

**Minutes of the SW Branch Meeting held on 23rd October 2009 -
Vancouver Room, Apex Hotel, Dundee**

Present:

Willie Fortune	Fergus Allan	Steve Scott	Monique Fernandez
Will Muldoon	Andy Nisbet	Jim Anderson (Edin)	Jim Anderson
Elaine Noble	Ian McKay (PT)	Robin Gallacher	(Shetland)
Miranda Jacques-Turner	Penny Philpson	Kate Brown	Richard Mould
	Paul Hyles		

NB. Elaine Noble in the Chair

Item	Notes	Action by
1.0	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from: G. Crawley [RO], D Dyer [AO]</p>	
2.0	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>EN (prior to commencing the meeting agenda), intimated that she wished to on behalf of the Branch thank our NEC Member John Jones for his previous short presentation on developments nationally (see Attached NEC Report). Likewise she welcomed Penny Philpson (the new 'Business Stream' Shop Steward) to her first SW Branch Executive Meeting.</p> <p>PP thanked the Chair and the Shop Stewards present for their warm welcome, and advised that she was looking forward to learning a lot from both her first meeting and the subsequent ' Dealing with Grievance and Disciplinarys' training course' which would be preceding it.</p>	
3.0	<p><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting (September 2009))</u></p> <p>Copies of the Minutes of the September Branch Executive were distributed by the Branch Secretary, and it was agreed that their would be a short recess in the proceedings in order to allow all present to fully peruse them The meeting was then called to order and the Chair then sought confirmation that they were a true and accurate record.</p> <p>Proposed: – RM. Seconded: - RG.</p>	
4.0	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>a) Branch Web Site- MJ-T advised that Jim Gault had still not been in touch, but that the site itself had in fact been 'ready to go' since the end of July this year. She advised that due to the time delay that some of the information on the web pages would need updating, but due to prior commitments she would not be able to complete this work until late November at the earliest. In the meantime it</p>	

	<p>was agreed that all the Shop Stewards would take a look at he web pages and supply MJ-T with the Appropriate 'updates'. Discussion then took place on making the new Branch Web Site 'live'.</p> <p>It was agreed that the date for this would be: 1st December 2009.</p> <p>The web site address to be placed in the next copy of 'The Source'</p> <p>:http://www.unionscottishwater.org.uk</p> <p>This information is to be communicated to all the Branch Shop Stewards in order for them to pass this information to their own workplace members.</p> <p>b) Advanced Scheduling - PH and RM are still in the process of gathering in examples of the serious work problems and H&S issues that this system is now delivering. SS will be taking this evidence to Scottish Water in due course. JSA suggested that a particular NSO 'corresponding member' should be contacted about this as he had provided excellent information in the past on issues such as this. PH agreed to contact this member</p> <p>It was also confirm that the Branch had already written formally to SW about their concerns regarding this system, but so far it was 'business as usual'. After discussion, it was agreed that an article on 'Advanced Scheduler would be put in the Branches next Newsletter. PH to supply article information on this to MJ-T.</p> <p>PH also raised his serious concerns about SW continuing with Advanced Scheduler 'Implementation Worksteams' despite the Branch already raising some serious H&S matters about this system. Unison and the other TU's were not represented on any of these groups, but never the less SW was just carrying on and had organised four of these groups using workplace reps. These groups are split as follows: M&E, NSO's, Water Ops and Wastewater Ops.</p> <p>Note: AN, SS and G. Crawley (Unison's Regional Officer) will be meeting with SW HRD (M. Watt) on 2nd November 2009 about this serious and seemingly ongoing business issue.</p>	<p>MJ-T/ JG/All</p> <p>MJ-T/ All</p> <p>SS/RM/ PH</p> <p>PH/ MJ-T</p> <p>AN/SS/ GC</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p><u>JTUG</u></p> <p>No Report NB (There have been no meetings of the SW JTUG since the last Branch executive)</p>	
<p>6.0</p>	<p><u>Branch Officer Reports</u></p> <p>6.1 Branch Chair – Not in attendance.</p> <p>6.2 Branch Secretary - Referred to Water, Environment & Transport Seminar the previous weekend in Glasgow. Made particular reference to Jim Anderson chairing the very first Water Sector meeting. Although</p>	

	<p>very large numbers of delegates were in attendance, Jim chaired a potentially difficult meeting very well.</p> <p>The Branch Secretary also reminded Branch Officers to start thinking about preparing reports in advance of the 2010 agm's. SS added that last date for the reports would be the January Executive.</p> <p>Also, with regard to stewards for 2010, the Branch Secretary made it clear that every steward will be expected to take on case work throughout the year. Despite raising this issue many times in the past, the majority of case work is falling on a few shoulders.</p> <p>The Branch Secretary also confirmed that the Marsham Court Hotel has been provisionally booked for next years Annual Delegate Conference in Bournemouth.</p> <p>RG asked the Branch Secretary about progress re re-structure. The Branch Secretary replied that a meeting was scheduled with Mary Watt and Gerry Crawley, the FTO, for 2nd November.</p> <p>New members – 3 ; No details of leavers</p> <p>EN confirmed that she would arrange a list of new members in their area. Will look at recruitment in detail for 2010</p> <p>6.2 Branch Treasurer –</p> <p>a) FA advised that the branch finances were still in excellent order, and that the bank balance stood at £24,000.00. This was the sum on deposit even after rendering the payment for the 2010 members diaries, it did not however include the costs for the present Development and Training seminar.</p> <p>b) Alloa Office – FA reported that the SW Branch was now removing itself from this arrangement however the branch still had a number of items belonging to the branch and arrangements were need to retrieve them. AN agreed to work with FA to undertake this work.</p> <p>6.3 Branch Training Officer – Not in Attendance</p> <p>6.4 H&S Officer –</p> <p>a) PH brought the 'Safety in Numbers' campaign to the attention of the meeting. He advised that he had been planning to hold 'Open Forum' Safety meetings in all of SW's major Offices and depots, but had been disappointed with the support he was receiving from the SW Unison Safety reps.</p> <p>He advised that "Needless to say, he could not do it all himself". PH also raised the point, that he needed all the Branch Stewards to help him decide on the right locations for these important safety meetings based on 'workplace member density'. All present agreed to assist PH with this. It was pointed out by EN that the 'Branch Mapping' information could assist with</p>	<p>All</p> <p>FA/AN</p> <p>PH/ALL</p>
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7.0	<p>this, even though this exercise had not be fully completed.</p> <p>b) Branch Safety Reps - PH advised that he now had an up to date list of all SW Branch Safety Reps, but was concerned at the lack of training that some of them had undertaken. He did have some good news, namely that 3 of the Safety Reps (the newest recruits) where just about to undertake the required H&S Reps Training Course. He pointed out that he was still in search of Safety reps for the 'Labs' at Edinburgh and the Balmore Road Offices at Glasgow.</p> <p>b) Scottish Hazards Conference – PH intimated that the Branch had at it last meeting selected it's three H&S Safety Rep 'delegates' to this important conference, and he could now confirm that they had all agreed to attend. They were:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">N. Fotheringham S. O'Malley P. Hyles</p> <p>c) SW Restructuring- Ph advised the meeting that he was concerned that SW had not been undertaking a formal Risk Assessment on the H&S implications of its ongoing 'restructuring', and he urged the Branch Secretary to write formally to SW to raise this important deficiency in its present procedures and processes.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>NF/S. O'M/PH</p> <p>AN</p>
	<p>6.5 Communications Officer – 'International Officers' Conference</p> <p>a) MJ-T advised that she had been allowed by the Branch to attend at the recent International Officers Conference in Leeds, which had been quite timely owing to a long running industrial dispute with Leeds City Council. (The councils proposals, if left unchallenged, would see some members wages being cut by 33%). The keynote speaker had been Colin Berger, he had delivered an excellent and truly inspiring speech and had received a standing ovation. Those attending were also able to see the film " At the Road I Stand" (a film about a Memphis Sanitation Dept Issues, which take place against the background of Dr Martin Luther King Jnr's assassination). MJ-T stated that this film had been extremely moving and rewarding.</p> <p>The various branch Int. Officers attending had agreed at the conference to form a 'Facebook' Group (Unison Branch International Officers) in order to keep in touch. MJ-T concluded her report by thanking the Branch for allowing her to attend a most thought provoking and interesting event.</p> <p><u>A.C.O.B.</u></p> <p>a) CWU/ Royal Mail Industrial Dispute - JSA brought to the attention of the meeting, the present and ongoing strike action being taken by the Communications Workers Union against the new restructuring proposals of the their employer (The Royal Mail).</p> <p>JSA ask the branch to support his proposal, namely to donate £100.00</p>	

<p>8.0</p>	<p>from the branches funds to the CWU's 'Hardship Fund' in order to show support and solidarity with our Trades Union colleagues.</p> <p>A short discussion to place on this proposal, as normally donations made by the Branch are capped at £50.00.</p> <p>IT was agreed to put JSA's proposal to a vote, and the proposal was passed unanimously. Following the vote, the 'Chair' instructed the Branch Treasurer (with the Branch Secretaries approval) to prepare the appropriate cheque for £100.00.</p> <p>b) Branch credit/debit card. – Following on from the last Executive meeting, it was agreed to pursue. There was a debate around the numbers of Branch Officers who should have one. SS asked the Executive to leave this in the hands of the Branch Officers to agree and come back with a recommendation.</p> <p>Date of Next Meeting:</p> <p>Venue: Douglas House, Belford Road, Edinburgh Time: 1030 Hrs</p>	