



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

**MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING
2010**

**Held at the Low Wood Hotel, Windermere
on
Saturday 27th February 2010**

Present: Martin Reed (National President), Alan Rutter, Chris Brooksbank, Ann Kay, Jurgen Stepputat, Jennifer Jewel, James Douglas, Angie Leonard, Jonathan Whitwell, Mike Cunningham, Liz Freeman, Paul Parkinson, Freda Kitching, Cheryl Perkins, Jane Reardon, John Reardon, Rob Huck, Emma Cook & Mike Charlton

Welcome

Anne Kay opened the meeting at 10.30am.

Condolences were sent to John Warbrick's family earlier this year – he was an active stalwart of Cumbria NUT and supporter of public services.

Best wishes were also passed to John Dalton and his family following a severe stroke. This was only the 2nd Divisional AGM he has missed in over fifty years.

Apologies for absence were received from:

Allyson Ingall, Dave Ramshaw, Mike McDonald, John Dalton, Sally Lister, Jenny Rutter, Jennifer Marshall, Lindzi Greenwood, Martin Soulsby, Andrew Barton & Grahame Smith.

1. **Minutes of the AGM held on 7th February 2009:** Approved as a true record.
2. **Matters arising from the minutes:** None
3. **Adoption of Rules and Standing Orders subject to any changes agreed:** Alan reported no changes and these were formally adopted.
4. **Annual Reports 2009 (Secretary, Treasurer, etc...):** The secretary (Alan) gave the main report, and highlighted some of the key elements of the last year:
 - He noted another busy year and commended the work of other officer, with the NUT still the leading professional associations in the County
 - The issues addressed in the Richard Rose, and West Lakes Academies. Which was very time intensive with over 50 interviews to stop a serious case of bullying – leading to the dismissal of the Headteacher at West Lakes
 - Negotiations with the Barrow Academy are generally more positive.
 - A significant increase in casework.
 - This has been a successful and high profile year for the NUT

Angie Leonard reported on the NUT CPD work with the University of Cumbria. Three study groups running with members working towards Masters Qualifications. Teacher2Teacher and Teachers TV programmes focusing on school / pupil based areas will be launched on 18 March in Hamilton House. She also presented a report on the **School Leadership Advisory Group** which has been active in promoting the Union. The NUT is a major force in CPD in Cumbria

A Calendar of meetings 2010: These were presented and accepted.

Mrs Jewell (retired teacher) reported that the Kelsick Grammar School building in Ambleside may be sold to help address the University of Cumbria financial difficulties. It was asked for the Union to monitor this issue, and take steps to protect these buildings

A report by Allyson Ingall on the Divisions finances was read out. Six items were noted

1. The actual overall situation this year is that expenditure exceeded income, but the current balance holds fees to be paid for the recent Young Teachers CPD event in Newcastle and several grant claims to go to HQ.
2. The major part of expenditure is to support teachers in casework or county negotiations – this is a very active Division. CPD is growing but is largely self sustaining.
3. Expenses remuneration to continue in the normal fashion.
4. Jason Crane was again proposed as our auditor for this year, all agreed.

5. Increased national and local association fees in 2010.
6. A current budget sheet was presented (£36K annual income), and recommendations for expenses were accepted.

Jonathan Whitwell presented an **Equalities Report** – noting our perspective on meritocracy with equal opportunities.

Paul Parkinson presented **Young Teachers Report**. The RECT weekend was very successful and is helping generate more active young members. He wondered if the Union could start a County induction weekend programme – to be developed.

Ann Kay reported on **H&S** activity led by her and Dave Ramshaw – who she thanked in his absence for always being ready to help. Casework is normally dealt with by telephone. Ann has worked extensively on the county well-being project. A Union H&S conference will be run later in the year.

Angie Leonard reported on the good work being done with student and young teachers. The impact of this work especially with our student reps at Carlisle (Ruby Gore and now Kim Bell) is likely to have good long term outcomes. “Giz a Job” was very successful.

5. **Election Results:** There have been no further nominations and the following were confirmed:

President	Jonathan Whitwell
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	Anne Kay / Dave Ramshaw
Internal Communication Officer	Dave Ramshaw
Early Careers Teacher Officer	Jonathan Whitwell
Student Members Officer	Paul Parkinson
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.

Mike Charlton was confirmed as Vice President following last years nomination as Junior Vice President, Paul Parkinson was nominated as Junior Vice President by Chris Brooksbank, seconded by Mike Charlton. He accepted.

Timed business 11am:



6. **Timed business at 11:00:** Invited Guests joined the meeting

Ann Kay welcomed everyone again and offered thanks for the support she has received in her year as president. She especially gave thanks to the active and caring officers of Cumbria NUT and reminded us of the good work of all teachers, in what is an incredibly complex profession, and the fact that none of them need ever feel alone in Cumbria.

7. **Installation of Jonathan Whitwell as President:** Ann Kay the presented Jonathan with the Division Badge of Office.

8. **Presidential Address:**

Jonathan thanked Ann for all her work over the last year.

He noted how special the NUT is in Cumbria. We are very active, focused on what we should be doing – supporting teachers and making the NUT synonymous with high quality teaching and learning. We are effective in promoting the profession and involving younger members which is reflected in a dropping age profile of active members.

He noted our main concern is about the pressure on education, especially with SATs, an election and likely changes in education rather than marching the streets against global warming.

The moral of his story was that an invitation to meeting 8 years ago has led to being president of a Division focused on education. Every child matters and every teacher matters too.

Jonathan then invited Martin Reed, National President, to address the AGM.

9. **Address by National President – Martin Reed:** He started thanking Jonathan and wishing him well on his year, remembering his year as a Division President, which eventually led to his year in office as National President.

He described the pleasure he has had in travelling and learning about teachers across the world. An American teachers union, the NEA has 3.2 million teachers and a conference of over 11 thousand representative. A great event, with pompoms and razzmatazz; He stayed with the Massachusetts Association who were politically active supporting Barrack Obama. The differences in their system are large but the similarities with our issues enormous:

- Workload
- Pay
- Pensions
- The rapid fragmentation of their system – even with a “friendly” president.
- Financial deficits against public sector services.

Our challenges are big – a potential pay freeze, cuts to public services. The only way forward, he suggested, was in working with other unions and maintaining our passion for education.

He reminisced on his father’s Union work in the NUM in Wales, when he was a boy. Helping members deal with stress and bullying and promoting professional development for all. Union work that remains one of the principles of the NUT.

He ended reminding us that though this is a Union of diversity, He marvels at the commitment of active members making this a great union standing for shared principles and values. He praised Alan for his common sense thinking and voice at National level, knowing that this is a strong and effective Division.

He closed by thanking Cumbria for their hospitality, with views almost like Switzerland and excellent company!

10. **Any Other Business:**

- On behalf of the meeting Mike Charlton thanked Martin for his speech and led a vote of thanks.
- Jennifer Jewell reported that Peter Laycock, the first president of Cumbria, was currently ill. She was asked to pass on our best regards to him.
- Rob Huck wanted to personally thank Alan and Mike Cunningham for their support at Whitehaven School which successfully resolved an issue for a member at that school.
- Alan thanked everyone for attending, invited them to lunch and to rejoin us at 1pm for the Executive meeting – where business is completed.

The meeting closed at 11.27am.