



In the Yorkshire & North Derbyshire Region

**Minutes of the Regional Retired Members' Association Committee Meeting
held at Grove Hall on Tuesday, 10th February 2015
at 10.30am**

1. PRESENT:

George Tutill, Jacqueline Tutill, Bill Hinsliffe, Dick Hazel, Morgan Pugh, Neil Moore, Steve Jennings (part) and Graham Benton (Senior Organiser/RMA Coordinator).

2. APOLOGIES:

Lita Southam.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING 21/10/14:

Agreed.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

a) Former committee member Stan Bradbury was featured in the last edition of the regional magazine as was a retired member from the S99 branch that had won the raffle at the South Yorkshire Festival in August 2014 at Wortley Hall, both articles and pictures raising the profile of retired members in the region.

b) It was agreed that GB would endeavour to obtain a bottle of GMB whisky for each coach on this years' trips, i.e. eight; otherwise it would remain at one per trip, i.e. three.

c) The regional TUC pension's seminar in York on 19/11/14 was attended by GT; GB had received a number of documents which he agreed to circulate with these minutes.

d) It was agreed that JT would chase up where the national RMA banner was at the next national RMA committee meeting.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

Only one item received, this being from the Yorkshire & Humber Pensioners Convention requesting affiliation for 2015, this being the regional group of the National Pensioners Convention to which the national union is affiliated. Individuals can join for £5 per year but to affiliate our twelve thousand odd retired members in the region would cost £45. Details to be held on file.

This sparked a general discussion on pensions and it was agreed that GB would speak to the national pensions department to see if they might provide a guest speaker on the future of pensions generally at a future committee meeting.

6. TRIPS:

NM proposed that subject to funding from the region, trips from the three areas be organised for 2015 as follows:

- From York to Bridlington on 2nd September (2x53 seater coaches)
- from Leeds/Bradford to Whitby on 3rd September (3x53 seater coaches)
and
- from Sheffield to Blackpool on 9th September (3x53 seater coaches)

all to the same venues as last year with the same itinerary at virtually the same cost to members.

GB agreed in principle but would need to clarify the funding as last year the regional RMA budget had been exceeded so members may have to pay a little extra from last year's £15 to cover any shortfall. NM explained that the previous regional secretary had gone 50/50 but would await notification from GB as he was ready to go with the bookings and tickets etc. GB confirmed that if a deposit was required from any of the suppliers, (transport and hotels), this shouldn't be a problem.

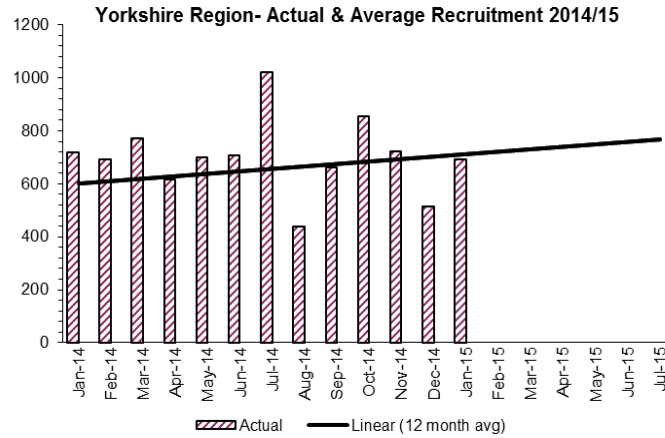
7. REPORTS:

- a) There has been no national RMA committee meeting.
- b) GB reported that Billy Hughes had passed away towards the end of last year.
- c) Neither of the region's two motions was successful at the national RMA conference, one was ruled out of order prior to conference and the other referred back to the national committee despite the best efforts of our regional delegates.
- d) GT and others had been invited by the national RMA coordinator to attend the union's national birthday bash in London which was well attended, if anything a bit too over crowded. Both John Edmonds and Ed Milliband were also guests.

8. GMB@WORK:

Membership & recruitment report as at the end of January 2015:

	Current Month Jan-15	Change on last month	Last Month Dec-14	12 months ago Jan-14	Change on 12 months ago	% change Jan- 14 to Jan- 15
LONDON	101,252	-136	101,388	100,160	1,092	1.1%
NW & IRISH	82,347	-96	82,443	81,945	402	0.5%
SOUTHERN	80,556	-279	80,835	76,884	3,672	4.8%
WALES & S. WEST	71,324	14	71,310	70,244	1,080	1.5%
NORTHERN	66,511	-155	66,666	67,398	-887	-1.3%
YORKSHIRE	63,883	-183	64,066	62,675	1,208	1.9%
MIDLANDS	58,167	-150	58,317	57,367	800	1.4%
SCOTLAND	56,212	-178	56,390	56,414	-202	-0.4%
BIRMINGHAM	52,180	-207	52,387	51,673	507	1.0%
NATIONAL	632,432	-1,370	633,802	624,760	7,672	1.2%



YORKSHIRE	Actual	Moving average over 12 months
Jan-14	719	601
Feb-14	692	606
Mar-14	771	625
Apr-14	619	627
May-14	701	630
Jun-14	709	642
Jul-14	1023	677
Aug-14	439	675
Sep-14	662	677
Oct-14	855	690
Nov-14	725	694
Dec-14	515	703
Jan-15	693	700

Whilst January 2015 was a good month for recruitment when it's traditionally quiet, the 693 new members were overtaken by the high number of leavers. Frustratingly, having gone over the 64,000 figure, the leavers meant we went back down to 63,883. However, the region's average for January now stands at 700.

9. POLITICAL REPORT:

Steve Jennings gave a brief but comprehensive report on the political scene within the region and nationally concentrating on the seven regional key seats of Dewsbury, Elmet, Calder Valley, Keighley, Pudsey, Bradford East and Leeds NW with one more possibility of Rotherham. Any support and assistance would be welcomed.

SJ's regional report for 2014 was handed out as was a newly published CLASS document, the regional secretary being the chairman of the organisation. Opinion polls were all over the place and whereas he would normally have been able to assess the result on 7th May 2015, this time round it wasn't possible due to the UKIP factor. SJ's role between now and then is to rally as much trade union support as possible. Another was to highlight that people needed to register to be able to vote as one survey showed that 10% of GMB members in one local constituency weren't registered due to change in rules. Mention was also made to events in Greece which could have an adverse effect in the rest of Europe.

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be deferred to enable SJ to invite a political speaker in June after the election result.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Discussion took place regarding the GMB rule about retired members holding branch positions having to pay grade 1 contributions. GB reminded colleagues that the rule was changed at the last rules revision congress and undertook to add the rule to these minutes for clarity:

GMB Rule 18(7) - Qualifying for office, and the definition of officers

"Retired life members as defined in rule 47a may stand for election as branch officials only and are exempt from paying full contributions."

11. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING:

To be confirmed.