

Chairman's Statement



I am pleased to introduce the Pensioners' Update 2010.

In the 2009 Newsbrief we reported that the ongoing funding position had fallen from a small surplus as at March 2008 to a deficit of £790m as at

March 2009, mainly because of the significant fall in asset values.

The defensive nature of our asset allocation (70% maturity / 30% growth portfolios) provided a measure of protection against the worst effects of the severe global economic recession and extreme volatility in investment markets in that period.

The year to March 2010 has been a very good year for investments but in keeping with other UK defined benefit pension schemes, the liabilities continue to grow and challenge the overall funding level of the Scheme. Thankfully the Scheme funding level will have improved somewhat over the last year as financial markets have recovered, however the expectation is that the interim actuarial valuation as at 31 March 2010 will continue to show a deficit. Details of the 2010 annual funding update will be provided later in the year, once the review has been completed.

During these challenging times a Trustee sub-committee continues to meet regularly with the Company to receive an information flow on

Company operations and finances. This enables the Trustee board to monitor the strength of the Company covenant to the Scheme and raise any issues which could affect the Scheme.

I continue to be impressed with the willingness of the Company to share confidential information in an open and transparent manner and have been reassured regarding its continued support for the Scheme.

The Pensions Regulator has set pension scheme governance as one of its key priorities. Over the last few years, the Trustee board has carried out a detailed review of the Scheme's governance framework and updated and formalised a number of its processes. Key areas addressed to date include trustee training and self-assessment, risk management, internal controls, conflicts of interest, record keeping, Scheme administration service standards and areas affecting the investment process. This updated framework has provided reassurance that the Scheme continues to be managed effectively and the Trustee will continue to seek ways to strengthen the Scheme's standards of governance.

Over the last Scheme year, employee membership fell by over 4,000, mainly as a result of redundancies arising from the downturn in the steel industry, taking our employee membership below 20,000 for the first time. Rotherham and Teesside were affected particularly, and Scheme Officers were on site to present road-shows to explain the provisions of the Scheme in these difficult circumstances.

On a brighter note, we report on two of the Scheme's pensioners who have recently joined the swelling ranks of centenarians. It is a fine achievement worthy of celebration and we offer our hearty congratulations to Jack Kittle and Phyllis Powles and their families. Ten years ago there were only 17 Scheme pensioners aged 100 years or over; now Jack and Phyllis are among the 76 who are currently in this age range. Testimony to the improving longevity we hear so much about nowadays.

Pensions may not have appeared high on the agenda of the major political parties during the general election campaign; however the

new coalition Government has lost no time in setting out a number of important proposals to change state pension entitlement. This could be of significant interest to Scheme Pensioners and beneficiaries and the changing face of state pensions is covered on page 8.

All the best to you and yours.



Allan Johnston
Trustee Chairman

Please bear in mind when reading the Pensioners' Update that different provisions may apply to benefits originally accrued under pension schemes which have subsequently been merged into the BSPS. If you are unclear about how you may be affected please contact the Pensions Office. Information is provided for guidance only and is not legal advice. It is correct at time of going to press.

Geoff's Column



Geoff Deeley is the Scheme's Pensioner Member Nominated Director and has been a Trustee Director since 1997. As a long-serving Trustee director and pensioner member, Geoff is very knowledgeable

and familiar with issues affecting Pensioners. In this article, Geoff explains the operation of the BSPS's "high/low" pension option.

I know from personal experience that a topic which generates much discussion among fellow Scheme Pensioners is the high/low pension option. Some may know it better as the Rule 11(8), formerly Rule 11(4), or the income levelling option.

When people retire early their pension is normally reduced because it has to be paid for a longer period. In some cases, this could result in individuals having to use up their savings to supplement income until the basic state pension becomes payable, generally by age 65. To offset this, some pension schemes introduced income

levelling which allowed an increased pension until age 65. The Scheme pension was then reduced by an amount derived from the basic state pension. In this way the income stayed roughly level during the whole period of retirement.

The high/low pension option in our Scheme is an example of income levelling. About 32% of all our pensioners chose the high/low pension option on their early retirement. This article will concentrate on how the option applies within the BSPS. The former Corus Engineering Steels Pension Scheme, for example, has a broadly similar option, known as the income levelling option.

The high/low pension option aims to help even out retirement income by taking account of the expectation that you will be in receipt of the full single person's basic state pension by the Scheme's Normal Pension Age (NPA) of 65. It is intended for people who would like more pension from the BSPS before their state pension starts, in return for a reduction in their Scheme pension from age 65.

The option is not available to members taking payment of a deferred or incapacity pension or if you took your pension at or after age 65.

How the high/low pension option works

A retiring employee Member can usually choose to receive an extra amount of Scheme pension under the high/low pension option. The amount depends on the Member's age and is added to the Scheme pension at early retirement. Normal annual increases are applied to the high/low pension, until the Member reaches age 65. When the Member reaches age 65, the amount of the Scheme's Lower Earnings Limit at that time is deducted from the pension in payment. The Scheme's Lower Earnings Limit is currently £4,524 and increases each year.

Taking the high/low pension option may reduce any tax-free lump sum available and will affect any 5 year guarantee of pension payable on death. However it does not affect any spouse/civil partner pension payable from the Scheme. Additionally, taking the option does not affect your state pension.

In the simple example below, it is assumed that the Member retires from active service at age 55, has a state pension age of 65, and is entitled to a full basic state pension.

Two questions frequently arise: why the deduction and how can I be reassured that the terms are fair?

No-one is likely to welcome a reduction in their Scheme pension, even when the state pension becomes payable, however it reflects the cost to the Scheme of making the additional payments and the investment returns lost as a consequence of doing that. The amounts of the additional pension and the deduction are calculated by the Scheme Actuary with the intention of operating across all members on a "cost neutral" basis. This means the Scheme should make neither a gain nor a loss by making the option available.

Elections are irrevocable and whether a member should take the option is for them to judge. Each individual's circumstances and priorities are different and there are advantages and disadvantages in taking the option.

Regards



Geoff Deeley

| | From retirement (age 55) to age 64 | From age 65 onwards |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Without the high/low pension option: | | |
| BSPS pension | £10,000 | £10,000 |
| Basic state pension | £0 | £5,077 |
| Total pension | £10,000 | £15,077 |
| With the high/low pension option: | | |
| BSPS pension | £10,000 | £10,000 |
| Add high/low pension | £1,860 | £1,860 |
| Less Scheme's Lower Earnings Limit | £0 | (£4,524) |
| Adjusted BSPS pension | £11,860 | £7,336 |
| Basic state pension | £0 | £5,077 |
| Total pension | £11,860 | £12,413 |

No pension increases have been included in this example. In practice, both the Scheme pension and basic state pension would be expected to increase each year in line with inflation.

If you have chosen the high/low pension option and have questions about it, please contact the Pensions Office.

Scheme News

Happy 100th Birthday!

A 100th birthday celebration is a very special event and the Scheme's Trustee board mark the occasion of a Scheme pensioner reaching their 100th birthday by sending them birthday and gift cards.



Occasionally, a Trustee director will personally deliver the Trustee board's good wishes. In February, Geoff Deeley visited Jack Kittle who was

celebrating his 100th birthday. Jack began working life at the age of 14 with Beatson Clark and moved into the steel industry with Steel, Peech and Tozer, a former giant in South Yorkshire steelmaking. Even on Jack's retirement from the steel industry almost 40 years ago he refused to put his feet up and continued to work into his 70s.



Jack was married for 63 years to Frances, who has sadly passed away, and together they had two daughters, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Almost 50 people, including the Mayor and Mayoress of

Rotherham, joined Jack in celebrating his birthday in Rawmarsh, Rotherham. The secret of Jack's longevity? Not surprisingly, it is attributed to hard work .. and the occasional whisky. Jack had a very enjoyable day.. as did Geoff!

Phyllis Powles was born on 10 May 1910 at the Freemasons Arms in Tredegar, South Wales where her father was the innkeeper. Phyllis married Ivor in 1935. From 1939 to 1945 Ivor served as a Sergeant in the Tank Corps in North Africa



and Italy. On demobilisation he continued his keen involvement in football and could perhaps have had a professional career but instead joined the steel industry (Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds Limited) and retired from British Steel in 1975 from East Moor Works in Cardiff. Ivor lived in Newport, with Phyllis and daughter Val until sadly passing away in 1994. Phyllis receives a widow's pension from the Scheme.

Phyllis trained as a nurse at the Merthyr General Hospital and later went on to run a busy out-patients department at the Royal Gwent Hospital in Newport. Phyllis has spent most of her life in Wales where she was famed for her gregarious nature and fondness for entertaining which provided ample demonstrations of her expert cooking and baking skills. Her nursing background enables her to share a joke with the care centre staff where she currently lives and she usually has outrageous questions to ask of the younger ones' love life.

Phyllis continues to have a good social life and in her big birthday week she was at tea in a Hershams restaurant, spent her birthday with a gathering from the younger generation, and, of course, a party and a cake in the care centre on the following day with fellow residents.

The arrival of a great grandson has added to Phyllis' joy and her family proudly report that she remains positive and outward looking.

Pension payments

Monthly pensions are due to be paid in advance on the first working day of each month* but pensions are usually paid into your bank on the last working day of the preceding month. This allows for any delay in the banking system; it sometimes takes longer for payments to reach building society accounts.

The payment dates for the rest of the 2010/11 Scheme Year are:

Wednesday, 30 June 2010

Friday, 30 July 2010

Friday, 27 August 2010

Thursday, 30 September 2010

Friday, 29 October 2010

Tuesday, 30 November 2010

Friday, 17 December 2010

Monday, 31 January 2011

Monday, 28 February 2011

Thursday, 31 March 2011

*Pensioners who have a pension payable from the former Corus Engineering Steels Pension Scheme continue to receive their pension as at the 6th of each month.

Paying pensions directly into a bank or building society account is a more secure and reliable method than waiting for your pension cheque to arrive in the post. Also, it reduces the risk of possible fraud and avoids disruption caused by any postal disputes.

If you are one of the few pensioners who do not already receive your Scheme pension into your account and now wish to do so please write to the Pensions Office (contact details are on the back page) quoting your name and reference number and provide your nominated bank account details (sort code and account number). The Pensions Office staff will then make all the necessary arrangements for you.

Payment advice slips

New pensioners receive an advice slip on payment of their first pension instalment. From then onwards, for cost and efficiency reasons, advice slips are only issued when net pension differs by £30 or more from the previous payment.

Pension increases

Under the Rules of the Scheme, BSPS pensions have been increased each year on 1 April by reference to the annual increase in the Retail Prices Index (RPI) over the preceding January/January period. The Scheme is funded on this basis. The relevant increase in RPI (as published by the Office for National Statistics) over the year to January 2010 was 3.7% and, accordingly, this increase was applied to BSPS pensions in April.

Over the last 5 years, the increases applied to the Scheme benefits have been as follows:

| | |
|------|------|
| 2006 | 2.4% |
| 2007 | 4.2% |
| 2008 | 4.1% |
| 2009 | 0.1% |
| 2010 | 3.7% |

Increases to Scheme benefits in respect of service with the Company after 1 April 2006 are subject to a cap of 4% per annum.

Trivial commutation exercise

In certain circumstances it is possible for a Scheme Pensioner to take all their benefits as a one-off lump sum using the Government's trivial commutation rules. Pensioners who have reached the age of 60, but have not reached age 75, can have their "trivial" pension benefits commuted if the capital value of their benefits from all registered pension schemes is less than 1% of the standard Lifetime Allowance, broadly equivalent to an annual pension of £720.

A Government relaxation to the basis on which small pensions could be wholly commuted at retirement became effective from 1 December 2009. In line with this relaxation the Scheme now allows qualifying members between the ages of 60 and 75, where the annual value of their pension from the Scheme does not exceed broadly between £100-160 depending on age, to elect for a one-off lump sum instead of a pension, irrespective of the value of the benefits in any other registered pension scheme. Eligible members will have received a letter explaining the new trivial commutation rules and how to request a commutation payment.

Returned mail

To avoid possible disruption in the payment of your benefits, please remember to let the Pensions Office know as soon as possible if you change your address.

Many newsletters are returned marked "Not at this address". In these cases, normal practice is to carry out further investigations to ensure that the correct recipient is continuing to receive benefits. When we are unable to contact the beneficiary, Scheme Officers will generally suspend further pension payments for security reasons.

Managing financial affairs for someone else

We tend not to think about what will happen should we, or a loved one, become unable to look after our own financial affairs. However, within our ageing society more people are having to look to family members for assistance in organising their finances to cover the necessities of life. Whether this is caused by illness, disability, or an accident, there are a number of practical steps that can be taken to prepare for this.

If this describes your situation, or that of someone close to you, you may wish to get your finances in order and make your wishes for the future known. This may involve writing a will or choosing someone to take power of attorney (legal authority to act for you) over your financial affairs.

Under the Rules of the Scheme, the Trustee board has the discretion to pay the pension in respect of a pensioner to another person (usually a family member) on their behalf if the pensioner is suffering from any incapacity which means that they cannot manage their own financial affairs. Suitable documentation is required to support any application to make payment to a "third party" in this way, and, whenever possible, we would look for the written agreement of the pensioner.

It usually falls to relatives to put suitable arrangements in place. In these circumstances it can be helpful if there is formal documentation which makes provision for the appointment of a

named individual to look after the person's affairs. Since 1 October 2007 it has been possible to do this through a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA). However LPAs are powerful documents and we would strongly suggest that before signing one or agreeing to become an attorney, you take legal advice. If you do not have a solicitor, you can visit www.lawsociety.org.uk/findasolicitor to search for solicitors in your area.

You can obtain further details about LPAs from the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG)*, an agency of the Ministry of Justice. Further details can be obtained from the OPG website www.publicguardian.gov.uk or by phoning 0300 456 0300.

Further help is also available from Age UK (the new name for the charities Age Concern and Help the Aged) at www.ageuk.org.uk or by calling 0800 169 6565.

* the OPG's responsibilities extend throughout England and Wales; separate arrangements exist for Scotland and for Northern Ireland.

In Scotland, the Office of the Public Guardian is based in Hadrian House, Callendar Business Park, Callendar Road, Falkirk, FK1 1XR
Telephone 01324 678 300.

In Northern Ireland, contact the Office for Care and Protection, Room 2.2A, 2nd floor, Royal Courts of Justice, Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 3JF Telephone: 028 9072 4733.

Pensioner audit

As part of its continuing audit checks to ensure that pensions are paid to the correct people, the Scheme participates in the bi-annual National Fraud Initiative (NFI), which matches the Scheme's records against deaths registered on the Department for Work and Pensions' database to identify unreported deaths. The most recent NFI exercise was carried out in 2008/09 and work is ongoing to recover overpayments identified as a result.

The Trustee board is determined that, where there is clear evidence of fraud, recovery will be rigorously pursued through the criminal justice system.

TAX INFORMATION

End of year P60 certificate

Most Scheme Pensioners and beneficiaries would have received a P60 certificate at the end of March which sets out your Scheme pension payments received, the tax code used, and the tax paid, or refunded, during the tax year (6 April 2009 to 5 April 2010).

You may need your P60 :

- to complete a Self Assessment tax return, if this applies to you;
- to claim back any tax you've overpaid;
- to apply for tax credits.

You may also need it as proof of your income - so it's important to keep all your P60s safe. Together with your P60 you will also receive notification of the value of your Scheme pension for the forthcoming Scheme Year.

Around the same time as you receive your P60 you will usually receive notification from HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) of your tax code to be applied in the new tax year (6 April 2010 to 5 April 2011). This new tax code may vary from the one detailed in your P60 as they cover two different tax years.

Income tax allowances

Your income tax allowance is the amount of income you can receive before you have to pay tax on it. Pensions in payment do not attract any national insurance contributions.

The tax allowances for 2010/11 have been frozen at the same rate as last year:

| | Notes | 2010/11 |
|--|----------|---------|
| Personal allowance (age under 65) | | £6,475 |
| Personal allowance (age 65-74) | (1) | £9,490 |
| Personal allowance (age 75 and over) | (1) | £9,640 |
| Married couple's allowance (age 75 and over) | (1), (2) | £6,965 |
| Married couple's allowance – minimum amount | (1), (2) | £2,670 |

Notes

- (1) The allowances reduce by half of any amount earned over the income limit (£100,000 for the tax year 2010/11). This means that the allowance will reduce by £1 of every £2 of income above the limit.
- (2) Tax relief for the Married Couple's allowance is given at the rate of 10%.

Tax changes

A new additional rate of income tax was introduced from 6 April 2010. The new additional rate of 50% will apply to those receiving income of £150,000 or more.

The income tax rates from 6 April 2010 are:

| Rate | % | Earnings |
|------------|----|---------------------|
| Basic | 20 | £1 to £37,400 |
| Higher | 40 | £37,401 to £150,000 |
| Additional | 50 | £150,001 and more |

Contacting HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC)

The Scheme can only act upon instruction from HMRC and deduct tax at source based on the code it has been supplied with. If you have any questions on tax matters, please get in touch with the following tax office:

**HM Revenue & Customs
Centre 1
EAST KILBRIDE
GLASGOW
G79 1AA
Tel: 0845 070 3703**

Lines are open from 8 am to 8 pm Monday to Friday and from 8 am to 4 pm on Saturdays. Please have your National Insurance number ready and quote the Scheme reference 961/084181X. This should enable them to process your enquiry efficiently.

Taxhelp For Older People (TOP)

TOP is a registered charity established to provide free professional help on personal tax to older people on modest incomes. The simplest way to contact TOP is to phone 01308 488066.

You can also write to TOP, Pineapple Business Park, Salway Ash, Bridport, Dorset DT6 5DB, visit their website www.taxvol.org.uk or e-mail them at taxvol@taxvol.org.uk

STATE PENSIONS

The state pension is a regular payment which you can claim from the Government when you get to state pension age (SPA). There are some important features you should be aware of, including changes which can significantly affect those who are not yet in receipt of state pension (about 14% of Scheme Pensioners and beneficiaries who receive this Update).

State pension increases

State pensions were linked to increases in earnings from 1974 to 1980, but for the last 30 years have normally been increased in line with prices, as measured by RPI. Rises linked to prices protect pensioners to a fair extent from the impact of inflation but as earnings growth tends to outstrip prices each year, state pension has fallen behind average earnings since the link to pay rises was cut.

The new Pensions & Savings Bill commits to restore the earnings link for the basic state pension from April 2011. Restoring the earnings link should help pensions keep up with future rises in the standard of living. To make sure this happens, the Government has committed to a triple guarantee that the minimum increase each year will be the higher of earnings growth, inflation or 2.5%.

Change in the SPA

At the moment, the basic state pension is paid to women at age 60 and men at 65. The SPA for women is on course to increase gradually until it is in line with the SPA for men. This gradual increase will take place over the ten year period between 6 April 2010 and 5 April 2020.

From 6 April 2020 the SPA will be 65 for both men and women. Thereafter the SPA for both men and women is currently scheduled to rise from age 65 to age 68 between the years 2024 and 2046 as follows:

- age 65 to age 66 between 6 April 2024 and 5 April 2026
- age 66 to age 67 between 6 April 2034 and 5 April 2036
- age 67 to age 68 between 6 April 2044 and 5 April 2046

The UK's new Conservative/Liberal Democrat coalition Government has promised a review of the date at which the SPA begins to rise to age 66. The review will look at whether the continued increase in life expectancy makes the current timetable outdated, and if the increases in SPA should come in earlier, although it has already been indicated that this will not be sooner than 2016 for men and 2020 for women.

Any change to the SPA will not only affect when the state pension becomes payable, but may also have an impact on other state benefits such as the Pension Credit and Christmas bonus.

Additionally, any change could impact on the effect of the Scheme's "high/low" pension option, and the position is being monitored.

Change in state pension accrual

To get the full basic state pension you need to have built up a certain number of years of contributions, called 'qualifying years'. Currently this is 39 years for women and 44 years for men. For men and women reaching SPA on or after 6 April 2010, this has reduced to 30 years, to make it easier for everyone to build up a full basic state pension.

Also from 6 April 2010, a new National Insurance credits system means that more parents and carers will be able to qualify for the basic state pension in the same way as if they were paying National Insurance contributions.

Parents receiving Child Benefit will be credited with national insurance contributions until their youngest child reaches the age of 12. For carers, a new Carer's Credit is being introduced which means that people who care for someone for at least 20 hours a week, who might not get Carer's Allowance, will be able to build up qualifying years needed to get the full basic state pension.

Claiming your state pension

Your entitlement to a state pension is based on your record of national insurance contributions and credits before you reach SPA.

The Pension Service, part of the Department for Work and Pensions, should automatically send you a state pension information booklet and invite you to claim four months before you reach SPA.

If you haven't received this booklet two months before you reach SPA, you can:

- ring the state pension claim line on 0800 731 7898
- download the state pension claim form from the website www.direct.gov.uk, then complete and send it to your local pension centre;
- use the Pensions Service's textphone service available on 0800 731 7339 if you have speech or hearing difficulties.

Deferring state pension

You can put off claiming your state pension when you reach SPA. You can also choose to stop claiming it after having claimed it for a period.

If you put off claiming your state pension, (whether you are working or not) you can choose one of the following options when you do claim:

- extra state pension. If you put off claiming your state pension for at least five weeks you can earn an increase to your state pension of 1% for every five weeks you put off claiming (equivalent to 10.4% extra a year); or
- a lump sum payment. If you put off claiming your state pension for at least 12 consecutive months you can choose to receive a one-off lump sum payment and have your state pension paid at the normal rate.

GENERAL INTEREST

Jaguar Land Rover discounts



Our Tata Group colleagues at Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) offer significant discounts for BSPS pensioners.

Discounts are available when buying a new Jaguar or Land Rover under the Tata Group Employee Privilege Scheme.

The terms vary between models, and also by geography, but you can claim* up to 20% off the list price of a new Land Rover** or 15% off the price of a new Jaguar. For those based in the UK there are discounts of 20% off Freelander, Discovery, Range Rover, Range Rover Sport and Defender models (though not Defender Special Vehicles) from Land Rover and up to 15% off X-Type, XJ and XK models from Jaguar. XF models are also available, and offered at a 10% discount. The discount is net VAT off the list price.

The terms can vary elsewhere in Europe. Discounts are applicable at the point of order, do not apply to factory-fitted options, and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. The offer applies to new vehicles first registered in the name of the pensioner. Vehicles must be retained in the name of the pensioner for a minimum 12-month period.

If the Sales Manager of your local dealership is unsure of the process, please ask them to contact the Privilege Team at Jaguar Land Rover on 0800 055 6481.

* on receipt of proof of identity, including photo ID, together with a BPS statement. Under this arrangement only one JLR product in 12 months can be purchased on these discount terms.

** at the time of writing two Land Rover vehicles have been 'suspended' from the scheme; the Discovery 4 (3 litre) and the Range Rover Sport 3 Litre TDV6

PENSIONER ASSOCIATIONS

There are a number of Pensioner Associations for former employees in different parts of the country. These are independent organisations which have no formal association with the Scheme.

If you want to find out more about their activities and details on how to join, contact details are shown below:

Cumbria Retired Colleagues Association

Alan Reay - Telephone 016973 30837
Tom Whitehead - Telephone 01900 63044
Email: tomandsueat24@hotmail.com

There have been a number of changes within the Association in recent times: following a successful ongoing recruitment drive the Association has increased its membership to 940 and its constitution has been simplified following ratification at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in December.

The Committee of the Association consists of a Chairperson, Treasurer and joint Secretaries. In addition to the office bearers, there are 40 hard working committee members/visitors. These visitors provide valued support and without their contribution to the Association it would be unable to function as effectively.

Meetings are regularly attended by at least 30 members, whose valuable input contributes to the smooth running of the Association.

In addition to the popular coach outings and the AGM there will be an extra social event in midsummer. The event will feature a slide show, old photos and memorabilia from all the British Steel plants in the area followed by a buffet meal. Members will be advised of the venue, dates and times through the local committee/visitors network.

Any British Steel pensioner living in Cumbria who is over 55 years old and wishes to become a member of the Association, can contact Alan Reay or Tom Whitehead for details.

Llanwern Retired Employees Association

Roy Manby
Telephone 01633 856005
Email: roy@manbyr.freeserve.co.uk

Membership is open to all pensioners over age 55 who are in receipt of a pension as a result of their employment at Llanwern Works. There are currently 905 pensioner members.

The 2010 social activities of the Association are based on the popular format of successful events held in previous years. This year's summer outing will take place in June and members will be visiting Paignton, part of the stunning English Riviera, situated on the South Devon coastline in sheltered Torbay.

A further trip is planned for September when members will be travelling to Swansea. This trip will be rounded off with a social evening, including a meal, bingo and dancing.

The Association will also be hosting its popular Christmas Dinner in December.

London Retirement Association

Richard Hewitt

Telephone 01932 883348

Email: rhewitt@comset.co.uk

The Association started in the early 1980s and it remains open to all retired employees who worked in one of the London offices for British Steel, Corus and the Iron and Steel Statistics Bureau (ISSB) or other associated companies. There are currently over 330 members.

The Association is run by a small committee of willing members. In addition, the Association relies on a network of 25 "Keep in Touch" officers, who maintain contact with all the members who live in their area with birthday and Christmas Cards. On occasions, these are supported by telephone conversations or home visits and hospital visits are also made.

Each year the Annual General Meeting is held in London and this is combined with an annual reunion. The function is well attended with up to 100 attendees enjoying a lunch or dinner. It is always a great occasion of fun and friendship and is enjoyed by everyone who attends.

Membership is free but the Association continues to rely on donations from members to assist with the running of the organisation. Members will receive newsletters covering a wide range of interests and topics at least 4 times each year.

National Federation of Occupational Pensioners

(formerly Unite Federation)

Tom Bowman

Telephone 01642 874 073

The National Association of British Steel Pensioners (NABSP) merged with the Federation of Royal Mail and BT Pensioners (incorporating Rolls Royce and Bentley Pensioners) to form a new body, now known as the National Federation of Occupational Pensioners.

The British Steel branch now has over 9,250 members.

The Federation had a stand at the Scunthorpe Gala in June last year in order to meet with current members and also recruit new members.

The Federation aims to serve the interests of British Steel Pensioners, by presenting their views to the Trustee board and, on wider pensioner issues, to the Government. It believes that only through a strong organisation, exerting sustained pressure, can success be achieved in gaining benefit improvements in the state pension, Winter Fuel payments, etc. The Federation recognises that 2010/11 may prove a difficult year due to the Government's financial position. One of the Federation's members, Geoff Deeley, currently serves as the Pensioner MND for the British Steel Pension Scheme.

By joining the Federation you will receive a membership package which includes support from Head Office staff, telephone help lines providing free legal, computer, tax and benefit advice, and a magazine 8 times per year. Federation members have access to a confidential welfare fund, if required, in times of need.

The Federation are convinced that the benefits on offer for £1.50 per month deducted from your pension, is "...without doubt still the bargain of the year!" Payment can be made by other means, if you prefer. A membership application form is enclosed with this newsletter.

Port Talbot Retired Employees Association

Bob Leonard

Telephone 01639 773371

The Association aims to promote social, cultural and recreational activities for its members by supporting local charities and maintaining close relations with all sections of Corus in Port Talbot. It also gives help and advice to all local British Steel pensioners.

Weekly meetings are held (except during August) at the British Legion Club in Port Talbot, and the main meeting includes demonstrations on various subjects and a bingo session. Two group outings are being arranged for 2010: one to Blackpool, the nation's most popular beach resort, and the "Tinsel & Turkey" Christmas celebrations at Sinah Warren Hotel, on the Portsmouth side of Hayling Island.

Former employees of British Steel/Corus are eligible to join, and their partners can become associate members.

Contacting the Pensions Office

When contacting the Pensions Office, please quote your National Insurance number and indicate whether your enquiry relates to your membership of the former Corus Engineering Steels Pension Scheme (CESPS).

You can contact us in the following ways:



Email
pension.enquiries@corusgroup.com



Telephone
If your surname begins A-K, 0330 440 0800
If your surname begins L-Z, 0330 440 0801



Fax
0141 248 5299



Writing from the UK: (no need for a stamp)
British Steel Pension Scheme
FREEPOST RLXS-ZXKT-AUER, G2 7BW



Website
(in process of being reviewed
and updated)
www.bspensions.com

Writing from outside the UK:
British Steel Pension Scheme
6th floor, Sentinel, 105 Waterloo Street
GLASGOW, G2 7BW, Scotland, UK

Standard office hours are 8.45 am to 4.45 pm Monday to Friday. If you telephone outside these hours or during statutory holidays, you will normally hear a recorded message giving details of when we can be contacted. You can also leave a message and we will reply to you as soon as possible.

The Pensioners' Update is available, as always, on audio tape, Braille, CD and large print formats. If you have used this service before, we will automatically send you a copy in your preferred format after you receive the printed version.

To register for this service for the first time, please telephone us on 0330 440 0900 and let us know which version you require.

This service is provided free of charge

Receive Newsletters On-Line

Good environmental management is important to the Pensions Office. To date, almost two thousand Scheme members have registered to receive Scheme newsletters on-line. By choosing not to receive paper copies of newsletters these members are helping to reduce the Scheme's environmental impact and reduce Scheme costs into the bargain. If you wish to receive future Scheme newsletters electronically (rather than a paper copy) please advise the Pensions Office of your email address by one of the means above. Please quote your membership number too.

Your feedback

The Trustee board places great emphasis on providing Scheme members with a high quality service. We have therefore asked a cross-section of the Scheme membership to participate in a Member Survey. The Survey has been sent to around 1% of the total membership and recipients were chosen at random covering employee members, deferred pensioners, pensioners and dependants. Completion should only take a few minutes and we would invite everyone who received a questionnaire to complete and return it to the Pensions Office so that we can gauge your views of the service provided to members and consider any changes you would like to see.

Whether or not you have received a questionnaire, we are always interested in your comments on this edition of the Pensioners' Update, or if you have any suggestions for future editions. If so, please write to:

Ms Anne McCulloch, Communications Manager
British Steel Pension Scheme, FREEPOST RLXS-ZXKT-AUER, Glasgow, G2 7BW