



AGENDA

**RETIRED MEMBERS CONFERENCE
THURSDAY 21ST JANUARY 2016**

**Crystal Suite
The Britannia Hotel
Portland Street
Manchester
M1 3LA**

Message from the General Secretary

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to welcome you all to the CWU Retired Members Conference for 2016, which is my first as General Secretary. I look forward to the debate over the course of the day.

It is clear from the agenda for today that austerity, public services and benefit cuts are at the forefront of many of our retired members' minds. This is no surprise. While much of the public debate about older people in the UK has focussed on the 'triple lock' on the state pension, suggesting pensioners have had an easy time of it, this has given a misleading picture.

1.6 million pensioners live in poverty and half a million older people were admitted to A&E last year unnecessarily, as social care services struggled to cope with huge cuts to their funding. Against this backdrop it is clearly important that in standing up for working people the CWU, and the wider labour movement, continues to campaign on behalf of our retired members and today is an opportunity for you to set out your priorities for this.

When I stood to be General Secretary I said that I wanted our retired members section to be fully engaged in our campaign work and I also want to hear from people today how we can achieve this. Looking at the political context in the country today, and particularly the attempt to restrict our ability to stand up for our members with the Trade Union Bill, there has rarely been a more important time for us to re-assert trade union values in society. This is something the whole of the CWU needs to be engaged in.

In terms of our own structures, I fully support the ex officio seat for the Chair of the Retired Members Advisory Committee on the NEC and am committed to our retired members having a full and active role in the CWU. One thing I am aware can be improved here is the support provided to the RMAC on communications and this is something the Communications Department will be working with the Committee on, early in 2016.

It is clearly also important that the union is working effectively to recruit members who are retiring so we can retain their expertise and continue to support them. Today is an opportunity for you to have your say on how we can do this.

I hope to meet as many people as possible over the course of the day and I hope that everyone here takes the opportunity to have an input into the union's work.

Dave Ward
General Secretary

Message from the Senior Deputy General Secretary

Dear Colleagues,

Once again it is an honour to extend a warm welcome to delegates, observers and visitors to the 16th Retired Members Conference. I am looking forward, as I know you are to open, honest debates around the items we have on our agenda today and that at the end of it we can move forward together as opposed to looking back, with ideas of how to best deal with issues effecting the elderly in society.

A report from AgeUK, drawing on government figures, has found that £3.7 billion of benefits went unclaimed for 2013/14. The same report found that 1.6 million pensioners now live in poverty, with 900,000 in severe poverty. These figures need to be borne in mind when the right wing - media are spinning the intergenerational conflict line that the elderly are getting everything at the cost of the young. The elderly are clearly not, many are really struggling to get by. To put the scenario of failing to pick up benefits in context, imagine for a moment a banker failing to pick up his or her bonus – unthinkable? Yes.

It has been good over recent months to see organisations like the NPC stressing the value of elderly people to the economy. They have highlighted the contribution made with voluntary care provided for children, grandchildren and adults, together with taxes paid on earnings and savings. The NPC estimate that the elderly contribute £40bn more than they take out in pensions, benefits and care costs. It is important to keep pushing home this message, particularly now with this rampant Conservative government that knows the price of everything and the value of nothing. The next five years are going to be tough for working people across the board. Chancellor George Osborne has already shown where his priorities lie, with the first budget, slashing even more money from those on the lower rungs of the income scale, whilst rewarding the bosses at the top. The government has also signalled that it is going to attempt to destroy anything that gets in the way of the pursuit of its fundamentalist creed. So trade unions loom large in its sights, with legislation proposed to force minimum 50 per cent turnouts on strike ballots, with 40 per cent having to vote in favour. Agency workers are also to be used to break strikes. This from a government elected by just 24 per cent of the population – hardly a popular mandate.

The unions will be crucial for all generations seeking to defend their most basic rights. Times are going to be tough but the labour movement can once again overcome. There has been a new injection of energy to the struggle since the election result, with growing numbers appalled at the prospects of bigger bankers' bonuses, whilst the queues at the foodbanks grow ever longer. There is a key role to play in the fightback and retired members, with their experience of past battles have a key role to play.

Finally I would like to thank Cathy Leech who has decided to relinquish her position on the RMAC and move on to full retirement. Cathy has been active in the CWU and its predecessors since 1978 and was one who was never shy in promoting the virtues of being a Trade Union member.

It only remains for me to wish you all the best and to enjoy the conference.

Tony Kearns
Senior Deputy General Secretary

CONTENTS

	Page
Message from the General Secretary	1
Message from the Senior Deputy General Secretary	2
Welcome from the General Conference Standing Orders Committee	3
Standing Orders	4
Timetable	9
Retired Members' Advisory Committee Report	10
Section II: National Issues – Motions 1-9	12
Motions Not Admitted to the Agenda – Motions 10-11	15

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Welcome From the General Conference Standing Orders Committee

Once again the General Conference Standing Orders Committee has the privilege of organising the agenda for this Retired Members Conference and as last year we are here to assist in any way we can to ensure your conference runs smoothly.

As the Retired Members Conference is well established within the CWU the Standing Orders Committee have made the Standing Orders more detailed in line with General Conference Standing Orders.

As always the Standing Orders Committee are available to give delegates new or experienced, advice or clarify any issues that they might have with regards to conference procedures so do not hesitate to come and meet with us if you have any queries surrounding the agenda, motions or ballots that will take place during the conference.

Details of the ballot procedure will be given on the day.

Finally, on behalf of the Standing Orders Committee, we wish you a successful conference.

Joyce Stevenson and Tony Sneddon
General Conference Standing Orders Committee

Retired Members' Conference 2016 Standing Orders

1. The sessions of the 2016 Conference shall commence in accordance with the timetable.

2. TIMETABLE

- a 10.30 Chairperson's Opening Remarks
10.35 Dave Ward, General Secretary
10.50 Adoption of Standing Orders Committee Report (including appeals/reference back)
10.55 Section II Motions
12.15 Guest Speaker David Brown, NPC
12.30 Lunch
13.30 Section II Motions (continued)
15.00 Tony Kearns, Senior Deputy General Secretary
15.25 Result of Ballots and Closing Remarks
15.30 Close of Conference

- b The doors of Conference will open at 10.00 with conference commencing at 10.30 and closing at 15.30

Conference is divided into two half-day sessions. If the business of any section is completed within the timetable, the Conference shall proceed immediately to the next section of business.

If all the business of the final section is completed within the timetable, the Conference shall return to the earliest uncompleted business.

3. PROCEDURE IN DEBATE

- a Every member of the Conference must remain in their seat, except the one who may be addressing the Conference and, should the Chairperson rise, no-one else shall continue standing nor shall anyone else rise until the Chairperson has resumed the Chair.

SPEAKERS

- b A delegate when speaking from the rostrum shall address the Chairperson. If two or more persons desire to speak at the same time the Chairperson shall decide to whom priority will be given. No person shall be allowed to speak twice on the same question.
- c All speeches shall be confined to the subject under discussion.
- d Delegates may only refer to documents which have a bearing on the subject under discussion.
- e (i) Motions standing in the name of a Branch must be moved by a delegate from that Branch.
(ii) Motions standing in the name of a Regional Committee if appropriate, must be moved by a delegate from that body (in line with Rule 10).
(ii) Motions must be seconded or else they shall be deemed to have fallen.
- f A motion may be seconded formally or by a speaker making a seconding speech.

COMPOSITE MOTIONS

- g All sponsors of a composite motion will be responsible for agreeing the allocation of moving and seconding speakers from amongst those named within the composite motion, notwithstanding the terms of SO3e(i) and (ii).
- h The mover of a motion shall be allowed to speak for not more than 5 minutes and any other speaker (including the mover exercising the right of reply) for not more than 3 minutes. **In EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES a speaker may request the special permission of Conference to speak for a longer period, if agreed, it shall not exceed a further 3 minutes.**
- i The moving speaker shall have the right of reply to the debate only if there has been opposition and shall not introduce any fresh matter but shall be limited to answering the debate.
- j The Advisory Committee (including the relevant Officer) shall in addition to moving and exercising the right of reply be allowed a maximum of one speaker in a debate on motions standing in the name of the Advisory Committee (SO3i applies to the Advisory Committee).
- k The Advisory Committee (including the relevant Officer) shall only be allowed one speaker in debate on all other motions not standing in the name of the Advisory Committee.
- l No motion shall be spoken upon except by the mover, until it has been seconded. The mover of a motion who sits down without speaking upon it shall lose the right of addressing Conference, but shall still have the right of reply (SO3i) applies. The seconder of a motion who sits down without speaking upon it shall not lose the right of addressing Conference.

ENDING DEBATE

- m Any delegate who has not spoken on the motion before Conference may move "That the motion be now put" on the seconding of which the Chairperson shall immediately and without discussion put this motion to the vote. In the event of it being carried by a simple majority of Conference, Conference shall proceed to vote on the question itself, subject to SO3k and the right of reply as stated in SO3i being exercised.
- n Any delegate who has not spoken on the motion before Conference may move "That Conference proceeds to next business", on the seconding of which the Chairperson shall immediately and without discussion put this motion to the vote. In the event of it being carried Conference shall at once proceed to the next item on its agenda.

WITHDRAWAL

- o Any motion or composite motion may be withdrawn from the Agenda at any time by the sponsor(s) who shall notify the Standing Orders Committee at the earliest opportunity. Once it has been moved and seconded, however, it shall not be withdrawn except with the agreement of Conference by a simple majority vote.

POINT OF ORDER

- p Any person wishing to question the proceedings of Conference may rise on a "point of order", and when called shall state the procedural point in exact terms, whereupon the Chairperson shall immediately give a ruling or refer the matter to the Standing Orders Committee for a decision. Any person raising points of order must seek to prove one or more of the following:-

- (i) That the speaker is using unparliamentarily language.
 - (ii) That the speaker is digressing from the subject of the motion.
 - (iii) That the rules of the Union are being broken.
 - (iv) That there is an infringement of the customary rules of debate.
 - (v) That there is an infringement of the Standing Orders (which shall be referred to the Standing Orders Committee).
- q The Chairperson's ruling on a point of order shall be final unless it is challenged. The correct method of challenging the ruling shall be to move: "I wish to challenge your ruling." Such a motion shall be carried by a simple majority.
- r The Standing Orders Committee shall have the right to enter debate on all matters affecting the decisions and role of the Committee.

4. VOTING PROCEDURE

- a Voting at the Retired Members Conference shall normally be by a show of hand voting cards which shall be issued on the basis of one per Branch in attendance.
- b A card vote may be called for either by the Chairperson of the Retired Members Conference or when 5 or more delegates call for such a vote immediately on the announcement of the decision of the hand vote.

DURING A CARD VOTE ALL PERSONS MUST REMAIN IN THEIR SEATS AND NO PERSON SHALL ENTER OR LEAVE THE FLOOR OF CONFERENCE.

Instructions on the card vote will be given by the SOC.

When the motion being voted upon has a consequential effect on the following motion(s), Conference will proceed to the next item of business unaffected by the card vote result. When the card vote result is announced Conference will return to the earlier item provided it is within the timetable.

- c A motion will be deemed carried if it obtains a simple majority of the votes cast.

5. PROCEDURE FOR EMERGENCY MOTIONS

- a Emergency motions may only be submitted for inclusion in the Agenda if they refer to a matter which because of the circumstances giving rise to them could not possibly have been submitted by the published closing date for motions. Such emergency motions will only be accepted by the SOC if they constitute a significant and important matter, which requires a decision by Conference.
- b Emergency motions must reach the Standing Orders Committee at CWU Headquarters by midnight on **Monday 18th January 2016**. Delegates will be advised by the SOC whether or not the emergency motion has been accepted for inclusion to the Agenda prior to the commencement of Conference.
- c Any emergency motion submitted after the above date must be notified to the Standing Orders Committee as soon as possible. Delegates will be advised by the SOC whether or not the emergency motion has been accepted for inclusion to the agenda as a matter of urgency.

- d A decision taken by Conference shall not be open to the emergency procedure at the same Conference.

6. APPEALS/REFERENCE BACK PROCEDURE

- a Written notice of appeals/intention to move reference back against decisions of the Standing Orders Committee as published in the Agenda regarding:-

- (i) motions not admitted to the agenda
- (ii) inclusion/exclusion of motions in a composite
- (iii) the priority/placement given to a motion
- (iv) timetable/programme of business
- (v) the Standing Orders for Conference
- (vi) the consequential rulings on motions

must reach the Standing Orders Committee at CWU Headquarters by midnight on **Monday 18th January 2016**. Such written notice must advise of the intention to appeal/move reference back to alter the published agenda with details and reasons for doing so.

After consideration of appeals/reference backs by the SOC, Branches, Advisory Committees, and Regional Committees (if appropriate) wishing to continue their appeal/reference back must seek to do so by addressing Conference at the commencement of conference.

- b Challenges to other SOC decisions as printed or announced in supplementary SOC reports must be made at the time the supplementary report is moved.
- c All appeals/reference backs will be deemed carried if they have the support of a simple majority of Conference.
- d The Advisory Committees will also be required to follow these procedures.

7. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

- a Motions to suspend Standing Orders shall only be allowed to deal with business or circumstances that could not have been foreseen when the Timetable/Programme of Business was adopted.
- b The Chairperson may accept a motion for the suspension of Standing Orders provided no motion is on the floor being debated.

Any such motion must state the Standing Order/Orders involved and also state the nature and urgency of the business as to why the suspension is required.

The Chairperson shall immediately refer such a motion to the Standing Orders Committee who shall express their view before the vote is taken. A motion for the suspension of Standing Orders will be carried if supported by a simple majority of the Conference and shall take no longer than 15 minutes.

8. BALLOTS

- a There will be a ballot to select two motions this Conference will forward for submission to the 2016 General Conference.

The ballot paper for General Conference selection will be printed on

the reverse of the hand voting card.

Motions in Section II which are carried are eligible for the ballot for General Conference. The ballot will take place at the end of Section II motions.

The ballot box will be open subject to the timetable of Conference and located next to the administration table. The SOC shall be responsible for counting the ballot and advising the Chairperson of the result, which will be announced prior to the close of Conference. In the event of a tie, the SOC will administer an exhaustive ballot.

- b Should there be a request at General Conference to remit a motion in respect of the 2016 Conference motions, the mover of the motion at General Conference will be deemed to have the authority to agree to the remittance on behalf of the 2016 Conference, subject to the agreement of General Conference.

There will be a ballot to select the two delegates that will represent the Retired Members Conference at the 2016 General Conference

9. PROHIBITIONS

The use of mobile telephones are prohibited anywhere within the confines of the Conference Hall.

No documents, posters or banners shall be circulated, distributed or displayed within the Conference Hall without the permission of the Standing Orders Committee.

Timetable and Programme of Business

- 10.00 Registration
- 10.30 Chairpersons opening remarks
- 10.35 Dave Ward, General Secretary
- 10.50 Adoption of Standing Orders Committee Report
(including appeals/reference back)
- 10.55 Section II Motions
- 12.15 Guest Speaker – David Brown, NPC
- 12.30 Lunch
- 13.30 Section II Motions Continued
- 15.00 Tony Kearns, Senior Deputy General Secretary
- 15.25 Result of Ballots and Closing remarks
- 15.30 Conference closes

**DELEGATES ARE REMINDED THAT THE BALLOT BOX WILL
BE LOCATED AT THE SOC TABLE.**

Retired Members' Advisory Committee Report

Annual Report - Retired Members Advisory Committee

1. Committee members 2015/17

The 12 lay members of the committee are elected by branches: Dorothy Burnett, Rod Downing, Brian Lee, Cathy Leech, John Martin, Michael McAlinden, Ken Ward, Joan Moxon, Ernie Coggins, Dennis Rose, Jimmy Stewart and Allan Trotter.

Senior Deputy General Secretary Tony Kearns is the Officer who is responsible for the Retired Members. The Vice President and two members of the NEC Brendan O'Brian and Mark Baulch also sit on the Committee.

2. Retired members sections with branches

At the time of writing there are 16,626 CWU retired members. 104 branches now have a retired members section.

3. Retired Members Conference 2015

The 15th Annual Retired member's conference was held at CWU Headquarters on the 23rd January 2015. As in previous years, the conference was well attended by delegates and visitors from all areas of the United Kingdom. The Conference was opened by Jane Loftus, CWU Vice President .

The General Secretary, Billy Hayes gave an opening address of welcome. Guest speakers included Dot Gibson General Secretary of the National Pensioners Convention, Tim Sharp the TUC's Pensions Policy Officer and Becca Hufton from CWU Youth Committee.

Conference went on to debate 12 motions. A ballot was held to determine which two of the motions carried should be sent to CWU Annual Conference. The ballot result was in favour for Motion 7 on universal benefits and Motion 13 concerning State Pensions. Cathy Leech and Joan Moxon were elected to represent Retired Members at General Conference.

4. CWU Annual Conference

The RMAC organised a very successful fringe meeting at the CWU Annual Conference. The meeting was held on the Monday lunchtime and was packed out by conference delegates and visitors. The Guest speaker was Neil Duncan Jordan from the National Pensioners Convention and Dave Ward, CWU General Secretary Elect.

It is planned to hold another fringe meeting at the 2016 General Conference at the Bournemouth International Conference Centre, all are welcome to attend.

5. Campaigning

The RMAC over the past year have continued to campaign on all issues that affect older members of society a lot of this has been in conjunction with the National Pensioners Convention (NPC).

The RMAC sent a delegation consisting of Joan Moxon and Michael McAlinden to the Pensioners Parliament in Blackpool on the 17th – 19th June 2015. Many other CWU retired members from across the country also attended the Parliament. A lobby of Parliament was held on the 4th November 2015 to highlight the issues concerning pensioners today.

Various other activities carried out by the RMAC included attendance at the recent TUC national demonstration at the Tory Party Conference and The Peoples Post Rally in Manchester. Attendances at the NPC forums and committees continue. We also have Rod Downing who sits on the TUC Pensions Committee. All written reports that have been provided go to RMAC Members or published on the CWU Web.

6. Retired Members Weekend School

A Retired Members Weekend school was held at Alvescot Lodge on 16th-18th October 2015 and was deemed a huge success. 12 retired members were in attendance.

Sessions were provided on Social and Trade Union History, How to campaign for decent Pensions, getting active around the cuts in public services and using Information Technology.

Some of the outcomes of the weekend included a study to be carried out for retired courses of a similar style to be held in the regions and some form of joint course with the youth.

If any Branch or region wishes to run a Retired Members course they should contact the Education Department for further information.

7. RMAC Meetings and LINK

The Retired Members Advisory Committee has continued to meet on a regular basis throughout the year. Minutes of the RMAC committee are now documented and form part of the NEC deliberations. Brian Lee now sits on the CWU NEC in an ex-Officio capacity.

There have been 3 editions of the LINK journal that were produced during 2015. The RMAC elected Brian Lee as Editor. All retired members received a copy of the Link together with the Voice. The RMAC would like to place on record its gratitude to Brian for his time and efforts.

SECTION II NATIONAL ISSUES

1 COMPOSITE MOTION

Conference agrees that with low inflation and higher earnings the "Triple Lock" allowing Pensioners to "catch-up" on their State Pensions must be defended and maintained.

Conference notes the attack on the "Triple Lock" by the Institute of Economic Affairs and the Institute of Fiscal Studies urging the government to scrap it.

Conference further notes the Report from the Government Actuary Dept adding fears the Government would have to scrap the commitment.

Conference agrees that the RMAC will work with the NEC to Campaign through the Labour Party, the National Pensioners Convention, the Trades Union Congress and other organisations to defend the "Triple Lock" and maintain the commitment during the life of this and the next Parliament.

Greater Mersey and South West Lancashire
North West Retired Members Committee

- 2** In view of the published accounts of the National Pensioners Convention and reports from its Treasurer which forecast a deficit this year, this Conference instructs the RMAC to work with the NEC to appeal to Branches to voluntarily donate a minimum of 60 pence annually per Retired Member to the National Pensioners Convention.

Lancs and Cumbria

- 3** This Regional Council views with concern the falling numbers of retired members as seen from National Statistics coming from CWU Headquarters Head Office, our Council is concerned that Branches are not affording the treatment of recruitment of retired members with the time and priority it deserves. The RMAC is instructed to make representations to CWU Head Office in order our known concerns as above are sent to all Branches.

South West Region Retired Members

- 4** This Conference notes that 30,000 British men are living with terminal prostate cancer but are not being offered enough care and support to combat the disease.

This Conference instructs the RMAC to request that the NEC joins with other interested organisations to obtain from Government their agreement to prioritise prostate cancer care as the number of sufferers is more than double those with breast or bowel cancers.

Research funding for this most common of male cancers fall well behind other cancers.

Retired Members Advisory Committee

- 5** This Conference is concerned at the continued under-funding of our NHS. This is putting lives at risk and is causing 'Patients' anxiety and distress in particular when treatment is cancelled.

This underfunding has resulted in the local NHS trusts having to outsource to private companies who will in turn make a profit from the sick.

Conference also notes that the Minister for NHS Productivity Lord Prior went to the USA on an all expenses trip paid for a Private American health-care company. The purpose of the trip to see how their private healthcare operates in the US. This is further evidence that shows that the Conservative Government are not interested in the continued public funding of the NHS.

The NHS needs the funds to survive or it will go under and therefore this Conference instructs the RMAC to work with other organisations and bodies to put pressure on this Conservative Government to increase the state funding for the NHS.

Retired Members Advisory Committee

- 6** Conference notes the Chancellors budget of the 25th November indicating a continuation of cuts in vital services that have a dramatic impact on all working people and the elderly.

Conference reaffirms its opposition to all cuts that remove or diminish the services won and fought for by this movement over decades of struggle.

Conference agrees that within any political review of the unions political fund that it is vital that the finance of the union is focussed only on parties and candidates who support a no cuts agenda and refuse to carry out the Tories Cuts whilst in office.

The retired members advisory committee is instructed to Lobby the NEC to pursue this policy.

Coventry

- 7** This conference recognises that the current Conservative government is making cuts to services and benefits where ever it can.

Therefore this conference instructs the RMAC in conjunction with the NEC, TUC and NPC to lobby MP's to ensure no cuts are made or removed to pensioners benefits.

Eastern No.5

- 8** Conference instructs the Retired Advisory Committee to work with the NEC to lobby the present government to repeal the under occupancy charge or as it is more commonly known the Bedroom Tax.

South and East Thames Amal

- 9** This Conference instructs the RMAC to request that the NEC join with other relevant organisations to maintain close liaison with the CQC (Care Quality Commission) and Local Authorities, to ensure that, where a Care or Nursing Home is deemed to be failing to meet required standards, every effort is made to remedy the perceived issue in order to preclude the need for premature closure of the establishment and consequent repercussions both to residents, staff and family members.

Retired Members Advisory Committee

MOTIONS NOT ADMITTED TO THE AGENDA

- 10** That this Conference instructs the National Executive Council to use all avenues in the TUC (and through the TUC, The European Trade Union Confederation), the Labour Party and the Media to highlight and oppose both the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) and the Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) aspect associated with both TTIP and TiSA.

Central Counties and Thames Valley

- 11** In terms of the CWU affiliation with the Labour movement, seek greater influence with Government and Local Authorities to take greater interest and responsibilities when promoting financial restraints on Care homes, Retirement accommodation and care staff for pensioners and senior citizens. Help prevent the evolving process of passing care services into private concerns and uncontrolled agencies.

South East Region Retired Members

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