

GMB

Chesterfield No. 1 Branch

Minutes of the 13th April 2010 meeting

Present:

C Bennett. P Harvey. D Wallace. **B** Gachagan. S Walker. S Langley. S Boyle.

Apologies: None

Minutes of the last meeting:

The Secretary apologised for not having the previous minutes ready but said he would post them out.

Matters arising from the March meeting:

It was noted that Sue Boyd from the Nottingham office would replace T Finch in the Chesterfield office. Sue would take office on 4th May 2010.

Letter to Trevor Finch

The Secretary reported that although a letter of thanks had been sent to Trevor Finch, there had been no response back. A discussion was held on whether to get Trevor a parting gift. It was agreed to wait until after the financial meeting with Kalvinder on 14th April. Meanwhile, we would come up with ideas.

Membership:

No new members signed up but Colin reported one possible one in Severn Trent. Colin reported that the new STW rep is to start training this autumn.

Reports:

No. 34 Glumangate

Secretary to have a meeting with Kalvinder Degun, GMB Financial officer to discuss the new branch and its finances. Meeting due on 14th April in Chesterfield.

The furniture has arrived for No. 34 and the phones and PC's can now be ordered.

The move expected in three weeks.

A decision will be taken on whether to hold the next meeting at No. 34.

Colin suggested that to allow everyone to see the new office and know where it is, any launch should be designated as a training meeting. This would allow reps to attend with time off for pay. Secretary to explore this idea.

Severn Trent

Colin said another re-organisation is expected soon.

May Day 2010

Shay reported that things were going well for the Bank Holiday May Day event in Chesterfield. Speakers have been booked. Bands have been booked. The Urban Gypsies are here again and the Congolese Drummers are attending this year.

Programmes and badges are on sale now downstairs in the Labour Club and a number

of "T" shirts depicting Maggie's End have been ordered to co-inside with the showing of The Striker's Story in the NEDDC office on the day.

The Strikers' Story

Shay reported on a successful event when the film The Striker's Story was put on at the Winding Wheel last month to commemorate 25 years since the miners strike. DVD's of the film are now available from the Labour Club or the DUWC for £10.

The Spirit Level

The Trades Council and the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre on Saltergate put on a lecture in the Winding Wheel on Monday 12th April. Professor Richard Wilkinson has written a book called The Spirit Level which argues that more equal societies do better. Professor gave a detailed talk on the subject to a packed Winding Wheel Ballroom with Liberal, Labour and Green party members present.

Workers Memorial Day 2010

Shay reported on this year's TRUST Workers Memorial Day Event in Shirebrook Market 10.30am on 30th April.

The plan is to gather as many people as possible and parade a wooden coffin from Shirebrook Church, down to the Market Square.

At the Market Square the local Vicar and an Industrial Vicar will bless the coffin and say a prayer for all those who died at work.

Then, a few trade union officials will give short 5 minutes speech's about workers memorial Day, accidents at work etc. and speak on this year's theme, which is '**Unions make work safer**'.

Confirmed speakers are :

FBU – David Green

Fire Brigades Union

Executive Council Member (East Midlands Region)

UCU – James Eaden

Chesterfield Trades Council President

GMB Craig Stuart

GMB Education and Health & Safety Officer

GMB Midlands and East Coast Region

UCATT Sean Lee UCATT Regional Organiser

We are still looking for a woman speaker.

Shay then reported that the TRUST painting had finished doing the rounds in and around North Derbyshire. The Workers Memorial Day 2009 Painting will end its days in Shirebrook Library on April 28th, Workers Memorial Day 2010.

Colin asked if TRUST were aware of Malcolm McClaren's death due to

Mesothelioma and would TRUST get any mileage out of capitalising on it?

Shay said that Joanne had already been made aware of that but no plans were in place that he knew of.

Correspondence:

The following correspondence was read out:

Equality Reps Stage One course – 14th may Arrington Hotel
Sheffield Trade Union Studies centre – April to =July 2010 courses
Unionlearn – TU Courses for 2010 in Bradford
Organising Vulnerable and Migrant Workers course – 21st may 2010 in Kent
Employment Law course 19th May 2010 in Cheshire
Vacancy for GMB Project Manager in Yorkshire & North Derbyshire Region
Vacancy – Project Worker supporting Migrant Workers Kent Area
Notice of Belle Isle GMB branch meeting Monday 12th April.
Hope Not Hate – Report to Steering Group January 2010 on the Barnsley successful by-election.
Love Music Hate Racism Music event Chapletown Leeds 17th April.
Health & Safety Matters – The New FIT NOTE details for reps.
 Minutes of the Regional Executive Meeting 10th February 2010 – Noted: Future arrangements for congress.
Minutes of the Central Executive Council meeting 16th February 2010 London.
 Shay referred to several items from this document. Mainly GMB Congress changes 2010 will focus on internal matters. Two special reports: Future congress arrangements and Accountability of internal finances and Branch accounting.
 Membership up in 2009 and early 2010. Shorter Congress = cost savings. General Election 2010 48 target seats for GMB to concentrate on. 1 in 4 members will vote labour. 2 in 4 post holders will definitely vote labour and 38% are undecided.

AOB

Dave Wallace reported that his daughter has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. Dave has been fundraising for cancer support for a long time and now wished to set up a cancer support group in Chesterfield. Dave said he already has the support of Chesterfield Borough Council who has allowed him a few rooms in the Market hall. Dave is hoping to set up a Drop In Centre where other sufferers can call in for support and information. It is hoped to be open by late may – early June 2010. As part of his fundraising campaign, Dave's Sons Tony and Tim are to do a cycle ride from **John O'Groats to Lands End** starting on May 9th and should be passing through Chesterfield on Friday 14th. Dave has produced a sponsor form and the Secretary has agreed to photocopy it and circulate it around branches. Colin suggested a branch donation and it was agreed to donate but wait until after the meeting with Kalvinder for an agreed amount.

Dates for your diary

28th April International Workers memorial Day – Remember the Dead Fight for the Living. **Unions Make Workplaces Safer**

28th April 2010 – International Workers memorial Day – Remember the Dead – Fight for the Living

- **30th April 2010** – Workers Memorial Day event in Shirebrook Market Place 10.30am
- **May 1st** – Derby Silk Mill March and Rally
- **Bank Holiday Monday May 3rd** – Chesterfield TUC May Day March & Rally 10.30 Chesterfield Town Hall.

Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 11th May 2010. Chesterfield labour Club.

Dated.....Signed.....

