

## The 153rd Annual Meeting

The 153rd Annual Meeting of the Union began with GEORGE DAWSON CMD, THE PRESIDENT of the Union asking the assembled delegates to observe a two-minute silence in remembrance of those club members who had passed away in the previous 12 months.

THE PRESIDENT then asked delegates to agree the minutes of the 2015 Council Meeting. This was followed by a Civic Welcome from THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF BLACKPOOL, COUNCILLOR PETER CALLOW.

### CIVIC WELCOME

“Good morning, everyone. Welcome to Blackpool. I can’t claim that I brought the sunshine in, but it’s there anyway. The thing is that I understand that you keep coming to Blackpool year after year, and we’re most grateful for that. And what I said last night in my speech was that I’ve told my fellow councillors on Blackpool Council, just because they keep coming every year, don’t take advantage of them. You must look after people, you must make them welcome, don’t take it for granted, because they can go anywhere they choose. They don’t have to come to Blackpool, but we’re so grateful that you do come here, so thank you very much indeed.

“The thing is, I’ve got to say that I was a member of a working men’s club. I am a Conservative, but I was a member of Layton Institute. Some people might remember Layton Institute here in Blackpool. It was a thriving club, and CIU affiliated no less. I had to queue up for months and months before I could gain membership there, it was so busy. Unfortunately, like many clubs, it’s gone. Finished. The Central Working Men’s Club was the same. My father was a member there. I can remember going to the children’s parties there at Central Club. Why did I go there? They had the best presents, of course!

“The Chairman for years and years was a chap called Fred Swift. I don’t know if people can perhaps cast their minds back. His brother, Frank, was the goalkeeper for England for many years. Some might remember him. Frank went into sports journalism after he finished playing football and, unfortunately, was killed in the Munich Air Disaster with some of the Manchester United team. That club was thriving and so was Layton Institute. Layton Institute had summer season shows. Very good shows. As did Central Club. Central Club shows were even televised for a time. So, that’s the type of club we had here in Blackpool, and I’m sorry that they’ve gone. I never thought they could go, but times have changed, and I’m sure in your own areas, you will know of clubs that have had to close down.

“It’s a crying shame, because I think working men’s clubs are the pillars of the community. They really are. And to see them go like pubs have gone, is changing the whole situation. I am so sorry for that, and I wish they would come back, but it’s a forlorn hope. They just won’t, will they? So, I’m glad to see you all here, glad to open your conference. I did tell people last night that I was born in Blackpool third generation, and so was my wife. Jimmy Armfield went to the same school as me.

“I went to his 80th birthday party. He asked me to speak, and the speech basically was that Jimmy and I played for the same school football team. He was older than me, of course. That’s where any coincidence ends, because I carried on playing in local football and Jimmy went on to captain not only Blackpool, but England. Great chap, wonderful, and so were his friends. You’ve got Tom Finney who used to come over from Preston to see him. Bobby Charlton, I’ve

seen him at Jimmy's birthday parties. He knew all the very best people, and I can assure you, they were gentlemen. Real gentlemen.

"So, I'm delighted to be here. I hope you will keep coming to Blackpool. I look forward to it. I won't be here next year, it'll be somebody different, because the Mayor is chosen as the senior councillor who hasn't yet been the Mayor of the town. From whatever political persuasion, the senior one is invited to be the Mayor, and you do it for one year only and you can only do it once.

"My wife was the Mayor years ago, and she's been in politics longer than me. She's been the Deputy Mayor twice, the Mayor once, and now she's acting as my Mayoress, but she still tells me what to do. By the way, she says: 'And I always get more votes than you anyway', so there we are. I am delighted to be here. This is actually the start of the ward that we represent, my wife and I, Norbreck Ward. It's a wonderful ward, and we do keep getting elected. I hope that carries on, but the way things are going I don't want to be too political. David Cameron seems to be making a bit of a mess of it at the moment. I met him several times, he came here when I won the Council from Labour for the Conservatives, it's the only victory we've had in 20-odd years. He said you've done a wonderful job.

"I was given the opportunity by the then Labour Government to buy the Tower, the Tower buildings, the Winter Gardens and the Golden Mile. I had to make my mind up in a week. It took me about five seconds to make up my mind. That's Blackpool's heritage, and so that's what we did. They decided they would give us £40 million to buy all these buildings because they were getting run down, they were in private ownership, and they weren't being looked after. At the time, Labour spoke to their Treasury who said no, we can't have the money, so that was a major blow to us. However, Peter Mandelson stepped in, and not too many people argued with Peter Mandelson in those days, and he said Blackpool's having that money and we did get the money, so those are ours now and that's the future of our town.

"I hope you like the new Promenade. I'm sure you've seen it. We're trying to build the town up. The town is run by Labour, but I get on very well with them, and we're working together for the betterment of Blackpool. I hope you do keep coming to Blackpool, but we won't take you for granted. Thanks very much indeed."

THE PRESIDENT thanked the THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF BLACKPOOL, COUNCILLOR PETER CALLOW and introduced THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE, KEN ROBERTS CMD.

The National Executive Member for South Wales and Monmouthshire District, KEN ROBERTS CMD, Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee, introduced the other members of the Committee: the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Geoff Whewell, from the West Midlands Branch; Sid Hicks from the Northumberland Branch; Bob Russell CMD from the Wessex Branch; Dennis Wheadon of the Northumberland Branch; Mick Bott from the South East Midlands Branch; Glen Evans from the South Wales Branch and Bert Hurt from the South Yorkshire Branch.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

"Good morning delegates, and welcome to the 153rd Conference. I would like to thank you for returning me as your President for my fourth term.

“I get the feeling that things have improved regarding the number of clubs in dire straits trouble. The number of clubs lost to the Union is the smallest number for a considerable number of years – in fact, returning to pre-smoking ban levels. The Union now need to start recruiting instead of contracting. Our high was in the mid-70s of 4,000 clubs. The Union has been contracting from that figure every year since 1976. No year since then has the Union had more clubs in membership than the year before.

“We must start recruiting and our procedures at Head Office have been updated to help facilitate this. We need to do more. We’ve also introduced a model Rule Book for unregistered clubs - of which there are an estimated 6,000 in England and Wales. This has been a barrier in the past for some potential clubs as they do not wish to be registered. We also need to offer help and assistance to clubs, as we do now to our member clubs.

“I would just like to take this opportunity, at this moment, to acknowledge that some members would like to see financial help for clubs. This has been discussed and we have asked the West Midlands Branch to investigate the legal aspects of this. I would personally like for us to do something similar to the Association of Conservative Clubs, instead of our money lining the pockets of the City. This complete change in Union policy needs to be fully investigated. If the NEC just throw money into 'no hope' cases, we would be, quite rightly, criticised for not managing the assets of the Union prudently.

“I turn now to the apathy that we have in the whole of society, not least within the club movement. We had an Election for President of the Union, in which only 30 of the clubs took part. It was also a similar picture in the NEC Elections, and a couple of years ago we had an Election for the General Secretary and participation was lower than 30 per cent. This is no criticism of those individuals who stood for office, as that is a very brave thing to do, but it is a criticism of the clubs for not participating. Obviously, I’m talking to the converted who are here today.

“This apathy extends to branches. We have unfortunately seen in recent years the loss of Branch Secretaries through illness and death, the most recent being Martin Smith from the Leeds Branch, whose funeral is next week. The problem being the Branch falls into turmoil, and there is a lack of successors, because a lot of the Branches do not have a full Executive, and clubs are not turning up to Council meetings. This apathy, unfortunately, extends to our clubs. How many of us know of a long standing Secretary of a club dying and, because of apathy of the members, either nobody is prepared to take over or, worse, a totally inappropriate individual takes over and, in both cases, the club then closes? We need to get people involved and I do not have the answer for this, because I have the same problem in my own club.

“As I have said, this is not restricted to us alone. It is throughout society. Maybe we do need a radical change to our politics and representatives. Maybe we need a change in the way we are governed to feel that our voice is heard and, if this change comes, maybe it’ll reinvigorate our society, and people once again will feel part of society and get involved. But enough of politics.

“My final point – actually, it isn’t my final point, because I’ve got one more point after this – is to ask you to support the NEC to recruit clubs to the Union so that they can enjoy the benefits of being part of an umbrella organisation. Help us to recruit new clubs and bring back into the fold those who have left. The NEC feel that the start of this recruitment will be for the delegates today to vote in favour of the name change. I think it will help us in many ways with widening our appeal, including representation to the law makers in outside society.

“The other item I’d like to add is this. Yesterday {at the Trade Show}, I had one of the delegates come to me – this is the advantage of being a smoker, when I was stood outside having a smoke – with some very distressing news regarding the Gambling Commission and those clubs that pay the bingo tax. Some clubs have received totally inappropriate letters from the Gambling Commission regarding your bingo and new schedules and new restrictions. It doesn’t apply to clubs, it never has applied to clubs, so if you receive a similar letter, let your Branch Secretary and the Union know straightaway so we can respond to them, instead of you worrying about it.”

THE PRESIDENT then introduced this year's keynote speaker, LORD MACKENZIE OF FRAMWELLGATE OBE.

#### KEYNOTE SPEECH

“Mr President, Mr Mayor, ladies and gentlemen.

“Fornication...sorry, for an occasion like this, I think it’s important to start on the right foot. I was reading in the House of Lords’ library last week, that peoples’ biggest fear, and George has mentioned it already, is the fear of dying. Peoples’ second biggest fear is the fear of speaking in public. Well, there’s a third, and that’s the fear of dying whilst speaking in public. Of course, that happens regularly in the House of Lords, as I’m sure you can imagine. People in full flow suddenly leave this earth.

“I go back a long way with clubs. I was a policeman, started off in Jarrow many moons ago, and I used to revere going to my local clubs. In fact, I remember watching the moon landings and I was sitting in a workmen’s club when we saw them land on the moon and make that famous speech. An amazing live broadcast. But in those days, of course, and George again has touched on this, my grandmother used to tell me that she would think nothing of leaving the doors open all the time. You can’t do that now. Doors were wide open all the time. We used to sit round the old coal fire to keep warm. I mean, why the hell didn’t we didn’t just close the doors, I don’t know!

“But that was the nature of life in those days. Pubs and clubs were a little bit rougher, and Jarrow had a pub on every corner. It as an amazing place. I remember it was in the middle of the IRA troubles, and I was a young policeman stationed in Jarrow, and I was living in digs. I remember standing in a bar one night, I was having a drink, and somebody threw a petrol bomb in and the guy next to me sucked it before it went off! That’s how rough it was. In fact, Kate Adie was working there as a barmaid! I mean that shows, really, how rough it is.

“I mentioned the moon landing, and it reminded me that somebody once mentioned that two Geordie lads landed on the moon for the first time, and as they climbed out of the spacecraft, it was very misty, and in the distance, there was a CIU sign. Geordie said to his mate, 'I can’t believe this. We’re the first Geordies to land on the moon, and there’s a bloody CIU affiliated club.'

“His mate said: 'I wonder if they sell Federation. Let’s go and have a pint.' So, of course, they staggered to the club, ordered a couple of pints, they were sitting there and Geordie says: 'Right, I can’t believe this. We’re on the moon, in a club, drinking pints. Unbelievable!' His Mate said: 'Oh, I dinna like it.' He says: 'You dinna like it? Why?' and he says: 'Well, there’s no atmosphere!'

Ladies and gentlemen, to be serious, clubs, as again has been mentioned by your President, are an important asset. I think the Mayor touched on it as well. They are a very important asset to society. It's a shame that clubs, like pubs, are closing because the community is, I think, retreating into their own homes, which is a shame. People don't go out as much, whereas, certainly when I was a young lad, the pubs were thriving, the clubs were thriving. George, again, has touched on it. We need to try and get that back, because we can't all sit around little boxes looking at screens and keyboards.

"I think it's actually endangering young people, to be honest, because they don't get out either. They don't play outside, they sit in their own room, and of course we've seen the consequences of all of that with cyber-crime and pornography and all the rest of it. It leads to grooming and it's a major problem, but I'm delighted to be part of the Parliamentary Club Group in Parliament, where we can talk over problems with George and his colleagues, and we meeting regularly and, of course, it's important that we do, because unless you draw these issues and problems to our attention, we can't raise them and deal with them. What we need to do is, I think, to incentivise clubs and get rid of the burden of relegation on them.

"Going back to my time as a policement on the beat. I once walked past a man working in his garden who didn't have any trousers on, which I thought unusual. So I remonstrated with him and I said excuse me, but you're probably breaking the law – indecent exposure or causing public offence – I said why haven't you got trousers on? It was a warm day. He says well, officer, last week, I dug the garden without a shirt on and got a stiff neck. He said this is the wife's idea! Absolutely true!

"But there is a challenge, ladies and gentlemen, to be serious. The challenge, of course, is with supermarkets. Supermarkets are one of the reasons why people aren't going into clubs, aren't going into pubs, because they're buying alcohol and drinking it at home. It's an abuse of cheap liquor, and I don't know what the answer is.

"They're talking about putting a minimum price on alcohol and so on, but it is a problem and, when I was a young detective for many years, I was drinking too much, because in the CID, you've got to go into pubs and clubs to cultivate people and get information and investigate crime. It led to me drinking far too much. I must admit, it was a major problem. I remember going to stop at a Premier Inn, and I thought I've got to stay out of the bar tonight. I must make an effort. I laid on the bed and I opened one of the drawers and, in there, was what you always find in a hotel; a bible. Somebody had struck a little note on the inside cover of the bible, and it said are you an alcoholic? Let us help you. Ring 5976423. And I thought, Brian, be a man. Do it. So I rang the number, and it was the off licence next door. Can you imagine?

"I hope you have a very successful and useful conference today. Thank you very much indeed."

THE PRESIDENT then asked the delegates to consider the Annual Report. HENRY SHANAHAN, Branch Secretary of the South Wales Branch, in proposing the acceptance of the report, said: "Unfortunately, there has never been a greater need for support to clubs from Branch and national level than ever before. There is a wealth of information contained in this little book, and I urge committeemen, especially Club Secretaries, to take the time to check it out. I therefore have no compunction in asking delegates to accept this truly professional report, and congratulate the team and all those who participated in its production. May I also take this opportunity to thank all Head Office staff for the patience and courtesy of which I have benefitted in my short period of office to date."

DAVE COLES, Secretary of Wickersley Social Club, South Yorkshire Branch, formally seconded the Annual Report and said: "I would suggest in all sincerity that you take the time out to read this, because it's probably the best publication that the Head Office produced throughout the year. There's a mine of information in it. It's very helpful and, therefore, I would recommend to you and formally second the Annual Report.

The Annual Report was accepted on a show of hands.

In presenting the Union's Annual Financial Statement, Union Accountant STEVE CONNELL said:

"Thank you, Mr President, delegates and guests. It gives me great pleasure to present to you the Financial Report on behalf of your National Executive. This year's results, as can be seen from the Financial Statements contained in your Annual Report, show that the Union made total recognised losses of £160,279 compared to gains for 2014 of £240,186. To compare these figures, it must be noted that the gains achieved in 2014 were after the inclusion of two major one-off items of income, namely the profit of £295,112 on the sale of our Saltburn Convalescent Centre, and the sale of an investment held at our Durham Branch of £108,991. Purely as an exercise for comparison, if you were to extract these two items from the figures, losses would have been made in 2014 of £163,917, almost identical to the losses made this year.

"It is quite apparent that, once again, the Union has had to use its reserves to cover these losses. If we look at the revenue account result in a little more detail, and combine the information contained especially in notes 3 and 5 of the Financial Statements, it can be seen that, overall, our gross profit declined from £1,951,463 in 2014 to £1,860,938 in 2015, due mainly, as you would expect, from our decline in membership and sales of affiliation cards and fees. Within note 3, you will see the annual fee income fell from £574,966 in 2014 to £529,492.00 this year, representing a decline of 7.9 per cent. Also, the sale of pass cards went down from £652,984 last year to £598,341, a fall of 8.4%. As these items of income alone represent over 50 per cent of the Union's turnover, it must in itself raise serious alarm bells for the future.

"However, it is not all bad news. It is pleasing to see that our total operating expenditure fell from £2,355,791 in 2014 to £2,314,956 this year, without making any reductions to the services that we provide. Therefore, even after the expected decline in income streams, operating losses, although continuing to be extremely high worsened this year by only £49,690 to £454,018. As in 2014, income earned, together with the net gains made from the sale of our investments, achieved very positive results. In fact, the gains made from the Central Fund held at Head Office doubled from £106,311 to £211,471. This, coupled with rental income, had the effect of overturning the operating losses to achieve a profit for the year after taxation of £96,721 compared to a profit last year of £419,186. Again, for comparison purposes, if we extract the one-off items of income received in 2014, the results for last year would have been a profit of only £15,083. Looking at the results in this light, I think you would agree that, under the circumstances, a reasonable result was achieved.

"Being conscious of the financial demands on our clubs today, your National Executive agreed this year not to propose any significant increases to the fees levied at either club or to club members. However, it would be very remiss not to suggest that this would need to be considered next year. Over the last two to three years, the Union lost three of its branches. Whilst it is pleasing to report there have been no further closures this year, it should be noted

that several of our smaller branches are having to rely too heavily on historical reserves to survive, and this, even after the extra funding that has been allocated to branches in the last couple of years. Although we do not print the full revenue accounts and balance sheets of the individual branches anymore, you can see from the consolidated revenue account that, collectively, the branches made losses this year of £112,499.

“Without any anticipated increases to revenue for the next financial year, these negative results would inevitably worsen. It would seem sensible to me that those branches should start to examine, if they have not already begun, to consider the feasibility of merging together to form larger branches. I believe, as the number of clubs that are affiliated to these smaller branches decline, the question as to closure or merger will need to be addressed. Surely, merging branches would be a better alternative to further closures, which would have the inevitable effect of losing further clubs. Quite a large section of my report to you last year was devoted to the work undertaken at branch level. Although I have no intention of repeating that report, I would emphasise its importance and the need for its protection. I suppose – and this has already been said before – that, as many of you here today are either Branch Executive members, or are connected one way or another with the work undertaken at your branch, that I too am reporting to the converted. This is so often the case within our Union today. Getting the message across to those who don’t attend conference or, worse still, don’t attend branch council meetings, has always been, and unfortunately probably will continue to be one of the Union’s biggest, and some would say almost impossible hurdles to overcome.

“I reported last year that the Union still benefits from a healthy balance sheet, and I’m pleased to report that although there has been no growth this year, due in the main by the pension scheme actuarial loss, it is still considered to be in a good state, with total net assets showing as £6,496,563 compared to £6,659,017 in 2014. Your National Executive has continued to examine the possible benefits to our clubs and the Union as a whole from its partnerships with other organisations or national account companies. As many of you know, we now work with two main breweries, as opposed to just one, and it is hoped that this will offer a fairer choice to clubs in the future. As previously reported, our relationship with the providers of Club Journal and event management, etc, has always already proved a great success, as those delegates who took the opportunity both last year and this, to attend the Beer and Trade Show held yesterday would, I am sure, have got a good flavour for themselves.

“The hard work undertaken over the last couple of years to revise our educational services may have taken longer than originally predicted, but is nearing its conclusion, and it’s certainly hoped that these efforts will provide a much more comprehensive method of training to ensure that our clubs are managed efficiently, and I know that our General Secretary will be speaking more about this later. The Financial Statements that are presented to you today will also be getting quite a major facelift next year. The presentation of these accounts, which are governed by UK accounting standards, will see changes made after the introduction of Financial Reporting Standard 102. Although this came into force on 1 January 2015, it will affect the Union’s Financial Statements for the year ending 30 September 2016. I certainly don’t intend to give you chapter and verse on this rather complex standard, but I must point out one of the changes that will have a considerable effect.

“Up until now, we have always shows the value of our investments at their original costs and, therefore, only shown their market value as a note to the accounts. This means that a revenue account is only affected when individual investments are sold at either a profit or a loss. In future, investments will need to be shown at their market value, with the full change in value

from previous year reflected in the revenue account, either as a positive or a negative figure. I am reporting this specifically today, because when we present the Financial Statements for the year ending 30 September 2016, these statements that you are considering today for 2015 will need to be restated for comparison purposes. As for market of investments held, both at Head Office and branches at 30 September 2015, was approximately £1,000,000 more than their original cost, the necessary restatement will be significant. Of course, as the value of investments can go down as well as up, we will have to wait and see what the effect will be to our accounts for 2016.

“Regarding our investments, and for your information, I can report that your National Executive recently decided to use the services of two firms of fund managers as opposed to only one. This will enable us to better monitor their performance in managing the funds. In conclusion, Mr President, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking our auditors, BH Accountancy Limited, and Brian Howarth sitting to my right, for their expert advice and help give to us this year. Finally, I wish you every success in the future management of your clubs. Thank you, Mr President.”

ALLAN NISBET of Kenton & District Social Club, Northumberland Branch, moved to accept the Financial Statement.

He said: “ Morning, Mr President, delegates, Lord Mackenzie. Mr President, I read the Financial Report, all these losses, just going through them, where the salaries for one thing is £386,000. You’ve got Executive Committee expenses - £183,000; professional fees £137,000. We’ve got the Annual Report {costing} £54,000. We’re losing money left, right and centre in the CIU. It’s got to stop, or the CIU will not last very long. We’ve only got £6.5 million left and we’re losing it every year. My proposal would be to move from London up to Doncaster or York somewhere where it would be cheaper; cheaper solicitors, auditors, cheaper rent. Current occupancy costs down in London are £187,000 for a year. That is a lot of money. A waste of money left, right and centre. If we don’t do something about it, ladies and gentlemen, your CIU, we can’t afford to run anymore.

“They are asking about why they’re losing clubs. As the President said, we had 4,000 in 1970. This year, we’ve only got approximately 1,500. Why are they leaving the CIU? It’s not because they’re all closing. They’re leaving the CIU because they’re getting nothing from the CIU. It’s always give, give, give but very little do we get back.

“A few years back we, as a club, needed help to buy off the brewery loan. We had to get a loan of £220,000. We paid that off in four years. The club’s thriving now because we’re moving with the times, seeing what the young people want in life and in the clubs. Why couldn’t I get a loan from the CIU? I know they’re not a bank or anything, but it’s our money.

“I was only going to borrow off our money and pay it back, rather than pay it all in expenses back to the banks. If we don’t get a grip, ladies and gentlemen, your CIU won’t be here very long. We must stop it, we must have a look at these expenses, why is it costing so much to be down in London with all these expenses? It’s your money, not mine, it’s everyone’s in the country who belongs to the CIU. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.”

DAN CAPEWELL CMD, Secretary of Baddeley Green WMC, Stoke on Trent, West Midlands Branch, formally seconded the motion and the Annual Financial Statement was accepted.

GENERAL SECRETARY KEN D GREEN CMD proposed Motion 1 which was to change the name of the organisation from Working Men's Club & Institute Union Limited to the Club & Institute Union Limited.

He said: "You've just passed the minutes of last year's meeting and what I had to say, I said last year. I have no intention of repeating myself.

"Less than 40 per cent of our clubs have got 'Working Men's' in the title and the biggest percentage of areas that use 'Working Men's' in club titles is South Yorkshire, where I'm from and West Yorkshire, where the President is from. I cannot understand any complaints when all the branches – or most of the branches – use the CIU logo. When we go into Parliament, we need to speak to Parliamentarians regularly and CIU rolls off the tongue. I'd like to move that delegates vote in favour of changing the name to CIU Limited."

The Motion was seconded by JOHN TOBIN, Union Vice-President.

He said: "I've been here {Blackpool} since Wednesday and CIU has been mentioned all the time. Using the title of the Working Men's Club in this day and age, when we have ladies in our organisation, is not correct and I feel that it deters some of the 6,000 unregistered clubs out there from joining our organisation.

"We had this discussion last year and no doubt we'll have a battle today but we're now in the year 2016 and it's time that we changed since we're known all over the country as the CIU. So, please, ladies and gentlemen, let's go for it, change it, and let's increase our membership of this Union."

Opposing the Motion, STAN SUMMERS, Vice-President of Durham Branch and President of Darlington WMC, said: "I've heard Ken say that, last year he got up and he didn't want to repeat what he said last year. I'm going to do the same. I said what I had to say last year, and I'm not going to repeat it. I've just listened to what John {Tobin} said this morning. He said everybody's talking about the CIU.

"The Mayor of Blackpool stood here about half an hour ago. What did he say? Working Men's Clubs. He mentioned it about five times, the Mayor, how proud he was to be a member of a Working Men's Club. I speak today, not as a personal point of view, I speak on behalf of my club and clubs in the Durham area, who came to me and gave me support, and told me they fully support what I have to say. They believe we should keep what we had and what we've had. The Working Men's Club is a treasure to people in Durham. When you look at the Durham Miners' Gala which takes place every year, what do they have behind the banners? This is what it's all about. Remembering the working man.

"We shouldn't forget the working man for all he's done for us over the years. He's brought us all together, he's united us all. We shouldn't forget that. So, ladies and gentlemen, I'm asking you to support me and oppose the motion."

Supporting the Motion, STEPHEN FOSTER of Easington Colliery Club, Durham Branch, said: "Mr President, Mr Chairman and delegates. When I was a young man, I was as proud as punch to be a member of my club, like my father, like my brother. In those days, to fill the club, all you had to do was open the doors.

“I’m sure you all remember those good times. Well, times change, the law changes. Society and culture changes. We all know clubs are in decline. We’ve had to deal with the smoking ban and other legislation, jobsworths from the Council, and relentless competition from the supermarkets whose responsibilities end at the checkout. For the previous two years, I served on the NEC and, in that capacity, it was my privilege to visit the House of Commons for meetings on clubs. I’m sure you’ll agree, Mr Chairman, it is indeed a privilege to go there. In the group, there’s a Baroness, a Lord and MPs from all parties who we lobby for better companies for clubs.

“In that company, you have to be seen to be politically correct to achieve any sort of concessions. Having Working Men in our name implies that we don’t embrace equality. It’s all about their perception of our clubs. I’ve been a member of our club for 40-odd years now. I’ve been separated for 15, I’ve served on the Durham Branch as Executive and, as I’ve mentioned, the National Executive. I understand the sentiments and the passions of people who want to keep the name. Stan is a colleague of mine in the Durham Branch.

“I understand all of that, but changing the name, it isn’t going to change our heritage or history. It’s certainly not going to change my memories that I have in my head. That’s not going to change. Sometimes, delegates, you have to compromise your principles for the sake of progress. So, when the NEC goes into bat on our behalf, don’t tie one hand behind their backs. I support the motion.”

Opposing the Motion, DAVID COLES, Secretary of Wickersley Working Men's Club, South Yorkshire Branch, said: “I’m proud of our history. I’m proud that it’s called a Working Men’s Club. It’s no detriment to women. Them arguments are long gone, and nobody takes offence surely with a title like that. John Tobin said that at the dinner he was at last night - very lucky you are, Mr Tobin, we weren’t there – that it was CIU, CIU, CIU.

“Well, I can tell you John, that them three taxis that we got in last night taking us to clubs, they said: 'Are you lads down here for the Grand National?' We said: 'No, we’re here for conference'. What conference? CIU! What’s CIU? Working Men’s Clubs. Oh, we know what Working Men’s Clubs are. They ain’t got a clue what CIU were, but they knew what Working Men’s Clubs were. Say no more. Keep your history and be proud of it. Vote against it.”

Supporting the Motion, ALAN PRESTON, President of York City Branch, President of York City Branch and a Committee Member of Fulford Club, said: “Fellow delegates, I would express my concerns about Motion 1, and to agree in some ways with the gentleman that’s just been before me.

“Yes, these people in the taxis, like you say last night, it was the Working Men’s Club, but I bet these people haven’t been in a Working Men’s Club for years. It has been a few years since ladies were allowed to become full members of the CIU which, to my opinion, is a good thing. But don’t you think it’s about time we recognise the achievements made by these women in our clubs?

“Most of the clubs these days are kept alight by our lady members, with the work that they do in their clubs. With Parliament having more lady MPs, it is hard to get policies through. When we state Working Men’s Club, it’s like we’re stigmatised. In my opinion, if we remove the title Working Men’s Club we would be on equal footing with the lady MPs and, therefore, get more motions passed. So, delegates, you can’t change the history - which I don’t want to - but you certainly can change our future. So, I ask you all to forward this motion.”

Opposing the Motion, STAN NICHOLSON, Secretary of the Cochran Street Social Club, No.9 Division, Northumberland Branch, said: "This is the third time we've discussed this. I think it was two years ago at the Winter Gardens that we heard, I believe the lady's name was Brenda, she addressed this Conference, which I thought was one of the best addresses at Conference I've heard for a long time. For a long, long time.

"When we went back, I discussed this with the {club} Committee and they said: 'What do you think's going to happen Stan?' Well, I don't know. Possibly, possibly, our Executive will put it on the agenda again for next year. And, lo and behold, our Executive put it on the agenda for last year. And, lo and behold, what happened? Now, Mr President, Executive, we have told you once no. We've told you twice no. For the third time, leave our heritage alone! I vote against the motion."

Supporting the Motion, PAT O'BRIEN, President of Cricklewood Trades Hall Club, North West Metropolitan Branch, said: "It seems like only yesterday - it was probably 20-odd years ago – that I first came into a club in this country, and a strange woman came up and tapped me on the shoulder, asking me would I get her a drink at the counter. I was absolutely shocked that women couldn't be served.

"Then, when I joined the club that I've just recently become President of, the fact that a lady couldn't become a full member - what absolute nonsense in this day and age. It's been said by one of the speakers against {the Motion} that the equality thing is not an issue and we've moved on from then. Well, why do you still have this title Working Men's Club and it just refers to one gender?

"We're living in the 21st Century. Changing this name is going to recognise them {women}. It's going to recognise the fantastic contributions that women have made to our clubs. Clubs are struggling. A lot of them would have been dead a long, long time ago if it wasn't for the contribution that our women are actually making, so please support this Motion."

The GENERAL SECRETARY KEN D GREEN CME responded: "Ladies and gentlemen, I've listened to the arguments for and against. Whether you know or not, I'm still the South Yorkshire Branch Secretary and I go into clubs on regular basis that are struggling, or failing one way or another.

"This Motion doesn't take anything away from anybody. It doesn't affect our heritage. Our heritage is there, it will always be there. I've got Working Men's Club in my own club's title. That's not going to change if we change to CIU. We're not going to change the name of the club. I'm going into clubs {who say} we've always done it this way. We've always been like this. In fact, I was in a club a month ago, I don't know if they've got any delegates here now, I'll mention no names, but they're still running the club as though there were running it in 1975 when fivers went into the till quicker than beer came out of the pump.

"Now we have to fight for all of those fivers. All I'm saying is CIU is the title of a national Union. A national Union. We're not split into North, South, East and West. All these gentlemen on the stage come from all over the country, you all come from all over the country. North, South, East, West. And it's true, when we go into Parliament, there are quite a number of ladies in Parliament, they think we're still walking about with whippets and flat caps. Please support the Motion. Give us the tools and we'll do the job."

The Motion failed to achieve the required two-thirds majority (206 For,187 Against).

JOHN BATCHELOR, Derbyshire Branch Secretary and National Executive Member for Derbyshire and Leicestershire, proposed Motion 2 – reference to the minimum annual fee to be increased from £75 to £100 per club.

He said: "On behalf of the National Executive, we propose that Rule 10, line 4 deletes £75 and insert £100 to bring it into line with the charge of 50p per member, which was increased five years ago."

Seconding the Motion was GEOFF BLAKELEY CMD, Manchester Branch Secretary and National Executive Representative for Manchester, Burnley & Pendle and Cumbria.

The Motion failed (187 For,190 Against).

#### THE GENERAL SECRETARY KEN D GREEN'S ADDRESS

"Good morning, ladies and gentlemen and fellow delegates. I hope you all enjoyed the Trade Fair yesterday and I'd like to thank all involved in the organisation of the event which, in my opinion, is a very important part of the weekend proceedings culminating in this, our Annual General Meeting.

"For the second year, the Dransfields CIU National Quiz Final will be held after the close of this meeting and I hope many of you will stay and support the event, and that's to be held in the Boston Suite of this building.

"The NEC are elected by yourselves to represent your various areas of the country, and they are all there to advise clubs and are available throughout the year to pass on their knowledge of club land. I am in my second year as General Secretary and I have attempted to accept all invitations (from clubs) received whenever possible, and it is still my intention to be able to visit all our Branches, be it to Branch Executive meetings, Branch Council meetings, or even on special Club presentations whenever I can.

"Those of you who know me, know I am no shrinking violet. I would never duck sensitive issues, and well-meaning visits will be counter balanced with visits where a genuine grievance needs to be acted upon.

"The NEC formed a small working group a while ago, consisting of myself, the Vice-President John Tobin, Geoff Blakeley from Manchester, Ken Roberts from South Wales and Stephen Foster from Durham to look into our education programme. The work is ongoing and, along with one of our partner breweries, Carlsberg and CPL Training, a new education programme is very close.

"In fact, we held a pilot course at CPL's Head Office in Birkenhead recently, and the feedback we've received has been very positive. We have produced manuals covering legislation and management procedures, and hope later this year to roll out an accounts package to enable us to provide a successor to the same day programme.

"This leads me on to the main reasons the NEC believe education is an extremely vital component of the services we provide as a Union. We are still receiving claims for arbitration from Club members who feel they have not been dealt with in a fair manner. It is imperative that

Club Committees follow their rulebook to the letter, or they run the risk of having a decision overturned at arbitration and bad members being allowed back into the club.

“In the worst case scenario, Club Committees will blame the arbitrators and, therefore, the Union, when they themselves have failed to carry out the initial disciplinary in accordance with their rules.

“I cannot stress enough the need for rules to be followed and the arbitration service we provide for, without this, clubs could find themselves fighting to the law courts, with the inevitable costs associated with such actions being enough to close a club. We provide knowledgeable people to lecture on suspensions and expulsions procedures, which should be organised by your individual branches.

“Finally, if there are still clubs out there who think they have to do nothing about auto enrolment pensions, please make sure you have an appropriate scheme in place, or it will not be the lack of management skills or the lack of trade that closes your club, it will be the Government department who levies fines, with no appeal from those fines for non-compliance.

“These fines can be unlimited, but think of £100 a day, and they’re not appealable. Get the scheme. Everybody’s got to have a scheme. Thank you for listening. Let’s keep all our clubs in prime condition to enable us to carry on with our quest for another 150 years.”

THE PRESIDENT announced that the next Annual Meeting will be held on April 8, 2017 and declared the 2016 Annual Meeting closed.

The total number of delegates at the Annual Meeting was 445 with eight guests.