

MML AGM APRIL 25TH 2021

MINUTES

1. Apologies

Jane Rosen, Jonathan White, Philippa Clarke, Evan Pritchard

2. Minutes of the AGM held in November 2020 (postponed from April)

Agreed

3. Re-affirm President & VPs

President: David McLellan

Vice Presidents: Maxine Peake, John McDonnell, Joginder Bains

All re-affirmed

4. Guest speaker:

Maxine Peake; read poems on women & the Russian revolution

5. Report of Work & Accounts

Agreed: 51 for 1 against

6. Theory & Struggle

Marj Mayo reported on 2021 issue & survey for online only preferences

7. Approval of trustees including GC members who must retire and may stand for re-election at the 2021 AGM. These are:

1. Mary Davis (elected 2017)
2. Ann Field (elected 2017)
3. John Hendy (elected 2017)
4. John Foster (elected 2018)

There being no other nominations: **All approved**

8. Matters submitted by the General Committee:

The following motion proposed by Mary Davis on behalf of the General committee was **agreed**

In the best tradition of our long-established Workers' School, this AGM notes with approval the success and expansion of MML's education activities during the past year. Despite the pandemic our delivery of Marxist education for the working class movement has flourished.

Our lectures and seminars, now held on zoom have attracted bumper audiences. Our course provision has expanded with new courses already running and many planned for future delivery. New tutors have been recruited to teach our growing programme.

In addition to our ongoing course programme, the following new courses have been added:

- *Introduction to Marxism*
- *Historical Materialism*
- *Women, Work & Trade Unions*

The following courses are in preparation and will be timetabled at the earliest opportunity:

- *Black Workers and Trade Unions*
- *Young Workers & Trade Unions*
- *British Labour History; to be written*
- *Marxism & Science*
- *Dialectical Materialism*
- *Government, State Big Business*

We are also planning to deliver some of these courses 'tailor made' for individual trade unions on request.

All this represents a substantial expansion of our education programme as we continue to fulfil the mission of the Workers' School established 88 years ago. The MML and Workers' School remembers with pride the role it played in 1930s and 40s in educating a generation of shop stewards who helped win major advances for working people in the post-war years. Such political education is more than ever needed today to equip our movement with the arguments to defeat increasingly dangerous attacks on our civil and economic rights and to advance the case for socialism.

- A question was asked on course accreditation. This matter is in hand and a revised MML course completion certificate will be issued to students. Distance learning students already have MML accreditation on completion of their course.

- In response to a question on student enrolment outside London, it was reported that Zoom and live streaming enable students throughout the country (and overseas) to participate in MML courses

In addition the GC reported on the Patrons scheme and membership drive with a special appeal letter (signed by Lord Hendy, Claudia Webbe MP & John McDonnell MP) to Trade Union general secretaries urging their union to affiliate.

9. Appoint auditor

Arnold Hill was re-appointed

10. AOB (to be notified to the Secretary in advance)

Keith Williams reported on the protest against the proposed statue of Margaret Thatcher in Grantham. The AGM expressed support for the 'We Don't Want a Statue' campaign