

## Minutes of the Unite Glasgow Retired Members Branch 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019

Chair Jake McLeod welcomed 40 members and suspended Standing Orders to hear our speaker, Jackson Cullinane. He stated that the main reason he was invited was to clarify the situation re delegates from Branch to the Labour Party, and the fact that we wanted to remove a number who didn't meet certain branch criteria. He pointed out the importance of having delegates to influence LP on Union policy, and if we reduce delegates we cannot influence as much. 65 branches send 200 delegates; we have largest number, then Inverness followed by Ayr. Industrial branches are being encouraged to increase their delegations. Since Mick had written to all our delegates, Jackson asked for copies of the replies from those who stated they no longer wished to be a delegate. Various issues were raised including status of those retired members who do not pay the Retired Members Plus fee. On a more general question Jackson referred to the Democracy Review, which is looking at changes in Labour Party Structure, including number of TU seats on LP Executive, as well as other groups such as the Black and Ethnic Minority. Reichard Leonard believes that the LP is the political wing of the Trade Union movement and they should have an increased strength. Jackson was thanked for his contribution and the Branch moved on the normal business.

1. Apologies – Isabel Alexander, Robert Buirds, Brian Burns, Alan Cameron, John Ferguson, Peter Heaney, Ian Findlay, Frank Harrigan, John Johnston, Joe Keenan, Dennis McLellan, Russell McLintock, Jessie Morrison, Bill Newman, Dennis O'Donnell, Jim Payne, Ray Stanfield, Jennifer Webb.
2. Chair welcomed 3 new members to the branch.
3. Minutes of Branch meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April approved
4. Matters Arising
  - a) Mick Rice reported on summer outing arrangements. Tickets for Waverley Trip would be on sale at end of meeting - £15 for member and £35 for guest. Also, members to select menu choice.
  - b) Dave Sherry reported on the May Day March and Rally on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May. Assemble George Square at 11.00am, move off at 11.30.
5. Correspondence – letter from Scottish Pensioners Forum inviting members to attend an event at the Scottish Parliament on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May from 6.00pm – 8.00pm highlighting its report on “Bullying of an Ageing Workforce”. Jake and Maureen to attend.
6. Reports
  - a) Anne Morgan intimated that she would be attending a conference on the effect of Climate Changes and that she would report at next meeting
  - b) Action Sub-Committee Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> April – noted
  - c) Report from Scottish Pensioners Forum – written report submitted by Maureen Gardner. However, since then, the House of Lords Intergenerational Committee stated that all concessions currently enjoyed by pensioners (including concessionary travel, winter heating allowance, triple lock for pensions and the concessionary TV Licence for the over 75's) should be abolished. As chair of the SPF Maureen had been invited to refute these statements on Russian TV UK and this she did (hopefully!!)
  - d) Dave Sherry reported on the Glasgow Walk for Palestine and Medical Aid for Palestine. Branch agreed to donate £50.
  - e) Bob Gillespie gave a report from the Glasgow South CLP. Will be considering candidates for selection for prospective MP.
  - f) Anita Shelton reported on the Age Scotland Luminare Festival which will be held in May.

7. **Proposed constitution of Song Club – agreed to read and discuss at next branch meeting. Mick reported that Jimmy Ross and Finlay Allison will be performing at the next song club to celebrate Pete Seeger’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.**
8. **Branch Banner design. Jim Ito had produced two versions of the proposed new branch banner and after a suggestion from Bobby Brennan on layout, the design was agreed.(George Square demo, January 1919 and a Crane drawn by John Veil.)**
9. **Education Officer – David Paterson reported that there would be an “Equalities” Day Course on Monday May 27<sup>th</sup>.**
10. **Motion to Branch to be submitted to Regional Committee for consideration as a motion to Unite Scotland 3<sup>rd</sup> Policy Conference**  
**“This conference supports the retention of the free TV Licence for the over 75’s. We believe that the responsibility for this benefit should be returned to the Department of Work and Pensions and should be retained as a non-means tested benefit. For many pensioners, TV is their main form of companionship and is seen as part of the Government’s wider welfare role in tackling social isolation and loneliness. This responsibility should not be passed to the BBC. We therefore urge that our union, Unite, raise this issue with appropriate political parties and campaign for this concession to be continued”.**  
**Motion moved by Maureen Gardner, seconded by Irene Graham and carried.**

The branch then listened to Norman King, Full Time Officer for print workers describe the work that Jim Friel had done within Unite which warranted him being presented with the first Scottish Gold Badge. Norman specifically referred to his role as Union rep particularly at Collins and the Daily Record, before presenting Jim with his badge. On behalf of the branch, Sammy Morris then presented Jim with a quaich representing friendship and inscribed (apart from Jim’s details) with the words “Solidarity Forever”. In doing so, Sammy sung his own version of “Joe Hill” with Jim Friel’s name substituted for Joe Hill. Jim thanked everyone and referred to various events he had been involved with and his appreciation of both presentations. Members then partook of a buffet and a refreshment to celebrate this special occasion.