



**CUMBRIA DIVISION  
OF  
THE NATIONAL  
UNION OF TEACHERS.**

**MINUTES OF THE  
ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING  
2009**

**Held at the Cragwood Hotel, Windermere  
on  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

## Welcome

Alison Ingall opened the meeting and welcomed everyone especially Bill Greenshields, National President, at 10.30am.

1. **Adoption of Standing Orders:** Alan explained that The standing orders were approved.

2. **Apologies for absence** were received from: John Dalton, Sally Lister, Grahame Smith & Mike Cunningham

**Present:** Bill Greenshields (National President), Alan Rutter, Chris Brooksbank, James Douglas, Allyson Ingall, Angie Leonard, Jonathan Whitwell, Jenny Rutter, John Warbrick, Mike McDonald, Dave Ramshaw, Anne Kay, Jennifer Marshall, Mike Charlton, Joy Bowmer & Liz Freeman.

Invited Guests joined the meeting after the Division business at 11am:  
Joan Stocker (Leader of the Lib Dems)

3. **Approval of minutes of the AGM 2008:** The minutes were approved as a true record.

4. **Matters arising from the minutes:** It was noted that Anne Kay had also attended the Safety Committee meetings

## 5. Declaration of election results:

There have been no further nominations and the following were confirmed:

President	Anne Kay
Secretary	Alan Rutter
Casework Officers	Alan Rutter / M Cunningham / C Brooksbank / A Leonard & A Ingall
Negotiating Secretary	Alan Rutter
Treasurer	Allyson Ingall
Assistant Secretary	Chris Brooksbank
Diversity Officer	Jonathan Whitwell
Health & Safety Officers	Dave Ramshaw / Anne Kay
Internal Communication Officer	Dave Ramshaw
Early Careers Teacher Officer	Jonathan Whitwell
School Leadership Advisory Group Officer	Angie Leonard
Teacher Representatives	Chris Brooksbank
National Executive Member	Alan Rutter
Auditor	Jason Crane
Trustees	John Dalton, Malcolm ... & Alan Rutter.

Jonathan Whitwell was confirmed as Vice President following last years nomination as Junior Vice President - Mike Charlton - was nominated as Junior Vice President by Dave Ramshaw, seconded by Angie Leonard. Mike accepted.

## 6. Annual Report:

The secretary (Alan) highlighted some of the key elements of the last year as shown in his report.

- He reiterated his thanks to the very active and hardworking officers of Cumbria Division.
- He was pleased to report that the local associations were once again becoming more active.
- Conference was well attended and the Divisions reception was a musical highlight.

- Student recruitment has been active especially on the Carlisle Campus. This has been supported by Rosie -- , as the NUT representative, with a busy facebook, social and professional events and activities.
- Regular meetings with the LA, especially the HR team is becoming more productive. The NUT lead the TACG liaison route.
- James Douglas continues as our SACRE representative.
- We have very good links with ATL locally – especially with casework.
- Dave Ramshaw has worked hard to renew the Cumbria website and he requested further items from local associations and officers.
  
- Not included in the report has been a frenetic period of work with our Academies. This does appear to have been well received by members (especially in Carlisle).

Other reports were highlighted:

- Dave Ramshaw reported that the H & S training and support to members in schools has been very well received.
- Teacher Representative – Children’s Scrutiny was a time consuming and frustrating role.
- Young Teachers -
- School Leadership – this has reorganised for our NUMDA application.
  
- Dave Ramshaw asked for electronic copies of the reports to go on the website

#### **7. Financial Statement and recommendations:**

A summary account was included in the Annual Report. Allyson summarised the Division finances, and our success in reducing the Divisions balances. She commented on the increased costs for communications and expenses – this is due to the phenomenal increase in casework. This is a particular issue, made worse by the geography looks likely to continue. This is creating an issue for next year’s budget.

She proposed to monitor the situation and asked for permission to request an interim levy from local associations if required. This was proposed by Alan Rutter, seconded by Chris Brooksbank – agreed.

We will also try to make more use of the NUT grant system.

The full accounts are with the auditor at the moment, and will be forwarded to HQ next week.

Thanks were given to Allyson for her excellent work in maintaining good financial order.

**8. Auditors:** Remunerated in normal fashion, with reasonable increase, Jason Crane was proposed by Allyson, all agreed.

**9. Confirmation of rules:** Completed as above.

**10. Matters declared urgent by the meeting:** Annual Conference reps from associations were needed by Alan as soon as possible.

**11. Calendar of meetings 2009:** These were presented and accepted.

There was a short comfort break before **Timed business 11am:**



#### **11am - Timed Business**

Our invited guest, Joan Stocker joined the meeting.

**12. Installation of Anne Kay as President:**

Allyson welcome Joan Stocker and Bill Greenshields and invited Anne to become the President. She presented her with the Division Badge of Office.

Anne thanked Allyson for all her work over the last year, always responding to calls and emails with great efficiency and humour.

Allyson then presented her with a past president badge.

### **13. Presidential Address:**

Ann started with two words “Teaching and Education”, listed what teaching is all about, reflecting on poor recognition, pay and retirement. It is a

Gerald Grow “to all the teacher is a mirror that shows all .....

Teaching is a profession that creates all others. Since the time was education was only for the few. She noted that its value appears to have been diminished since becoming free to all and compulsory. In some parts of the world where conditions are far worse

Payments by results (1862) either we have gone full circle, or haven’t got much further. Even with the technology teaching is still as hard as ever, taking on the role of mediator and peacemaker is

Stress and anxiety

In these cases the NUT is a very strong and supportive union.

To be able to teach is a gift, and Ann thanked those who have dedicated themselves to teaching. She shared her teacher’s survival kit containing:

- A toothpick - to remind us to search and pick out those
- Rubber band - we need to be flexible
- Band aid - reminder we do more than teach, we mend hurt feelings etc
- Pencil - to list our success and plans
- Rubber - that we all make mistakes and can learn from them
- Chewing gum - to stick to the task
- Mints - students and teachers are worth a mint – even if we don’t get paid one, and
- Tea bag - we need to relax.

She finished with a poem from her early days of teaching in Liverpool – What I do and say will .... Which highlighted the unknown possibilities, both wonderful and shocking, which are before every teacher every day? These opportunities for every teacher in every day of their working lives.

Allyson offered a vote of thanks to Anne – her speech bringing a tear to her eye in parts.

Anne then welcomed Bill, with a small local gift and invited her to speak.

### **14. Address by Bill Greenshields – National NUT President**

Bill congratulated Anne on her speech, suggesting that this sort of passion and commitment should be reflected in the media across the nation, it is what the NUT is all about.

He then went on to state that the NUT’s core business is about delivering the passion, knowledge and solutions to professional issues. He shared the problem of a delivering culture through the story of an inflexible school failing to understand our issues.

The Cumbria Division is well respected in the National Union, trying to avoid factional groups and trying to include and represent all teachers. He noted the way Cumbria is leading the drive to develop Continuous Professional Development (CPD) with its nationally recognised link with the University of Cumbria. He noted the nonsense of replacing schools deemed to be failing with Academies, and the failure of academies as shown in the public

He noted that over his life standards have moved, when before comprehensive education whole school were not achieving examination successes, yet now we have

In his local area the option of privatising a school was firmly rejected as it was not dependent on a major building programme. The fragmentation and break up of the education system was not wanted because the real issues were examined – not the necessity of a new building.

He referred to the Bring Down The Barriers document which gave a starting point for moving forward to improve the education system, the golden age of the 60's was a myth, and as a union we are promoting a forward thinking vision for the future of education.

It has been a challenging and fascinating year as National president, starting with the death of Steve Sinnott, and so not travelling as much as other presidents. He did however note how education systems in Australia and South America are facing a neo-liberal agenda. He referred to yesterday's announcement by David Cameron that he would send his children to state schools, if they deliver the standards required, as long as they are run by private or charitable organisations. This reflected a fear about the possible future attempts of a future government to break up comprehensive education even more!

He referred to a public service document describing a *flabby, unresponsive public service* – and their goals to rejuvenate them with

1. a top down performance management culture
2. greater competition and contestability (privatisation)
3. greater pressure by citizens from *choice and voice*
4. measures to strengthen the capability and competence of public servants.

This is being reflected by a breakdown of trust in the profession, led by a punitive inspection and assessment model.

He finally noted the case made in Leicester, where the evidence of the value of collaboration and collaboration within a local authority would lead to improvements, and gave a guarantee that the NUT will not interfere in the production of sausages, and hedge funds – showing the ridiculous situation where such businesses, in the name of choice, are taking over schools.

It is the wealth poverty gap that has the biggest impact on educational achievement, and this is the key issue that the government should be addressing. Today 3.5 million children should not be living in poverty, and we must hold the government to their promise to eradicate this threat to the struggle for education, dignity and human rights.

Not denying that there are issues in some of our most deprived parts of society, we must work together to unify our work to improve conditions and build on the strength of young teachers in particular to move beyond the tick box notion of teaching to work at the heart of our communities to restore respect for teachers and teaching.

On behalf of the meeting Jonathan thanked Bill for his speech and led a vote of thanks.

#### **15. Any other business:**

None

The meeting closed at 11.57am.