

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTY SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE MERSEYSIDE & NORTH WALES ELECTRICITY BRANCH
HELD AT 4 LOCATIONS DURING FEBRUARY & MARCH 2008**

1 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRANCH HELD AT THE QUALITY HOTEL,
LITTLE SUTTON ON WEDNESDAY, 27th FEBRUARY 2008

PRESENT: Joe Morgan (President) Dave Read (Secretary)
Tom Gibbons (Treasurer) Eddie Rothwell (Auditor)
and members of the Branch as recorded on the attendance register.

IN ATTENDANCE: Glyn Platt (Regional Officer) Neal Linsky (Branch Development Officer)
Stephanie Thomas (Operational Manager, Cheshire & Merseyside)
Sandra Blair (Branch support staff)

Dave Read – IN THE CHAIR –

1/2008AGM Opening Address

The Branch Secretary opened the meeting by outlining the main points on the agenda.

He then paid special tribute to Shirley Vickery as retiring President of the Branch, praising her contributions to both the branch and at national level where she played an important role as senior negotiator. Shirley had now taken early retirement from the Company following a period of sickness but hoped to remain active in Unison as a retired member.

The meeting expressed its thanks and a presentation followed.

2/2008AGM Election of Branch President (Rule 14(a)(1))

There being only one nomination, Joe Morgan was duly elected Branch President.

Joe Morgan – IN THE CHAIR –

3/2008AGM Confirm Minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting held at the Quality Hotel, Little Sutton on 28th February, Caernarfon Office on 1st March, Queensferry Office on 2nd March & Prenton Office on 2nd March 2007

It was RESOLVED that:

THE MINUTES BE CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD.

4/2008AGM Matters arising therefrom

1 Abuse of Capability Procedures (Min 4/2007AGM)

In response to a question, it was confirmed that there had not been a reinstatement but an out of court settlement. Concern was expressed at the Company's abuse of the procedures.

5/2008AGM Reports for the Year 2007/8

1 Branch Executive Committee Report

This formed part of the printed Annual Report covering the last 12 months and the Secretary drew out the following items:

- The branch covered SAIC, THUS and outsourcing. Day to day areas of concern were pulled together at Branch Executive Committee level.
- Expertise lay with the branch stewards covering such areas as stress in the call centres
- It was likely to see significant changes in the coming year brought by Iberdrola in control operations, practices and networks
- The branch needed to be vigilant in the coming year so that members terms and conditions were protected

It was RESOLVED that:

THE BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT BE RECEIVED

The Secretary was thanked for his report.

2 Financial Report

The Treasurer, Tom Gibbons, outlined a number of points in his report:

- ❖ the branch funds were in surplus so in a healthy position
- ❖ membership had fallen slightly
- ❖ printing costs were up but this was important for communication to members and also an increase in branch meetings (a wide area to cover with expenses)
- ❖ it was a continual battle to receive accurate figures from national level and DOCAS returns

Following a question, it was explained that the amount paid from the Regional Pool was based on incentives and activities within the branch. Neil Linsky had been very helpful with his advice.

A query concerning the reason for the fall in membership was raised. It was reported that the cause was most likely due to the high turn over of staff in the call centres. There had been a significant loss of staff but the Company was now recruiting although many vacancies were filled by agency staff that would not join Unison. The Secretary emphasised the need to keep recruiting.

It was RESOLVED that:

THE REPORT, INCLUDING THE ACCOUNTS, BE RECEIVED.

The Treasurer was thanked for his report and thanks were also given to Eddie Rothwell, Auditor, for his detailed and accurate accounts.

3 Education Report

No report had been received.

4 Equal Opportunities Report

No report had been received.

5 Health & Safety

No report had been received.

6 Publicity

No report had been received.

7 Membership Services

No report had been received.

8 Sports & Social

No report had been received.

9 Welfare Report

No report had been received.

10 Youth Officer's Report

No report had been received.

6/2008AGM

Honoraria

It was unanimously agreed that £450 be paid to Eddie Rothwell and £250 to Shirley Vickery.

7/2008AGM

Election of Branch Officers for 2008/2009 (Rule 14(a))

The following were elected unopposed:

Vice-President	-	Hilary Shaw
Hon Secretary	-	Dave Read
Hon Treasurer	-	Tom Gibbons
Hon Auditors (2)	-	Eddie Rothwell & Jim Brown
Welfare Officer	-	Hilary Shaw
Education Secretary	-	Joe Morgan
Publicity Officer	-	Kevin Hawkeswood
Membership Services	-	Nichola Towshend
Sports Secretary	-	Dave Walsh
Equal Opportunities	-	Kath Hughes
Health & Safety	-	Andy McEwan
Youth Officer	-	Kelly Ann Booth

LGBT Officer - Dave Walsh
 Labour Link Officer - Mike Kay

8/2008AGM

Election of Branch Stewards for 2008/9 (Rule 15)

The following were duly elected for the year:

<u>1</u>	<u>S</u> Power Energy Networks	<u>No of Stewards</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Vacancy</u>
1.1	<u>Prenton</u>	4	Geoff Littler Hilary Shaw	2
1.2	<u>Liverpool</u>	1		1
1.3	<u>Rhostyllen</u>	1		1
1.4	<u>Llandudno Junction</u>	1		1
1.5	<u>Caernarfon</u>	1		1
<u>2</u>	<u>S</u> Power Energy Retail			
2.1	<u>Regional Customer Service Centres</u>			
2.1.1	<u>Warrington</u>	14	Anita Guy Kevin Hawkeswood Mike Kay Dean Slaven Dave Walsh Yvonne Wood Bernadette Woods	7
2.1.2	<u>Rhostyllen</u>	6	Kelly Ann Booth Julie Lockley Andy McEwan Steve O'Connor Catherine Littlewood	1
2.1.3	<u>Caernarfon</u>	2	Kath Hughes Nichola Townshend	0
2.1.4	<u>Liverpool Direct Sales</u>	1		1
2.1.5	<u>Queensferry</u>	1		1
2.2	<u>Dataserve:</u>			
2.2.1	<u>Warrington</u>	1		1
2.2.2	<u>Rhostyllen</u>	1		1
<u>3</u>	<u>ScottishPower Corporate</u>			
	<u>Functions</u>	1		1
<u>4</u>	<u>SAIC</u>	3	Tom Gibbons Dave Read Howell Watson	0
<u>5</u>	<u>Hoylake Training Centre</u>	1	Joe Morgan	0

9/2008AGM

Motions Received – Amendments to Branch Rules

a) Functions of the Executive Committee – Section 21

Add new part (k):

‘Any meeting of the Branch Executive Committee, whether emergency or otherwise, may be held by teleconference.’

On being put to the vote the amendment was CARRIED unanimously.

b) Expenses – Section 23

Following discussion on whether the branch should pay representatives who had to take unpaid leave to attend Conference it was agreed that the amendment be now put:

Add new part (c):

‘Branch delegates to the National Delegate Conference or National Service Group Conference should seek paid release from their employer in accordance with prevailing facilities agreements. In the event that full paid release is not obtained, the branch will provide “loss of earnings” compensation to any said delegate who needs to take unpaid leave.’

On being out to the vote the amendments was CARRIED by 18 votes FOR and 5 AGAINST

10/2008AGM

Election of Representatives to Company Bodies

1 Energy Networks Company Council (1)

- The following was elected: Hilary Shaw. Reserve: Joe Morgan
- 2 Energy Retail Consultative & Negotiating Forum(2)
The following were elected: Anita Guy, Steve O'Connor
- 2.1 Customer Services Joint Company Forum (2)
The following were elected: Dave Walsh, Kath Hughes
- 2.2 Customer Collections Joint Company Forum (2)
The following were elected: Andy McEwan, Dean Slaven
- 2.3 Sales & Marketing Joint Company Forum (1)
Vacancy
- 2.4 Operations Joint Company Forum (1)
vacancy
- 3 Learning & Development Forum (1)
The following was elected: Joe Morgan
- 4 ScottishPower Company Council (2)
Joe Morgan, Steve O'Connor
- 5 ScottishPower Company Health & Safety Forum (2)
The following were elected: Anita Guy, Hilary Shaw
- 6 ScottishPower Company Pension Forum (1)
The following was elected: Joe Morgan
- 7 SAIC Business Council (3)
The following were elected: Tom Gibbons, Dave Read, Howell Watson

11/2008AGM

Guest Speaker on Stress in the Workplace

Neil Linsky provided an update on the recent workplace stress survey, the results of which would go to the Company to try to improve the situation. There had been good feedback from the survey which suggested that the high turnover of staff was mainly due to stress issues.

Paula Rigby from Thompsons outlined the legal framework in regard to cases of stress. Approximately 1200 working days were lost each year in relation to stress issues. Legislation took time and claims were difficult to pursue because they were difficult to prove. As the law stood, you needed to prove a criminal element such as harassment.

Paula was thanked for her most enlightening talk

12/2008AGM

Open Forum

1 Launch of Branch Stress Buster Campaign

The Branch Secretary reported that the main purpose of the drive was to force the Company into establishing best practices. The Branch was trying to identify issues and avenues to force change in ScottishPower which was driven by profits. Suggestions, such as a hot-line, were mooted and would be considered at Branch Executive Committee level.

2 Pensions

Jim Brown, trustee of the pension scheme, urged members to attend the Pensions AGM. He warned that the final salaries scheme was under threat.

3 Pay Deal Ballot

Concern was expressed at the low return of papers in the recent Energy Retail ballot. Only 2% of Manweb-Unison members had voted which underlined the apathetic attitude of the staff.

The Secretary undertook to tackle this issue as a Branch Executive objective in the coming year.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting. A draw, followed by a team quiz took place after the meeting.

2

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRANCH HELD AT THE CAERNARFON OFFICE ON THURSDAY, 28th February 2008

PRESENT:

Dave Read (Secretary) and members of the Caernarfon Office as recorded on the attendance register
Kath Hughes – IN THE CHAIR –

13/2008AGM

Opening Address

A brief opening address was given by the Branch Secretary.

14/2008AGM

Election of Branch President (Rule 14(a) (1))

Joe Morgan was elected unopposed as Branch President.

- 15/2008AGM Confirm Minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting held at the Quality Hotel, Little Sutton on 28th February, Caernarfon Office on 1st March, Queensferry Office on 2nd March & Prenton Office on 2nd March 2007
- It was RESOLVED that:
- THE MINUTES BE CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD.
- 16/2008AGM Matters arising therefrom
- 1 Systems Performance
- The Company had been lobbied over this and members reported some improvements in GT.
- 17/2008AGM Reports for the Year 2007/8
- 1 BEC Report – the Branch Secretary gave a short report based on his written report
2 Financial Report – after a short report the accounts were agreed
- 18/2008AGM Honoraria
- It was agreed that £450 be paid to Eddie Rothwell (Auditor) and £250 to Shirley Vickery.
- 19/2008AGM Election of Branch Officers for 2008/2009 (Rule 14(a))
- The list of nominated officers was agreed
- 20/2008AGM Election of Branch Stewards for 2008/9 (Rule 15)
- The list of stewards was agreed
- 21/2008AGM Motions Received – Amendments to Branch Rules
- Both amendments were agreed with no opposition
- 22/2008AGM Election of Representatives to Company Bodies
- The results of the Annual General Meeting of the previous evening were agreed.
- 23/2008AGM Open Forum
- 1 Stress Discussion
- After a brief discussion on stress issues in the workplace the following issues were raised:
- New holiday system causing issues
 - Bank holidays
 - Booking other holidays
- 3
- ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE QUEENSFERRY OFFICE ON FRIDAY 29th FEBRUARY 2008
- PRESENT: Dave Read (Secretary), Tom Gibbons (Treasurer) and members of the Queensferry Office as recorded on the attendance register
- Tom Gibbons – IN THE CHAIR –
- 24/2008AGM Opening Address
- A brief address was given.
- 25/2008AGM Election of Branch President (Rule 14(a)(1))
- Joe Morgan was elected as Branch President.
- 26/2008AGM Confirm Minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting held at the Quality Hotel, Little Sutton on 28th February, Caernarfon Office on 1st March, Queensferry Office on 2nd March & Prenton Office on 2nd March 2007
- It was RESOLVED that:
- THE MINUTES BE CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD
- 27/2008AGM Matters arising therefrom
- 1 Branch Survey on Stress
- An update was given on the recent branch survey.
- 28/2008AGM Reports for the Year 2007/8

- 1 BEC Report – the Branch Secretary gave a brief report
2 Financial Report – a report on the accounts was given and they were agreed
- 29/2008AGM Honoraria
It was agreed that £450 be paid to Eddie Rothwell (Auditor) and £250 to Shirley Vickery.
- 30/2008AGM Election of Branch Officers for 2008/2009 (Rule 14(a))
The list of nominated officers was agreed.
- 31/2008AGM Election of Branch Stewards for 2008/9 (Rule 15)
The list of nominated stewards was agreed.
- 32/2008AGM Motions Received – Amendments to Branch Rules
After being put to the vote both amendments were agreed :
a) Section 21 - unanimously agreed
b) Section 23 – agreed by 6 votes for to 3 votes against
- 33/2008AGM Election of Representatives to Company Bodies
The results of the Annual General Meeting were agreed.
- 34/2008AGM Open Forum
There were no questions raised.
There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting.
- 4 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRANCH HELD AT THE RHOSTYLLLEN OFFICE ON MONDAY 3rd MARCH 2008
- PRESENT: Dave Read (Secretary) and members of the Rhostyllen Office as recorded on the attendance register
Steve O'Connor – IN THE CHAIR –
- 35/2008AGM Opening Address
A brief opening address was given.
- 36/2008AGM Election of Branch President (Rule 14(a) (1))
Joe Morgan was elected as Branch President.
- 37/2008AGM Confirm Minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting held at the Quality Hotel, Little Sutton on 28th February, Caernarfon Office on 1st March, Queensferry Office on 2nd March & Prenton Office on 2nd March 2007
It was RESOLVED that:
THE MINUTES BE CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD
- 38/2008AGM Matters arising therefrom
There were no matters arising.
- 39/2008AGM Reports for the Year 2007/8
1 BEC Report – the Branch Secretary gave a brief report
2 Financial Report – a report on the accounts was given and they were agreed
- 40/2008AGM Honoraria
It was agreed that £450 be paid to Eddie Rothwell (Auditor) and £250 to Shirley Vickery.
- 41/2008AGM Election of Branch Officers for 2008/2009 (Rule 14(a))
The list of nominated officers was agreed
- 42/2008AGM Election of Branch Stewards for 2008/9 (Rule 15)
The list of stewards was agreed.
- 43/2008AGM Motions Received – Amendments to Branch Rules
Both amendments were agreed with no opposition.
- 44/2008AGM Election of Representatives to Company Bodies

45/2008AGM

The results of the Annual General Meeting on 28th February were agreed.

Open Forum

1 Stress in the Workplace

A discussion on stress related matters took place.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting.