

John McGiveron 1951 - 2024

It is with a heavy heart that the Branch Officers have to announce the passing of John McGiveron after a short illness.

John served 26 years as a Customs and Revenue Officer, beginning in Liverpool parcel post, then South One, Gladstone Dock (Liverpool container terminal). He then 'emigrated' to Scotland in 1974 and worked the rest of his career at Prestwick International Airport, becoming a trainer assessor before taking early retirement in 1996.

Following this, he accepted a position as a ticket examiner for Scotrail railways, travelling on the West Coast line down to South Ayrshire.

An opportunity came his way to have a complete change of career, and he had some fun becoming a support actor on some of Scotland's popular soap operas - *High Road*, *Still Game* and *Taggart*, to name a few, and also a movie with Robert Duvall and Ally McCoist.

John joined the CSPA Scotland Branch in 2008 and became

Glasgow & District Group Vice Chair, with Bob Flavill as Chair, in 2014. Bob retired in 2017 due to health problems and John was elected as Branch Chair at the Branch AGM the same year, stepping down from the Glasgow & District Vice Chair position.

John was also elected to the CSPA Executive Council, where he continued to enjoy working for and on behalf of Scotland Branch members.

There's a saying that everyone from Liverpool thinks they are a comedian, but those who encountered John will know he had a wicked sense of humour and were often on the receiving end of it!

John's favourite pastime was building scale models of locomotives and rolling stock - he was particularly talented at that hobby.

John had a wicked sense of humour - we were often on the receiving end of it



He also enjoyed the occasional single malt whisky!

John worked tirelessly alongside the other Branch Officers until ill health forced him to step down from the Branch Chair position, and eventually all CSPA duties.

John is survived by his loving wife, Christine.



Scotland Branch Christmas Lunch

The Scotland Branch Christmas Lunch will be held in the Maldron Hotel, 50 Renfrew Street, Glasgow G12 3BW on **Thursday 12 December** at 11.30am for 12 noon.

The hotel has asked us to pre-order our meal choices and

give them the information by **Wednesday 20 November**. So, if you wish to attend, please telephone membership secretary Michael Kirby on 07969 405263 to book your lunch.

The cost for the three-course meal is only £20 (you can pay this on the

day) – but do not delay as only 30 lunch reservations can be made.

When you telephone to say you would like to attend the lunch, please also let Michael have your menu choices.

Action required today!!

Festive 3-course menu

STARTERS

Smoked Mackerel and Salmon Mousse GF
Scottish oatcakes, cucumber & dill chutney

Allergens: fish; almond, brazil, cashew, hazelnut, macadamia, pecan, pine nut, pistachio, walnut; gluten, oats, wheat; milk; sulphur dioxide



Goats Cheese and Red Onion Tart vg
With roasted chestnuts

Allergens: peanuts; almond, brazil, cashew, hazelnut, macadamia, pecan, pine nut, pistachio, walnut; barley, gluten, oats, rye, wheat; milk; soya; sulphur dioxide; sesame seeds; eggs; celery; mustard

Lentil and Split Pea Soup vg/GF

Allergens: barley, gluten, oats, rye, wheat; milk; soya; sesame seeds; celery; mustard

MAINS

Turkey Roulade GF

All the trimmings; chipolata, carrots, parsnips, sprouts and roast potatoes

Allergens: sulphur dioxide; celery

Roast Cod Fillet GF

Pomme lyonnaise, grilled asparagus, lemon and saffron sauce

Allergens: fish; milk; sulphur dioxide; celery; mustard

Vegetable Wellington vg

Roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables

Allergens: gluten, wheat; celery; mustard

DESSERT

Orange Sponge Cake vg

Spiced clementine compote and orange blossom yoghurt

Allergens: barley, gluten, wheat; milk; sulphur dioxide; eggs

Chocolate and Hazelnut Choux Bun vg

Chocolate sauce and hazelnut ganache

Allergens: almond, brazil, cashew, hazelnut, macadamia, pecan, pine nut, pistachio, walnut; gluten, wheat; milk; soya; eggs



Matcha and Raspberry Bauble vg/GF

With white mousse

Allergens: milk; soya

Festive 3-course vegan menu

STARTERS

Soup of the Day

Allergens: barley, gluten, oats, rye, wheat; milk; soya; sesame seeds; celery; mustard

Tofu and Onion Tartlet

Allergens: peanuts; barley, gluten, oats, rye, wheat; milk; soya; sulphur dioxide; sesame seeds; eggs; celery; mustard

MAINS

Vegetable Wellington

Served with roasted potatoes, seasonal vegetables and red wine jus

Allergens: gluten, wheat; celery; mustard

Sweet Potato and Mushroom Stew

With pomme lyonnaise, grilled asparagus, lemon and saffron sauce

Allergens: peanuts, almond, brazil, cashew, hazelnut, macadamia, pecan, pine nut, pistachio, walnut; lupins

DESSERT

Christmas Pudding

Vegan brandy cream

Allergens: almond, brazil, cashew, hazelnut, macadamia, pecan, pine nut, pistachio, walnut; soya

Chocolate Orange Tart

Spiced clementine compote

Allergens: peanuts; soya; milk; sulphur dioxide; egg



CSPA national AGM report

The 70th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance was held at the Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth, on Wednesday 9 and Thursday 10 October.

Scotland Branch was represented at the AGM by Wilson Macdonald, on the Executive Council, and Michael Kirby as the Branch delegate.

The AGM was opened by the Town Mayor of Kenilworth, followed by a welcome from Executive Council Chair Linda Ridgers-Waite. This was followed by the adoption of the report of the 2023 AGM and the 2023 Annual Report.

National Treasurer Mike Sparham then presented the statement of accounts for 2023. The Chief Teller, John Hickey, informed the Chair of the number of votes available at the AGM in the case of a card vote.

The total membership is 34,896, 21,323 of whom were represented by branches and groups in attendance

at the AGM. The Scotland Branch total was 2,668 members – 10,662 would constitute a majority, and 14,216 a two-thirds majority.

After the election of incoming Chair Les Priestley, Vice Chair Roisin Lilley and new Executive Council members, the main AGM proceedings got under way.

All motions were carried, apart from the following:

- **Motion A3**, which was lost
- **Motion A11**, which was withdrawn
- **Motion A12**, which was remitted to the Executive Council
- **Motion A14**, which was lost
- **Motion A17**, which was lost
- **Composite Motion A20 and A21**, which fell due to Motion A18 being carried

Wednesday evening's dinner gave us a chance to meet new people

- **Motion A48**, which was lost
- **Motion A49**, which was lost
- **Motion A53 and Motion A54**, which were both remitted to the Executive Council.

On Wednesday evening, the AGM dinner offered a chance for everyone to meet new people from other parts of the organisation.

The AGM guest speakers included:

- **David Halliwell, Connect Communications**
- **Bernard Seymour, Affinity Resolutions**
- **Matthew Armsby, BC Technologies**
- **Ann Pelaez, Civil Service Insurance Society**
- **Jan Shortt, National Pensioners Convention**

At 3pm on Thursday 10 October, the AGM was closed by the Chair.

Pictured: Michael Kirby flies the flag for Scotland, with the help of Wilson Macdonald (above)

Stop cold callers!

If you want to prevent scammers knocking on your door, you can request a No Cold Calling sticker (pictured) from your local Trading Standards office or from Trading Standards Scotland.

If an uninvited trader then ignores the sticker, they may be committing an offence under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008.

Is cold calling illegal? No, cold calling is not illegal. However, any trader who ignores a sticker or notice on your door stating that you do not wish to receive cold calls may be committing a criminal offence.

Also, any trader who ignores any requests by you to leave and not return is committing a criminal offence.



Keeping your details up to date



Membership secretary Michael Kirby (contact details at the bottom of this page) is the man to contact if you need to make changes to your personal data held on the Scotland Branch section of the CSPA database – change of address, email, phone number or any other membership matter that you require assistance with.

SP Energy Networks Priority Services Register

In the event of a power cut, our teams work around the clock to restore your electricity as quickly as possible.

To enquire about being placed on this register – phone 0330 1010 167

Any feedback regarding this newsletter would be very much appreciated.



Please do not leave *The Pensioner* or this newsletter in doctors'/dentists' surgeries or any public places as it contains names and addresses of CSPA officers.

The CSPA is committed to ensuring that your information and privacy are protected.