

Branch Meeting

**Thursday
25th
March
6.30 p.m.**

STUC
333 Woodlands Road
Glasgow
G3 6NG



Marlene Barrie addressing last month's Branch meeting on Darkroom Disease in New Zealand

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- **Election success for Branch members**
- **£15,000 damages for injury**
- **Reid praises NHS staff**

First Scottish NHS Sector Conference

The first Scottish NHS Sector Conference to be held under the new rules of amicus, rather than the MSF or AEEU rules, took place on Wednesday 10th March at the union's Glasgow offices. Gail Cartmail, who is the union's head of health, was the keynote speaker and addressed the assembled workplace representatives on a variety of topics including Agenda for Change.

A motion, submitted by Donald Sime, calling on the union to oppose the proposed changes to the NHS superannuation scheme (i.e. full benefits not available until age 65 rather than the current 60) was agreed and sent to the NHS National Sector Conference.

The conference also agreed a motion opposing privatisation of public services, whether by PPP, PFI, private management, sell-offs or other mechanisms. The motion rejected the Government's argument that the private sector can bring benefits to the public sector, stating that the private sector operates to generate profits purely for the benefit of shareholders and not for the benefit of its customers or employees, and affirmed that education, transport and health should not be subject to the pressures of the Stock Market. The motion will now be submitted to the union's national policy conference, which will be held later this year.



Michael Fuller (extreme left of picture), amicus lead NHS Officer in Scotland, addressing the Scottish NHS Sector Conference held earlier this month.

Contacts

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Treasurer	Richard Shaw	0141 201 0412
Vice-chair	Helen McFarlane	0141 211 0800
Assistant Secretary	Vacant	
Safety Officer	Derek Anstee	0141 211 2128
Women's Officer	Helen McFarlane	0141 211 0800
Newsletter Editor	James Ito	0141 201 0798



Success for Glasgow members in union elections

Seven of the seventeen Scottish seats at the union's forthcoming NHS National Sector Conference have been won by Glasgow members. Congratulations are due to Maureen Jenkins (Medical Laboratory Assistant), Colin Rodden (Pharmacist), Donald Sime (Biomedical Scientist), Billy Hendry (Estates & Maintenance), Helen McFarlane (Speech and Language Therapist), Bill Goudie (employee director at Greater Glasgow NHS Board) and Morag Pender (Radiographer). Helen McDermott (Medical Technical Officer) was elected as one of the two substitute delegates. The seventeen delegates will also serve as the union's Scottish Regional NHS Sector Committee

Injury claim settled for £15,000

One of the Branch's members suffered a work related back injury. The matter was taken up by the union's solicitors and some time later the employer agreed to pay £15,00 damages. Members are advised to ensure that all injuries sustained at work are recorded and to seek union advice for any non-trivial incidents. Contact the Branch Secretary for further information.

Reid praises all NHS staff

John Reid, Secretary of State for Health (in England), has attacked the Conservative party's spin doctors for portraying NHS staff as faceless bureaucrats. "NHS staff are not faceless bureaucrats," he said. "They are the biggest army for good in Britain. Why don't they (the Tories), just for once, give credit where it's due- to the hard-working staff of the NHS.

Not just doctors and nurses but the entire team:

- from midwives to biochemists,
- from immunologists to porters to speech and language therapists,
- from cleaners to dieticians to healthcare scientists

They treat over a million patients every 36 hours

And the real national scandal is that the Tory Party and some of their friends in the media forget the one million cases, ignore the million cases that go right and bring such relief from pain and highlight the small number which go wrong. We know why they do that.

The NHS embodies values the Tories don't believe in."

How nice that, for once, a senior politician has publicly recognised the contribution made by NHS staff other than doctors and nurses.

Branch Meeting Thursday 25th March

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of previous meeting and arising.
3. Correspondence.
4. Reports.
5. Motions.
6. A.O.C.B.

The next meeting of the Branch will be held on Tuesday 27th April at 6.30 p.m. All meetings are held in the Scottish Trade Union Congress, 333 Woodlands Road, Glasgow G3 6NG. (Tea, coffee & biscuits 6.15 p.m.)

