



In the Yorkshire & North Derbyshire Region

**Minutes of the Regional RMA Advisory Committee Meeting  
held at Grove Hall on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2008  
at 10.30am**

**1. PRESENT**

George Tutill (Chairman), Tim Roache (part), Neil Moore, Ralph Baxter, Dick Hazel, Bill Hinsliffe, Barry Christopherson, Lita Southam (Secretary) and Graham Benton (Senior Organiser).

**2. APOLOGIES**

Stan Bradbury (holiday) and Gill Martin (sick leave).

**3. MINUTES OF 15/1/08 MEETING**

Agreed.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

a) GB reported that the Regional Secretary and he had agreed an annual budget for the committee.

b) The next edition of the regional magazine was being proof read at the time of writing so any notice of trips could go into the next edition due out later in the year.

c) GB reminded colleagues of the regional website at [www.gmbbyorkshire.org.uk](http://www.gmbbyorkshire.org.uk) which has a page for the RMA and its activities.

d) It was reported that following Debbie Coulter's decision not to stand again as DGS, responsibility for the national RMA committee would become Jerry Nelson's although GB advised this had not been formally notified as yet.

**5. REGIONAL SECRETARY**

TR thanked the committee for affording him the opportunity to address them again and gave an outline of GMB annual Congress activities the previous week. For the first time in many years the delegation was at full strength and indeed oversubscribed necessitating an election. Just about every delegate took an active part in both Congress and the sectional conferences which took place during the same week. Various people commented favourably on the Region's contribution to Congress which made TR extremely proud, especially as he had now been in post 12 months. During that time the Region had grown in membership and new activists in line with the

GMB@Work agenda, indeed the Region had increased membership in the last four months. Two delegates were presented with awards and the region had the honour of carrying the national banner at the opening of Congress. Following Debbie Coulter's decision not to stand for re-election as DGS Congress agreed that her duties would be divided amongst the Senior Management Team. Success breeds success with everyone wanting to be part of the Region's activities. A new project team had been set up incorporating sports, migrant workers and general sections. Finally, TR commended committee members for their valued input and congratulated NM on being elected as an auditor at Regional Council in April.

## **6. CORESPONDENCE**

All previously circulated with no matters arising.

## **7. TRIPS**

a) It was agreed that NM would cancel the provisionally booked coach for Leeds/Bradford members to Whitby who would instead be invited to fill a 44 seater coach and join with York based members on their trip to the east coast on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2008. (LS to circulate a flyer to all retired life members living at Leeds and Bradford postcodes.) Cost to be £13 per person which includes transport, a 3 course lunch and light tea.

b) Sheffield members had yet to agree a venue and date.

c) LS had investigated the annual trip to Spain for 50 people and details would be circulated in due course. Anyone booking would have to show proof of insurance and LS undertook to investigate preferential rates and also liaise with SB.

## **8. GMB@WORK**

GB circulated copies of documentation relating to the GMB@Work agenda reminding colleagues that the first objective of the RMA was, "...to provide practical assistance in the recruitment, retention and organisational objectives of the GMB." Following discussion it was agreed that colleagues would report back to their members and come back to the next meeting with proposals.

## **9. MOTIONS FOR NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

Following debate, the motions below were agreed:

1. "Conference condemns the withdrawal of the 10p tax rate in regard to pensioners as there is no planned compensation for this group. We urge the GMB to lobby Government to increase the personal tax allowance for this group and in particular the derisory 25p per week for 80 year olds which should be reviewed and increased dramatically." (Neil Moore)
2. "Conference calls upon the Government to stop local councils deciding that they will decide who will install cavity and loft insulation to some people aged 70 and over,

and make the benefit for all people who attain retirement age whether in own or council housing and irrespective of which company they buy fuel from. This will contribute towards reducing global warming with less fuel being used." (Bill Hinsliffe)

Bill Hinsliffe and Dick Hazel agreed to attend the national conference in October 2008 and GB to send details to Monica Smith by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008.

## **10. LABOUR PARTY**

The South Yorkshire RMA Branch had asked to submit a motion proposing that GMB disaffiliate from the party. GB advised this was not competent business as that would be for Congress to decide and they had concluded business for 2008 only last week. The regional political officer was on leave so unable to address the meeting. A press cutting was circulated reporting on the debate at Congress indicating that where MPs did not support GMB campaigns, such as the disgraceful Remploy factory closures, then they would receive no further monies from the union's political fund. LS agreed to supply further copies for BC to take back to his Branch.

## **11. PENSIONERS' PARLIAMENT**

BH gave a report on the above held in Blackpool earlier in the month commenting that it was much better organised this year with most delegates actually staying until the end. There were 4 guest speakers who were well received. DH also attended and spoke about the lack of support from politicians. Following much criticism of MPs and MEPs, GB said he would invite either Colin Burgon MP or Richard Corbett MEP to speak at the next committee meeting as they were both great supporters of GMB and could give a greater insight into the day to work of politicians which isn't always reflected on TV or by the media.

## **12. DATE, TIME & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2008 at 10.30am in Grove Hall.

GB 20.6.08

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