



In the Yorkshire & North Derbyshire Region

**Minutes of the Regional Retired Members Association Committee
held at Grove Hall on Friday, 26th February 2010
at 10.30am.**

1. PRESENT

George Tutill (Chairman), Bill Hinsliffe, Dick Hazel, Neil Moore, Barry Christopherson, Bernard Barron, Colin Burgon MP (part) and Graham Benton (Senior Organiser).

2. APOLOGIES

Lita Southam (Secretary) and Stan Bradbury.

3. COLIN BURGON MP

Following CB's previous popular address to the committee, he was once again invited to make a presentation which was received by acclamation. The opinion polls seemed to be narrowing in Labour's favour largely due to the Tories being unable to convince voters. He also referred to demonstrations in Greece against cuts in their public sector which are also on the cards in the UK whichever party wins the next election which might well be a hung Parliament with Labour winning but needing LibDem support. Choice for voters seems limited with all parties saying they will make cuts in the public sector without realising the massive knock on effect, e.g. in the supply chain and on welfare benefits provision. In CB's opinion the answer is to keep the economy afloat by continued spending in the public sector. CB then went on to answer a number of questions put and was then thanked.

4. MINUTES OF 6/10/09 MEETING

Agreed.

5. MATTERS ARISING

- a) Apologies once again given for changing the date of today's meeting from 19/2/10 due to the General Secretary's annual address to Officers on that date
- b) Agreed to await the National Coordinator's decision on long service awards. GB confirmed the Region had bought some badges but would await the national decision before doing anything with them.
- c) LCC dispute successfully resolved in members' favour.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) RMA National Conference in Southport on 10th June 2010. Two Regional delegates allowed as well as the two national committee members. Each Region to send up to three resolutions. It was agreed that subject to the Pensioners Parliament being held from 8-10 June, DH and BH would attend along with GT and BC. One motion is attached and one to be formulated by GB. GB reported that we had been a little hasty in attempting to organise a Regional conference under the terms of the as yet un-agreed new constitution as not enough people had been nominated making it unviable. Until the CEC had endorsed the constitution then this committee would remain in position.
- b) GMB annual travel insurance only covers up to 75 years old. GB had sent the correspondence on to JN to investigate.
- c) 'Over 65' magazine previously circulated and available on the Regional website. (www.gmbyorkshire.org.uk, then click on the 'Equality & Inclusion' tab then 'Retired Members Association' link on the left of the page to access)

7. TRIPS

- a) 1st September 2010 from York to Whitby, details attached.
- b) 2nd September 2010 from Leeds & Bradford to Whitby, details attached.
- c) Sheffield area trip as yet undecided.

d) Details to be put on the Regional website by GB. LS to mail shot LS and BD postcodes as per last year.

8. REPORTS

a) BC reported on S99 activities including information regarding pensioners in the UK receiving on average a state retirement income worth just 30% of average salary compared to Greece at the top with 95.7% and the EU average being 60%.

b) BC also gave a brief report on the last National committee meeting confirming the RMA constitution had yet to be confirmed by the CEC.

9. GMB@WORK

GB reported that the Region had grown by 1.9% in the last year to January 2010 compared to the national figure of 0.2% and was the second best in terms of recruitment and growth in spite of the recession. As a result, income had been higher than forecast and the Region was on course to meet its targets for 2010.

10. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 15th June 2010 at Grove Hall commencing at 10.30am.