey and/or Pat Rafferty to make the presentation would be sent out a.s.a.p. Branch also agreed to investigate the possibility of holding an additional evening event whereupon Jim's family members could attend. The Secretary agreed to keep members informed.

6. Reports from Meetings and Conferences attended.

- a) The Secretary reported on matters discussed at the Branch Committee meeting as follows:-
 - 1) Awards for All application – as reported previously, application lodged in February and result expected sometime in May.
 - 2) Gold badge for Jim Friel.
 - 3) Waverley tickets update – tickets can't be released for sale until the Waverley publishes its summer programme. When this is received, an e mail will be sent out asking members to request tickets by reply e mail. Members will also be able to request tickets in person at Branch meetings.
 - 4) Jackson Cullinane, Unite Political Officer, has agreed to attend the May Branch meeting to talk and answer relevant questions about protocols for the election of CLP delegates.
 - 5) Roz Foyer has been invited to attend the June Branch meeting to talk about Branch recruitment.
 - 6) A draft constitution for the establishment of the Union Song Club as an entity separate from the Branch is being prepared and will be presented at the May Branch meeting for discussion and/or approval.

- b) David Paterson reported on the Action Sub-Committee Meeting held on 14th March 2019 (copy attached to agenda papers). Next meeting will be held on 11th April at 12.30pm. All members are welcome to attend.
- c) Bobby Brennan reported on the Age Scotland Conference held on 20th March in the Radisson Blue Hotel, Glasgow. A number of interesting speakers were in attendance, including-

**Professor Rose Gilroy, speaking on housing conditions and standards
Dr William Bird, speaking about building an active elderly community
Dr Melrose Stuart, speaking about inter-generational bonding**

**A number of awards were given, including a 'Young Volunteer Award'
and an 'Inspirational Award', awarded to Renfrew Swimming Club.**

Bobby concluded that the Conference was well worth attending.

7. Education Officer's Report

David Paterson reminded interested members of the Equalities Course, planned to be held on 27th May in Room 4 at John Smith House.

Members interested in taking part in the 'Unions into Schools' project should notify the Education Officer. The STUC team would provide the necessary training.

Candidates for the Retired Members Residential training course in Eastbourne will be submitted to the Retired Members Regional Committee for selection.

8. Pensioners Issues.

Chair noted that Jeremy Corbyn had raised the issue of Free TV Licences for over 75s at Prime Minister's Question Time.

9. Disputes.

Dave Sherry stated that Unite members at Glasgow Airport had balloted for industrial action. There was a 75% turnout with 98% voting in favour.

10. Any Other Business.

Dave Sherry agreed to arrange a campaigning speaker on 'Action Against Climate Change' for the September Branch Meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 13.50pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

11. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 2nd May at 12.30pm.