



Y's RETIRED OF THE UK
Affiliated to the World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees

MAY 2012

www.yretired.co.uk



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear colleagues and friends - greetings

This issue of the President's letter takes the form of the Annual Report for the year 2011 the second in the past four years that we have not held a Reunion - thus the AGM is in the hands of your Executive Committee in consultation where necessary with the wider committee and during the year reference with the wider membership.

It has been a satisfying year in that your committee has dealt with all the normal affairs of managing the Y's Retired of the UK, a unique organisation. On behalf of the committee I can vouch for the 'reports' from our Newsletter editor, David Smith, the Financial Report from our Treasurer Ray Allen and auditor layman David Bennison, the Scottish Report from John Knox and by no means least the secretarial report of Reg Wake whose wisdom and knowledge of Y's Retired is second to none!

Taking into account the above reports but not repeating again, I can share that it has been a successful year with consolidation of good management practice, the Balance Sheet reflects the stabilising of the finances now offering a more positive outlook to our financial outlay in the future.

We have increased our contribution to Secours Speciaux, the YMCA Fund established to serve the needs of retired colleagues worldwide who, unfortunately suffer health problems through lack of a decent 'quality of life'.

The new Discretionary Fund is now 'off the ground' requiring further financial support to be truly effective so justifying our representation at the World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees (WFYR) allowing delegation from the Y's Retired of the UK.

The Secretary's desk has undertaken the greater burden of our work with Reg producing a new Directory of Membership and the preparation necessary for the membership of laypersons who have served the YMCA for over seven years now able to join the Y's Retired of the UK with equal status to a YMCA Secretary. The latter has been slow getting 'off the ground' consequently I invite all registered members to submit names of suitable laypersons with contact details to Reg Wake who will supply further information.

Through this Annual Report we congratulate two of our retired colleagues in achieving credible results in their projects, Jim Thomson and his research emanating in his

report entitled, 'The work of YMCA National Movements and the World Alliance of YMCAs with refugees and rehabilitation 1945 - 1995' and Sam Johnston for his sterling effort in raising the capital to finance a fitting YMCA Memorial at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire, erection of which will take place this year.

The Newsletter has proved a fine communication vehicle by which Y's Retired of the UK members and friends from further afield have been kept aware of our activities.

Do take note that our editor David Smith welcomes YOUR input by way of 'articles', though I have to remind you that as editor David has the authority to cut, amend and even say "Not on your life!".

Do keep Reg Wake our Executive Secretary fully informed of retired colleagues facing ill health and report those who have died.

Ray Allen as Honorary Treasurer welcomes your financial gifts/donations any day of the year and John Knox constantly reminds us that Scottish colleagues despite retirement, are alive and kicking not least through their meetings.

The above named are the officers who maintain the good name of the Y's Retired on your behalf and we thank them all for their many hours of service in our name - oh yes I do my bit too!

Jim Lamb (President)

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Thank you David,
It is good to have some news from your retirees. Our YMCA-retired group is not so regular. We have two meetings in the year, but our leader sends many letters to the members. Our next event is on camp time in May with 45-60 members.

In Christ and a good friendship - Yours - Albrecht Kaul
former Dep. General Secretary of German YMCA

Dear David,
Thank you for the information about the lottery grant and veterans over 85. Guilty on both counts, my Lord. I did hear about this last year but did nothing about it.

However, following your message, I did look up the web site on the net, downloaded the application form and sent it off. Going into Burma would not be possible but I have applied to go to New Delhi and Chittagong. The latter being as near to Burma as you can get in that sector. I did two years in the Chittagong area and six months at GHQ in New Delhi.

I'll let you know what transpires. Kindest regards
Jim (Thomson)

Scotland YMCA Retirees Group

Four years ago in May 2008 the first of what has become a regular six monthly meeting of the small group of Scotland based YMCA retirees was held. That meeting was hosted by YMCA Scotland and since that first meeting we have been hosted by six different local associations. In October 2011 we had our eighth meeting again hosted by YMCA Scotland. We were delighted to have Mike Will, Chair of YMCA Scotland and World Alliance Executive Committee member and Peter Crory, National General Secretary, join with us at that meeting. The next meeting, scheduled for May 2012, will be held in Aberdeen YMCA.

Discussions have taken place with Mike Will and Peter Crory (YMCA Scotland Chairman and National General Secretary) regarding the idea of the idea of the Scottish retirees group "piggy-backing" on the YMCA Scotland AGM in September 2012. This has been agreed with enthusiasm on all sides.

Lay members: At our last meeting in October it was enthusiastically agreed that some YMCA lay member retirees should be invited to join the group. Two people, a past National Council Chair and past National Council Treasurer have both agreed and we are delighted that both of them plan to be with us at the Aberdeen meeting.

John Knox February 2012

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS OUR DEAR COLLEAGUES

Roy and Rosumund Weaver.

Ray Onions, who contracted what was first thought to be a debilitating virus, the effects of which took him into a Liskeard Nursing Home where he had a fall, which meant he had to go to Derriford Hospital in Plymouth. He is now back in the Liskeard Nursing Home.

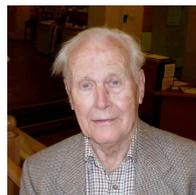
Brian Barratt.

Hilary Page and family.

Layman Bill Ayers from Bath

If there are other Y's Retired colleagues that you have knowledge of who need our prayers, please communicate these to the editor.

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS FOR 2011



An overview, taking into account new registrations, deletions, and losses by death indicates that over the year 2011, membership numbers have remained largely static.

Membership Register at 29th Feb 2012

142 plus spouses

(Includes liaison contacts (4) and Lay membership (3))

1. A slight decrease on 2011 figure is due mainly to a stringent pruning exercise, especially of widows previously included as a matter of courtesy. All were contacted to solicit continued interest in receiving the N/L. A number were retained on the basis of representation by members. In the absence of response, the remainder were deleted from the register.
2. New registrations have been minimal except for introductions kindly made by John Knox from among colleagues in Scotland. Difficulty in obtaining information on actual or pending retirements remains. The Pensions Administrator has confirmed that details of Y's Retired are sent as matter of course to all retiring staff. While this is commended, evidence of follow-up is limited, The most effective medium remains our internal 'grapevine', the importance of which cannot be over-emphasised.
3. A more difficult issue concerns the impact of changed conditions of employment for YMCA staff and their effect, if any, on interest in and membership of Y's Retired recruitment. Reality suggests that interest is not as strong as perhaps it was in earlier times?
4. Action on recruitment of lay members has been disappointing. Only three registrations to date and these arising from the efforts of only one nominator. A very limited number of other suggested candidates have failed in follow-up. It may be promotion and required processes need to be reiterated?
5. As a pointer to interest shown by registered members, our Treasurer might be requested to provide the number of subscribing members?

Action in the recruitment of Lay Members has been disappointing. Only THREE registrations.

Reg Wake

More than a name? YMCA retired folk can be found in all quarters of the globe. This in witness to the international or worldwide nature of the Movement of which we are part. In retirement, most if not all retirees have developed other interests and commitments that some now profess to wonder how they found time to meet their workloads while in service. Even so, they retain memories of friendships shared of a sense of unity in common purpose and belonging. To have news of long time friends, of what is happening among fellow retirees or in mainstream YMCA developments, with perhaps a little nostalgic reminiscence of earlier years gives pleasure and possibly not of least importance, evidence that they are not forgotten? All implicit in what we mean by "Fellowship."

Keeping in touch is a major need and objective. We of Y's Retired of UK are particularly fortunate and owe a debt of gratitude to David Smith who so ably serves as editor of our newsletter in response to our felt needs.

Moving to global dimensions and our affiliation to WFYR the value and importance of the WYFR journal "Bridges" cannot be understated. Jointly edited by Len and Joyce Wilson and to whom our thanks are due, every issue covers first hand news of affiliated retiree organisations from all quarters of the globe. It also channels corporate WFYR concerns and action plans as required.

From relatively modest beginnings, we now see a structure of area correspondents. These serve as WFYR vice chairs who, together with an elected chair (currently Jerry Prado Shaw) and other office bearers constitute the WFYR leadership team. The vice chairs (one each for Africa, East Asia, Europe (our good friend John Knox of Scotland), Latin America/Caribbean, Middle East, Oceania and South Asia provide the vital channel to 'Bridges'. Our own Jim Lamb and David Smith also contribute to 'Bridges'.

While long and in some cases very long distances separate widely spread retirees, 'Bridges' gives ample evidence of efforts made to arrange re-unions or other means of keeping in touch.

From time to time, WFYR has given focus to priority causes such as 'Safe Water Initiative' but the enduring priority is the widest and strongest possible financial support for 'Secours Speciaux'. While much remains to be done, the outcome of this corporate promotion has been very encouraging. As previously reported, a variety of studies and representation have been made on the issue of 'Unsecured Retirement', most recently by Don Anderson, past chair for WFYR and currently member of SS committee. The paper - 'Global Retirement Issue' has received sympathetic attention by the World Alliance Executive but to date, a practicable solution seems distant.

Mention has been made to the WFYR journal 'Bridges'. An invaluable resource! While a voluntary contribution to costs is invited, WFYR is anxious and willing to extend circulation. Details of registration process and contact address are readily available on request to Y's Retired Secretary. **Reg Wake.**



Stewart Page on the left with Hilary speaking with David Pendle during happier times

Stewart was brought up and educated in Llanelli, South Wales. He joined the local YMCA, along with colleague Allen Isaac, and both of them went on to attend the 1960-61 YMCA Residential Training Course for YMCA Secretaries in London. Prior to the course Stewart gained experience at Manchester YMCA under the guidance of the late Gerry Hubbard.

Following the course Stewart worked at Pontypridd, whilst there he met Hilary, they married in 1964, soon Angela was born and Craig joined the family in 1970.

Following further periods of YMCA Service in Caerphilly and Porth, Stewart left Wales to do pioneering work in establishing a vibrant YMCA in Hastings.

After Hastings Stewart took on the challenge of Bristol, and whilst there gained his Masters Degree at Brunel University. This was to prove valuable during his period in London at the Barbican, and finally as Chief Executive of Wimbledon YMCA.

Throughout his YMCA Service, Stewart was wholeheartedly supported by Hilary.

In retirement Stewart undertook a major piece of work for parishes in the Bath & Wells Diocese, entitled "Visualising Christian Communities" He chaired the Deanery Synod, and undertook numerous duties at St. Cuthberts, and Wells Cathedral.

On 8th March a large number gathered in St. Cuthberts Wells, to give thanks for a full life of Christian Service lived with integrity, tenacity, faithfulness and devotion to His Lord.

Eulogies were given by Rev. Tony Hicks, former vicar of Winford, Bristol, who spoke warmly of Stewart's fine qualities exhibited during his life of service.

Canon Tony Birbeck spoke of Stewart's willingness to undertake leadership responsibilities, which involved 'challenging assumptions'.

The Rt. Revd. Peter Price, Bishop of Bath & Wells, spoke of Stewart as a prophet, and 'prophets are not always popular!' The Bishop's presence and tribute meant so much, not least to Hilary and the family

The Service was truly uplifting, and a worthy tribute to Stewart, who found his vocation in the YMCA, and whose life was rooted in Faith. Hope and Love.



Y's Retired of the UK

Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2011
(figures in brackets are negative)

	2011	2010
	£	£
Receipts		
Member Subscriptions	305.00	340.00
Donations	-	-
Donations (Trust Fund)	115.00	20.00
Donations (Secours Spéciaux)	515.00	819.00
Bank Interest	-	-
Total	935.00	1179.00

Payments		
Grants (including to Secours Spéciaux)	500.00	1000.00
Secours Spéciaux Fund payments	1982.25	-
Trust Fund Payments	378.60	-
World Federation of Ys Retired.	200.00	-
Secretary Expenses	47.25	-
Administration	251.93	334.85
Total	3360.03	1334.85

Surplus for the Year	(2425.03)	(155.85)
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Previous Year balance	4643.97	
Surplus/Deficit	(2425.03)	
Current Year Balance	2218.94	

Movement of Funds

General		
Balance at 1 January 2011	2491.72	
Receipts	305.00	
Payments	999.18	
Balance at 31 December 2011	1797.54	

Secours Spéciaux		
Balance at 1 January 2011	1582.25	
Receipts	515.00	
Payments	1982.25	
Balance at 31 December 2011	115.00	

Discretionary Trust Fund		
Balance at 1 January 2011	570.00	
Receipts	115.00	
Payments	378.60	
Balance at 31 December 2011	306.40	
Total Funds at 31 December 2011	2218.94	

represented by:		
Bank Balance	2218.94	4643.97
Cash in Hand	-	-
Total assets	2218.94	4643.97

Ray Allen
Hon Treasurer

David Bennison
Independent Examiner

I have again enlisted the help of David Bennison to examine our accounts for the year and to produce the Audited Statement of Accounts as presented for our AGM. I wish to thank him very much for undertaking this task.

As requested, the format of the accounts has been extended to include the movement of funds information. This information will be more fully incorporated in the 2012 accounts.

Authorised subventions in favour of the World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees (£100), Secours Spéciaux (£200) and Discretionary Fund (£250) have been effected in 2011 accounts.

The Discretionary Fund has been active during the year and two payments amounting to £378.60 have been authorised, leaving a balance of £305.40. We need to be mindful of the need for donations to improve this resource.

The number of members paying their subscriptions in 2011 total 64 with 56 of these paying by Bank Standing Order, a much favoured and convenient system. Such payments represent less than 50% of registered membership.

Note: Membership subscriptions and donations represent our sole source of revenue. When compared to our standing subvention commitments to WFYR, Secours Spéciaux and Discretionary Fund, the credit balance between revenue and spends amounts to a mere £05.82 i.e. dangerously close to an overspend. President Jim's report draws attention to the urgency for subscription defaulters to meet their obligations of membership. As treasurer I cannot over emphasise the urgency if we are to maintain our support for worthy causes.

Including modest reserve funds brought forward and for the time being we have a reasonably healthy bank balance and I present these accounts to the membership.

(Ray Allen) - Hon. Treasurer



**“Time flies when you’re really
enjoying yourself”**

It is over four years ago already, when I took on the very prestigious role of editor of the Y’s Retired of UK newsletter.

At that time it was a quarterly offering filled with letters from members exchanging information, news, thoughts, jokes and articles, keeping the membership informed and involved.

Now 24 editions later, the newsletter still tries to keep the membership informed of current affairs affecting the YMCA Movement, comments from colleagues and friends, expressing where they are in their retirement, where they have been, what they have seen, family additions and occasionally, sharing the sadness of days gone by, of members who have gone to be with their Maker.

But for those remaining in membership and new to the Y’s Retired of UK membership, my report request would be - please do share with us all the new adventures you have undertaken or experiences that have become part of your daily routine; I would love to hear from you and perhaps have a jpeg picture so that others can remember the smiling face which is yours. Just send to: ses.dhs@hotmail.co.uk.

As in previous reports, there has been an emphasis on communication and I have tried to make the bi-monthly newsletter readily available through posting the address within the email sent to you, notifying you of each edition. This then lets you also visit the website which is regularly updated: www.yretired.co.uk All the past and present newsletters are featured under the heading “Newsletter Archive.”

Other international colleagues who are part of the World Federation of Y’s Retired (WFYR), who have received our UK news have voiced their gratitude, with some of the articles being shared in “Bridges,” the WFYR quarterly Newsletter.

I am ever grateful to our President Jim for completing his regular front page slot which he always completes in very good time, with interesting up to date events affecting his personal life and that of others.

Thanks again to Secretary Reg who keeps us all in line and does such a tremendous job of work behind the scenes. His memory is far more alert than mine and he knows so many and is inspirational on facts and figures. Thank you also to Ray Allen in his role as Treasurer and for supporting me in my role as editor. Thank you to my own personal “wordsmith” Sue, who scans every edition to try to ensure it reads well and makes sense.

Thanks to those of you who have kindly emailed or written back to me letting me know that you are enjoying the content and find it stimulating, even the saucy bits!!

Finally, we continue to be grateful and offer our heartfelt thanks to Herts YMCA, the CEO Robin Webb, and his staff member Lorraine Stocken without whom the printed version would not be distributed, and because Herts YMCA kindly do this as their donation to us, the Officers are able to send more monies to Secours Speciaux year on year.

But above all – thanks to you, the readership, without whom the Newsletters would be meaningless.

Y’s Retired of UK Editor – David H Smith

Unsecured retirement remains the root problem of distress met by career staff who are confronted with costs arising in emergencies such as illness, medication, hospitalization of face retirement or redundancy without the benefit of pension or similar provision. The problem of employing bodies which currently make no such provision has on several occasions been represented by WFYR and others to the World Alliance Executive and has received sympathetic consideration, but a global solution has so far been found to be impracticable. This is the context in which Secours Speciaux operates.

An ad hoc committee linked with WFYR is responsible to the World Alliance for promotion and detailed administration of SS. Membership is drawn from a wide geographical area with Bonnie Mairs as Chair. Communication is mainly via email or telephone conferencing. Occasional residential meetings are held to coincide with those of the World Alliance Executive.

Applications for financial assistance continue to be received and processed for “Emergency” cases, the traditional target for SS aid. Trends suggest an increase in applications arising from unsecured retirement or redundancy. In such circumstance, a decision has been taken to separate all revenue on the basis of 70% for “emergencies” and 30% for “retirement” with the notion that as and when the “retirement” element may be expended, the “emergency” fund will not be invaded.

The urgency of appeal for financial support continues. Currently, the major support comes from retiree organisations. (The contribution by Y’s Retired for 2011 appears in the audited statements of accounts). A decision has been taken to enlarge and reactivate the circulation of the information and appeals brochure, especially to national movements. Copies are available on request to the secretary.

Arising from a telephone conference held on 13th February 2012, concerns were expressed about the adequacy of stated criteria for “retirement” cases. A work group was appointed to review criteria and application form. Any application under this heading to be deferred, pending recommendations of the work group.

A tentative enquiry regarding possible change in programme title was noted. A unanimous decision was taken to retain “Secours Speciaux.”

It was agreed that a major focus should continue to be assistance for “emergency” cases. It was questioned if the programme was sufficiently well known by retirees and if they know how to apply? It was agreed that appropriate information should be included on the World Alliance website.

The WFYR organisation, each with a regional chair as correspondent, provided a potential channel for promotion of SS publicity. As may be seen in the resource paper on WFYR, Secours Speciaux remains their priority project.

Reg Wake