AGENDA
RETIRRED MEMBERS CONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2019

Birmingham Branch Office
46-48 Summer Lane
Hockley
Birmingham
B19 3TH
Message from the General Secretary

Dear Colleague,

I would like to welcome you all to the CWU Retired Members Conference for 2019 and I look forward to hearing the debates and your views over the course of the conference today.

We are coming together at an important time for the labour movement. I cannot remember a more volatile political moment in recent times or a more uncertain one in relation to Brexit. It seems certain that we will find ourselves fighting a general election in the coming months and for the CWU there is a huge amount at stake.

The re-nationalisation of Royal Mail, a range of new employment rights to build a new deal for workers, the establishment of a Post Bank and significant public investment in infrastructure like broadband are all key pledges the union has secured from Labour and for the first time in a generation we have the opportunity to elect a truly transformative government.

For our retired members this goes beyond defending free TV licences which the government is seeking to scrap, the Winter Fuel Allowance and the triple lock. Social care was a defining issue in the last election and at its Conference in September, Labour made a major announcement to introduce a new right to free personal care, irrespective of income, to allow all older people to live independently as the first part of a new National Care Service. Again, it is clear that Labour is promising to return to values of collectivism – trade union values – and I hope all of our retired members will play a role in the general election campaign.

I would also urge our retired members to support the New Deal for Workers campaign and help us build towards a day of action on 1st May 2020, something we will be talking about more at the Conference. And with the dispute in Royal Mail, I think our retired members have a role to play in helping support members and building solidarity across the community.

I look forward to hearing your views on all of these issues over the course of the day and I hope 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,

Firstly can I extend a warm welcome to all delegates and visitors to the CWU Retired Members Conference 2019. A special thanks also to Steve Reid (Branch Secretary) and others at the Birmingham and District Amalgamated Branch for making available their branch premises to host this event.

This conference takes place in October following your decision to shift it from the late January/early February slot that it occupied for so long. As a result it is almost 21 months since we last met in such a forum.

To say a lot has changed in that time would be an understatement. The CWU has implemented some momentous changes as part of our Redesign process. Yet another Tory Prime Minister has come and gone. Deadlines to leave the EU have come and gone and come and gone again and with only a matter of weeks to go before the next deadline who knows if it will come and go at least one more time. Finally, since we last met Liverpool FC are, quite rightly, back on top of their European perch.

Under Redesign the change we promised we would make to the role of the retired member position on the NEC has been implemented. That position, occupied by Brian Lee, now has full speaking and voting rights (industrial/financial issues aside) on all matters. Thus ensuring the voice of retired members is able to be heard at national level. Consequently it is encouraging to see that a number of the motions submitted to this conference pick up on the role of our retired members and seek to set out more involvement and engagement. Whatever the outcome to those debates it is welcome to see a positive approach being taken to retired member’s involvement.

Politically we live in uncertain, some would say quite dangerous times. The ineffectual and incompetent May has been replaced. Unfortunately for us that replacement was not chosen by the people through the democracy of a general election but via a small and extreme group within the Conservative Party. As a result and whenever the next General Election is called we face a very clear and simple choice, the politics of division as fomented by Johnson, Rees-Mogg and their Trump style politics or the message of unity and hope to deliver a better future across society by a Corbyn led Labour Party. The CWU have been unequivocal from day one and make no apologies for sticking to our position, we’ll be working for the later of those two choices.

Finally we need to look at how you as retired members can help spread the word on our agenda for change in society. Embraced now by the TUC our “New Deal for Workers” demands are being taken on by our movement. Changing the narrative in society and delivering security for our members in work and in retirement, by reasserting trade union values into society, is our ambition. We want you through your section, your Branch and other bodies to play your part in delivering that ambition. It is one that will make society a better place for the many and not the few.

Good luck and have a great conference.

Tony Kearns
Senior Deputy General Secretary
Welcome From the General Conference Standing Orders Committee

Welcome to the CWU Retired Members Conference of 2019 on behalf of the General Conference Standing Orders Committee.

This year we have again used the same criteria for motions that will be used for General Conference 2020 and, as such, the Standing Orders are as close as possible to those which will be in place for that Conference.

We have, recognised an issue with Emergency motions being submitted at times where we have no facilities to deal with such motions. To rectify this issue the submission of Emergency motions will close at Midnight on 17th October as reflected in the standing orders.

The Standing Orders Committee will be present during Conference should any Delegate have any question over procedure, and to conduct the Ballot(s) for motions to go forward to General Conference as well as the delegates to represent the Retired Members at General Conference 2020.

May you all enjoy a successful Conference.

Joyce Stevenson and Tony Sneddon
General Conference Standing Orders Committee
1. The sessions of the 2019 Conference shall commence in accordance with the timetable.

2. **TIMETABLE**
   a 10.00 Registration
      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 Motions 1-14
      12.30 Lunch
      13.30 Motions 1-14 continued
      15.00 Tony Kearns, SDGS
      15.25 Chairpersons 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 **Thursday 17th October 2019**. 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. **No Emergency Motions will be accepted after that date.**

C 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 Thursday 17th October 2019. 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 2020 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 2020 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 2020 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 2020 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.
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  Motions 1-14
12.30  Lunch
13.30  Motions 1-14 continued
15.00  Tony Kearns, SDGS
15.25  Chairpersons closing remarks
15.30  Conference closes

The timetable is subject to alteration should guest speakers confirm availability. Delegates will be advised via a SOR or at the start of conference should the timetable be altered.

DELEGATES ARE REMINDED THAT THE BALLOT BOX WILL BE LOCATED AT THE SOC TABLE.
Many BT pensioners having worked for the company for many years and contributed to the financial and commercial success off the company now feel totally discarded in retirement.

Many pensioners are still loyal to BT and continue to use BT for their home telephone, Broadband and BT sport paying for their services.

Our Branch retired members feel that their contribution should be recognised by BT and instructs the RMAC in conjunction with TFSE executive to negotiate with BT for free Broadband for all BT Pensioners.

Lancs and Cumbria
Conference notes, Climate change threatens the future of young people and workers across the planet. The elderly are also hugely at risk from its effects. The biggest polluters are the big corporations which are also responsible for attacking workers terms and conditions, whilst also reducing pensions. Tackling climate change means struggling against big business, its owners and their political representatives.

The earth’s temperature has already risen by 1 degree above pre industrial levels. The IPCC report last Autumn warned that we only have 12 years to keep global warming to a maximum of 1.5 degrees. Carbon emissions need to be cut by 45% by 2030, and reach zero carbon by 2050 in order to avoid a dangerous tipping point.

Conference welcomes the huge campaigns recently launched by young people in the fight for climate change. Conference believes that climate change is a trade union issue. That we must keep the pressure up. School students have led the way but the trade union movement as a whole must now act to ensure they don’t fight alone.

Employers have profit as their goal which means they ignore the reality of what is happening to the planet. Conference therefore instructs the RMAC to work with the NEC to raise the issue of climate change within the union membership, the Labour Party and the TUC. This support should include the national and local campaigns and to call for public ownership of companies that are destroying the planet.

Coventry

This Conference is concerned that there are a number of Retired Members who do not have access to an active Retired Members Section within their Branch.

At a Meeting of the RMAC in August 2018 the Senior Deputy General Secretary reported that there were 126 Branches with Retired Members. However, not all these Branches have a properly organised and active Retired Members Section.

Conference instructs the Retired Members Committee to work with the NEC to instruct all Regions to ensure that responsibility for those Retired Members without an active Branch Retired Members Section, are to be the responsibility of the Regional Lead – Retired Member.

South East No.5
4 This Conference is concerned at the attacks on pensioners and the benefits they have gained over many years via Governments and devolved bodies.

Although there are a number of campaigns ongoing to fight to protect these benefits, it seems like the Brexit Agenda and austerity is letting Government and devolved bodies continue to attack these rights. These include Winter Fuel Allowance, TV Licence for over 75, Free Public Transport.

This Conference instructs the Retired Members Committee, in conjunction with the NEC, to align with NPC policy and any other likeminded bodies, such as TUC (STUC/ITUC/WTUC), Age UK/ Cymru (etc) to campaign against further erosions of benefits for pensioners that have been won over many years.

South East Wales Amal

5 Conference agrees that with the aging population of the UK there is a demand for society to provide a National Care System that is publicly funded.

There is also a need for a National debate on how publicly provided Care Homes and Care Services are based on the highest level of training that will ensure there is a high standard of Care and Services across the Sector.

The RMC are instructed to work with the NEC to campaign along with the NPC to lobby the Government to publish a White Paper and provide an opportunity for the wider debate with the General Public to take place.

South East Regional Retired Members Committee

6 COMPOSITE MOTION

This Conference notes the publication of the report of the House of Lords Committee on Intergenerational Fairness and Provision which considers the long-term implications on Government policy on intergenerational fairness.

Whilst recognising that some younger people are struggling to find secure employment and housing, this Conference is concerned at the potentially damaging recommendations made by the report in new tax and spending policy, including replacing the triple lock for state pensions with an increase in line with earnings, phasing out the free TV licence based on age and the increase in qualifying age for Free Bus Passes and Winter Fuel Payments to 5 years beyond state pension age.

This Conference instructs the Retired Members committee to work closely with other pensioner organisations including the National Pensioners Convention, Later Life Ambitions and National Federation of Occupational Pensioners, to campaign
against these short sighted recommendations, which are unlikely to improve housing and employment prospects for younger generations, lead to increased poverty for both current and future pensioners and a rolling back of the welfare state.

Midland No.1
Midlands Regional Retired Members Committee

7 COMPOSITE MOTION

Conference notes the decline in membership of the unions retired members section and the difficulties being experienced retaining the membership of those members who are retiring.

This conference therefore instructs the RMAC in conjunction with the NEC to establish a cross constituency Sub-committee of the RMAC that will look into the reasons for this.

A report with recommendations for resolving this problem will be produced and circulated to branches at the earliest opportunity.

Some of the areas to look at will include:

1. Members opting out instead of opting in when reaching retirement
2. A break in membership contributions for a period of time
3. National direct mailing and use of internet, etc. leading up to retirement with the aim of promoting the advantages of continuous membership.
4. Seek information from branches with high membership numbers to ascertain how they have been successful.

This list is not exhaustive.

London Phoenix
Eastern No.6
South and East Thames Amal

8 Conference agrees that residential care and support for pensioners in need in England is not fit for purpose and in many ways shames our country.

When transferring from the NHS to residential or care homes the NHS and Councils often engage in an unedifying argument with a vulnerable elderly person, and their families, caught in the middle.

This can often result in patients, at an extremely distressing time, being forced into difficult and often incorrect decisions to sell their homes, given that residential and care homes can often cost upwards of a £1000 a week. Conference also reject the approach of “upper limit” caps that mean that the richest pensioners are insulated from care costs, but the poorest pay proportionately much more.
Conference believes it is possible in an extremely wealthy nation to fund excellent quality, free at the point of use, residential care for the elderly in need if our society is innovative about how to fund this.

Therefore conference calls on the RMC to work with the NEC, NPC, Labour Party and any other relevant bodies to come up with innovative solutions to financing free at the point of use residential and social care for the UK’s Pensioners.

This could include, but not be limited to:-

New Wealth Taxes, moving the burden from income to held wealth.

- Land Value tax instead of Council Tax.
- Additional inheritance tax on high value estates, ring fenced for social care.
- Closing the loopholes that allow the super wealthy to avoid inheritance tax by use of trust funds.

The outcomes of these ideas should lead to a broad based political campaign inside the Union, but also across political and civil society for a better, fairer, properly funded, residential care system.

The RMC is instructed accordingly.

Retired Members Committee

This conference is extremely concerned at the actions taken by the NHS Warrington and Halton Hospital Trusts, highlighted in The Daily Mirror on the 20th June 2019, to charge patients for certain operations under a programme known as “My Choice”. Charges are made for operations that the Trust describes as an "affordable, self-pay" service for patients denied NHS procedures classified by commissioners to be "low clinical priority". Amongst the operations classified as such and the charges made are:

Revision of knee replacement surgery - £8,447

Hip replacement surgery - £7,060

Hip resurfacing - £7,060

This conference agrees that such actions are a clear indication of the ongoing privatisation of our NHS. It is now clear that commercial interest and not patient wellbeing is the underlying ethos within the NHS. Our concerns are further heightened by the President of the United States claiming that the NHS would be “on the table” during future trade discussions with the UK.

There is a clear and unarguable threat to the future of the NHS and this conference instructs the Retired Members Committee to work with the NEC to support any actions or campaigns that rejects a vision of free trade that offers up public services like the NHS to rapacious multinational companies and to demand that the NHS is specifically
excluded from any future trade deals.

Further, this conference rejects any moves to privatise the NHS and further instructs the Retired Members Committee to work with the NEC to oppose such privatisation by any means deemed appropriate.

The RMC is instructed accordingly.

Retired Members Committee

10

This conference notes and wholeheartedly condemns the BBC’s plans to make most over-75s pay the TV licence fee from June 2020, only offering free licences to pensioners who provide evidence that they claim the means-tested pension credit.

Currently it is estimated that around three million households will lose their free TV licence as a result. This change will increase hardship amongst pensioners already living in poverty.

Conference recognises that this decision arose out of government transferring the cost of this provision to the BBC. This has forced the corporation into making this decision or closing channels and axing programming.

Conference believes our public service broadcaster should not be responsible for public policy decisions on what is a welfare benefit. Conference also believes that such a step will have grave implications for the relationship that the public has with the BBC, at a time when it is under increasing pressure.

This Conference instructs the Retired Members Committee to work with the NEC to do whatever it deems appropriate to call for a reversal of this decision by the Government and in doing so to support campaigning for the Government to continue to pay the cost of free licences for all over-75s as part of a programme of adequate funding for the BBC.

The RMC is instructed accordingly.

Retired Members Committee

11

If Carried Comp 12 Falls

The Retired Members Committee is instructed to pursue and fully work with the NEC in the achievement of the following policy and should be submitted to the next Rules Revision Conference or rule Session of Annual Conference.

That the NEC is required to bring forward to the next Rules Revision Conference or Rule Session of Annual Conference, such changes to Rule as would clarify the entitlements of Retired Members, Category 5 members and members within non-recognised sectors, with regard to eligibility of each group to stand and/or vote for positions at National,
North West Regional Retired Committee

12 COMPOSITE MOTION

This Retired Members Conference agrees that Retired Members should be allowed to vote in NEC elections. The Retired Members Committee are therefore instructed to pursue this policy with the intention of achieving its aim as soon as practicable.

Essex Amal
London South West Postal

13 Conference notes with concern the increase attacks being made on entitlements of older people by various organisations seeking to hold them responsible for the hardships being faced by young people in the UK. The House of Lords Committee on intergenerational fairness publish a lengthy report which called for, amongst other things, an end to the triple lock (the mechanism that protects the state pension against the effector inflation) and free bus passes and winter fuel payments which they argue should only be available five years after a person becomes eligible for the state pension.

Conference notes that three members of the committee who supported these recommendations are labour peers, Lord Chandos, Baroness Crawley and Lord Hillock. Conference instructs the Retired Members Committee to seek a meeting with the appropriate Labour Party personnel to resolve this situation.

South East London Postal and Counters

14 Conference instructs the Retired Members Committee to consider the possibility of scheduling the Retired Members Conference to the same week and venue as the unions Annual General Conference, and seek the support of the National Executive in achieving this objective. The retired members conference will be scheduled either after or before the General Conference and in accordance with the unions rules governing the retired members conference.

Northern/North West London
15 This conference acknowledges that both our retired and deferred members within the Telecom constituency have voiced their concerns over the sustainability of their British Telecom pension. This conference urges the Retired Members Committee to meet with the NEC to ensure that both retired and deferred members of the BTRS retain their current pension along with their current pension rights.

South Wales

16 The NEC are instructed to establish a network of CWU retired members media monitors. The network of retired media monitors will be encouraged and equipped to be the eyes and ears of the union and will feed back analysis and suggestions to a central contact point at union head office on any and every programme, news item and/or social media activity that is of interest to CWU members and the wider movement.

Northern Ireland Telecoms