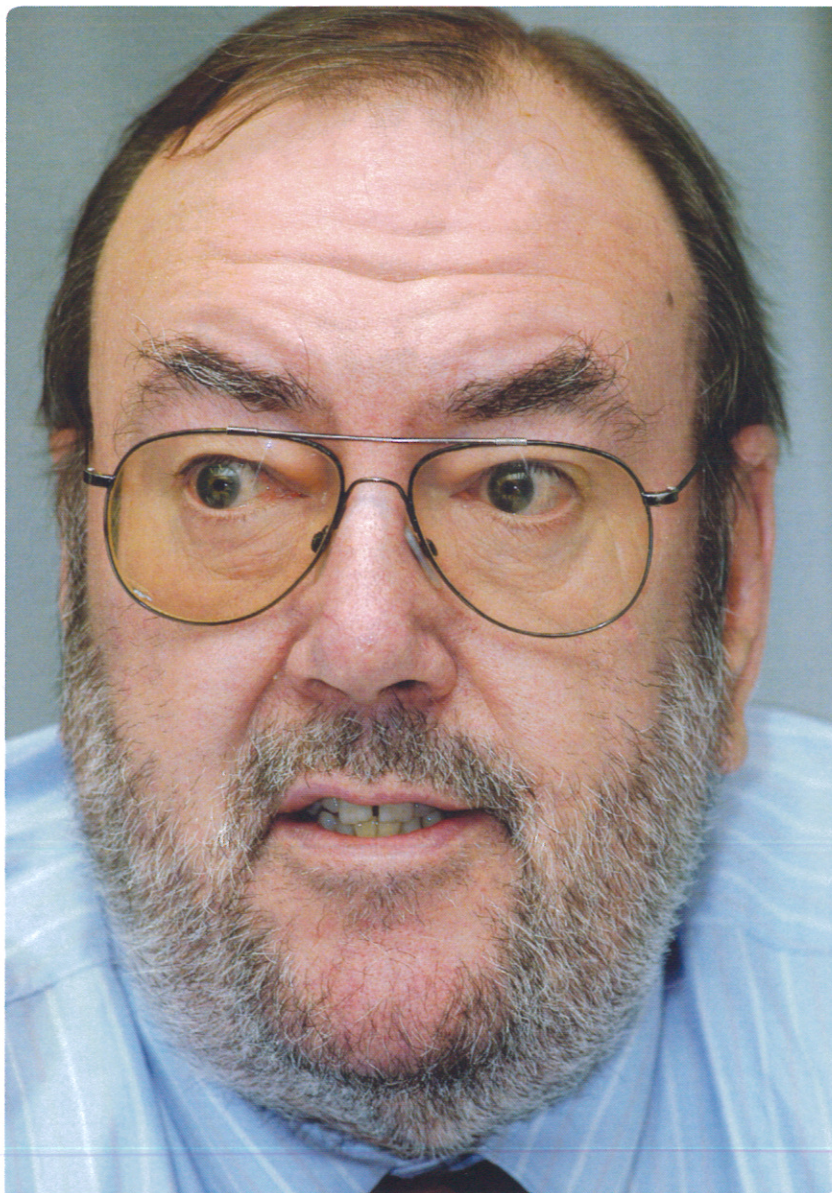


A Celebration of the life of Lord Brett of Lydd



Bill Brett 1942-2012

Congress House
Great Russell Street
London WC1
June 20 2012

Tributes

"I FIRST CAME ACROSS

Bill Brett when he championed IPMS members whose jobs were at risk at Rosyth naval base and dockyard in my constituency in the early 1980s. As always he was in command of the best arguments and on the side of people facing insecurity.

From then on I regularly drew on his advice when he was General Secretary of IPMS, chair of the governing body of the International Labour Organisation, and later director of the ILO office for the UK and Ireland.

His expertise, his internationalism and his commitment to labour made him an obvious choice for the Lords and to be our government whip and then parliamentary under-secretary for the Home Office.

At 6 ft 5 inches he was a physical presence but also a man of enormous energy who never forgot the needs of Manchester where he came from and his trade union roots. His dedication to social justice internationally and at home is well known and will never be forgotten."

Gordon Brown MP

"BILL BRETT'S SERVICE to the international trade union movement, especially through his work on the ILO Governing Body as its Chairperson and as Workers' Vice-Chair, has provided an enduring legacy of achievement, commitment and concrete results for working people. Not only was Bill an eloquent and passionate advocate for working people – he also supported and mentored many younger and less experienced colleagues."

**Sharan Burrow General Secretary
International Trade Union
Confederation**

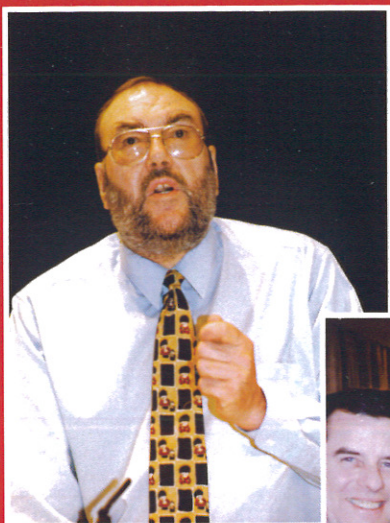
"BILL BRETT WAS always a United fan. One of his claims to fame at primary school in Heywood, Lancs, at the beginning of the 50's, was his ability to name the 1948 Cup winning team.

He vividly remembered standing in the rain, in the centre of Manchester, watching the bodies of the "Busby Babes" being brought back after the Munich disaster. He became a Patron of the Trust because he realised, at the time of the Murdoch threat, that United was in danger of becoming a commodity, not a club."

**Manchester United
Independent
Supporters Trust**

"BILL WAS A larger-than-life character, always fizzing with ideas and words to match, sometimes overbearing, often controversial. As presidents, the challenge was to control this volcano of a man in meetings, filter out the bad ideas and help nurture the good. Despite appearances he did listen to what we had to say and behind it all there was a gentler soul that perhaps not many people saw. He cared passionately for those disadvantaged at work and this passion knew no bounds. He was greatly respected in TUC circles and brought great credit to our union through his work there.

**Barry Gibbs (IPMS president 1990-92) and Phil
Kemball (IPMS president 1992-95)**



The Bill Brett story – his life and work

1942	Born in Heywood, Lancashire
1958-1964	Railway booking clerk, British Rail
1964-66	Full-time officer, Transport Salaried Staffs Association
1966-68	North West Organiser for the National Union of Bank Employees (now part of Unite)
1968-74	East Midlands Divisional Officer, ASTMS (also now part of Unite)
1974-80	Assistant Secretary IPCS – which later becomes Institution of Professionals, Managers and Specialists
1980-88	Assistant General Secretary, IPMS
1989-99	General Secretary, IPMS
1989-98	Member, TUC General Council
1989-1999	Executive Committee, Public Services International
1991-2002	Member of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation
1993-2002	President, ILO Workers Group and Vice President of Governing Body
2002-03	Chair of ILO Governing Body
2004-08	Director, ILO London Office
1999	Created life peer – Baron Brett of Lydd in the County of Kent
2008-9	Government Whip in the House of Lords
2009-10	Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Home Office
2010-12	Opposition spokesman on overseas development

Speakers: Paul Noon (Prospect), Phil Kemball (Prospect), Brendan Barber (TUC), Penny Schantz (AFL-CIO), Guy Ryder (ILO), Baroness Royall, Labour Leader in the Lords, Rt Hon Alan Johnson MP.

This memorial event has been organised by Prospect and the TUC and is dedicated to Bill's family, to his wife Amanda, to Jean and Janet and the children Martin, Claire, Judith and Hannah.