



RETIRED MEMBERS GROUP Area 8 D316
Cheshire, Manchester, Merseyside, Deeside, North Wales, Shropshire and the Isle of
Man

D316 RMG MEETING DRAFT MINUTES held on 16th MAY-2024

A hybrid meeting held at the BOAT MUSEUM, Ellesmere Port.

1 - Apologies for absence.

Apologies were given from John Albino, Douglas Baker, Malcolm Forshaw, Stephen Hinley, Dominic Ion, Huw Lloyd Jones, Gareth J. Llewellyn, Tim Mackay*, Steve McGuirk, Don McRae, Gwilym Morris, David Richardson, Gareth Roberts, John Scott.

2 - Minutes of Meeting Held 18th-May-2023

Mike Tankard proposed, and Martin Goose seconded that after minor corrections those Minutes were a correct record of the meeting and were signed by our Chairman, John Augustis.

3 – The Chairman and Secretary apologised for the lack of an outside speaker-we had tried hard but staff in London had been quite busy in moving premises from Waterloo to Rochester Row near Victoria. John W. said that he had spoken to our Vice-President, Dr. Andrew Ruffhead and he may be able to speak at our October AGM.

4- Matters Arising

There were no matters arising' but John (W) reported that he attended the 2022 Bi-Annual National Conference (working Members) in place of John Augustis as a delegate from the Retired Members Group. Their SOC accepted the RMG delegates' Emergency Motion at that conference about the Social Care Levy. This was proposed by John Wright and was carried. (However, the Levy commitment was subsequently dropped by Liz Truss during her short period as PM and was not restored when she was replaced, so the motion was effectively rendered ineffectual.)

5 - Report on RMG ADC2024.

The Branch Secretary attended as sole D316 delegate to the ADC held on January 23rd in the Union Jack Club, Waterloo, London. Before giving his own verbal report, he checked that members present at the May meeting had received the *Vice-President's comprehensive account of the 2024 ADC* in an email on February 27th 2024. (Members present concurred).

One resolution that immediately concerned D316 members was the proposed BT action to drop land line transmissions at the end of 2024*. Alarm systems used by elderly people for example were dependent on current transmission means. It was also felt that many of our Welsh* members would be seriously affected. Martin Goose was helpful describing the technical details of the proposed transition and our chairman commented that Gary Graham our DGS was formally speaking to our BT branch members about this issue-

**Since our meeting, BT have deferred the proposed change until December 2026 to allow further consultations.*

6 - Report on Activities at National Committee.

John Augoustis, our Chairman and elected NC delegate reported;

- After the ADC, they had prepared the Motions to the forthcoming Biennial Delegate Conference in Birmingham on Climate Change and a request to allow RMG delegates to have their existing Card Vote limitations on non employment issues withdrawn. The NC had also agreed who would propose these motions and also agreed the 12 NC members who would form the RMG delegation to the Birmingham BDC in June.
- There was concern that the **Public Service Pensions Committee** had folded.
- There was a deep concern that there had been a loss in existing RMG membership, outside of the number of deceased members. An appropriate letter is to be sent to these members.
- It was also noted that numbers applying to the Asbestos Register had fallen. (At this point the Chairman described his own personal experience of Asbestos contact when helping Electronic Engineers at RAF Sealand)
- Gary Graham, our deputed HQ DGS, had reported that The long standing Atomic Energy Pension compensation had been further delayed.
- There had been a discussion on the level of membership fees payable by ex retire members who had then returned to work.

7. Any Other Business

- The secretary reported that a member had called him regarding his pension arrangements and he was reminded of the **Prospect helpline 0300 6001878**. He had since not heard back so hoped that “no news was good news”
- Caroline Pelham-Lane praised the benefits of **Prospect Plus** which she had used.
- Members had found that Capita as pensions controller had been difficult to deal with.

8. Date of next meeting.

This was planned to be the AGM and a date of Thursday 17th October 2024 was proposed.

9. Close of Meeting.

The Chairman thanked those attending in person and online and wished them well and a good summer.

The meeting closed at 15.05

Attendance

John Augoustis (Chairman)
Douglas Baker
Martin Goose
David Hindley

Caroline Pelham-Lane
Mike Tankard
Owen T. Williams
John K. Wright (Secretary)

Online-Zoom members:

Tim McKay
Les Turner

John K. Wright
Secretary D316

Manchester 20/6/24