



In the Yorkshire & North Derbyshire Region

**Minutes of the Regional Retired Members Association Committee
held at Grove Hall on Friday, 19th June 2009
at 10.30am.**

1. PRESENT

George Tutill (Chairman), Bill Hinsliffe, Dick Hazel, Neil Moore, Barry Christopherson, Stan Bradbury, Jerry Nelson (National RMA Coordinator), Colin Burgon MP, Steve Jennings (Regional Political Officer) and Graham Benton (Senior Organiser).

2. APOLOGIES

Lita Southam (Secretary) Marjorie Jones and Ralph Baxter/Brian Barron.

3. JERRY NELSON, NATIONAL RMA COORDINATOR

National committee meeting held yesterday, (18/6/09), only outstanding cost is the national conference which comes in at about £5 to £6k. Motion passed at Congress to increase Branch levy so will now have more money for lobbying. Not happy with current format in regions or nationally and will look to address. Want more activity like campaigning or to support members in work. Need to rebuild confidence politically, to fight the BNP and a lot is down to Prime Minister, need to recognise the issues that matter to the people like pensions. National RMA looking at some form of national award for long service but down to regions if they want to do something. Deadline for motions and delegates to national conference is 31st July 2009. This region needs to elect replacement for Neil Moore.

4. MINUTES OF 19/3/09 MEETING

Agreed.

5. MATTERS ARISING

a) South Yorks RMA meeting dates supplied to Regional Secretary who had now visited the Branch.

b) Long service awards - it was agreed to recommend to the Regional Secretary that an award be made for members with 40 plus years membership. This should at least be a certificate but preferably a badge, tiepin or brooch depending on cost. Consideration to be given to an awards ceremony.

c) Nomination received from Bradford branch, (Brian Barron), to replace Ralph Baxter but not turned up. GB to progress.

d) Marjorie Jones contacted and agreed to come on the committee.

e) LS had circulated a flyer to LS & BD postcodes to advertise the trips which were now overbooked.

6. COLIN BURGON MP

Steve Jennings introduced Colin Burgon, MP for Elmet, who was standing down at the next general election much to the disappointment of GMB as he is a good friend to the trade union movement and also a GMB member. SJ reported that any MP or local authority councillor not supporting GMB policies would not receive any funding from the Region. A brief report was also given on the Euro elections where Richard Corbett lost his seat, another good friend of GMB's. The Labour vote had collapsed letting the BNP win a seat for the first time.

CB gave a good report on the state of the nation and what he hoped to see happen in the coming months to reclaim the Labour Party from the careerists and those that exploited the discredited expenses system. In his opinion the trade union and labour movement were back to the 1931 position, i.e. in total disarray. It then took generations until the end of WW2 to recover and if Labour were defeated again at the next election it would happen all over again. Whilst CB had rebelled on points of principle or policy in the past, the current shower were falling out over personalities which is great for the right wing media. The general economic situation is also the worst since 1929 and for the last 15/20 years people had grown up with the idea that times were good and would continue. The politicians no longer had a connection to the electorate and tended to live in the 'London bubble' where nothing else mattered. New Labour had brought in some good things but were riding the surf of neo-liberalism. What was needed now was old fashioned debate and discussion of new ideas and policies and a new wave of TU members joining the party and new MPs from a working class background. CB suggested that the next Tory government would be more right wing than Thatcher but at least Labour would listen to the unions.

CB then answered a number of wide ranging questions and was thanked by the Chairman to great applause.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Letter regarding national conference on 29th October 2009 in Manchester previously circulated. Motions to be in by 31st July 2009 as were delegates' details. There was also a need to replace Neil Moore on the national committee.

Following debate it was agreed to forward the following from Neil Moore:

"Care for the Elderly - Not for the first time this conference views the treatment of the elderly, especially when needing care in a home as something which should not be dictated by geographical qualification. In Scotland and Wales this is free so why should the devolved areas have this advantage? After all, the funding of these originated from central government. We call upon the GMB to use its influence in whatever way open to end this discrimination, inequality and unfairness and for natural justice to prevail."

Bill Hinsliffe and Dick Hazel were once again nominated as delegates and Barry Christopherson was elected on to the national committee. GT requested visitor's credentials for his wife. GB agreed to write a further resolution on parking charges at hospitals and forward all the information to Monica Smith.

8. TRIPS

a) York/Leeds/Bradford - as these were heavily oversubscribed NM suggested that next year Leeds/Bradford organised their own trip.

b) Sheffield - now organised, Whitby on 7th July 2009 and Bridlington in September in addition to the usual Christmas function for 55 members.

c) Annual trip to Fueringola - hotel was fantastic but the food left something to be desired. Next year's trip was already in hand and would be to Majorca. GB to check next year's deadline for the regional magazine so trips could be advertised well in advance.

9. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 6th October 2009 at Grove Hall commencing at 10.30am.