

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTY NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE MERSEYSIDE & NORTH WALES ELECTRICITY BRANCH  
HELD AT 5 LOCATIONS DURING MARCH 2010**

1 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRANCH HELD AT THE  
WOODHEY HOUSE HOTEL, LITTLE SUTTON ON WEDNESDAY, 10 MARCH 2010

PRESENT: Joe Morgan (President) Dave Read (Secretary)  
Tom Gibbons (Treasurer) Eddie Rothwell (Bookkeeper)  
and 22 members of the Branch as recorded on the attendance register.

IN ATTENDANCE: Paul Summers (Regional Officer) Roger Bannister (Guest Speaker)  
Paula Wrigley (Thompsons Solicitors)

Joe Morgan – IN THE CHAIR –

1/2010AGM Opening Address

The Branch President opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present.

He outlined ongoing issues and praised the branch stewards for coping well during difficult times. It was felt that the stress survey had been disappointing in showing continuing high levels of stress.

Dave Read – IN THE CHAIR –

2/2010AGM 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 –

3/2010AGM Confirm Minutes of the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held at the Woodhey House Hotel, Little Sutton on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009, Rhostyllen Office on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009, Caernarfon Office on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009 and Queensferry Office on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2009

It was RESOLVED that:

THE MINUTES BE CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD.

4/2010AGM Matters arising therefrom

1 Stress in the Workplace (Min 4/2009AGM.1)

Concern was expressed that the issue of stress had not been taken up appropriately as it had appeared in the AGM minutes and that the Full-time Officer be requested to take this up with the Company.

The suggestion that the Company's own stress survey may reflect different results was rejected.

The Branch Secretary reported that the Branch had put forward a resolution to the ESG 2010 Conference to encourage Unison to adopt a Charter for Dealing with Stress Issues in the Workplace and suggested that stewards who felt unable to obtain any progress had the option to conduct a more public campaign through the media/press.

The full-time Office, Paul Summers, believed that the issue could be referred to the Health & Safety Executive as the level of absence sickness in the call centres could be as much as 5 times the norm.

It was therefore agreed to formally request figures from the Company.

5/2010AGM Reports for the Year 2009/2010

1 Branch Executive Committee Report

This formed part of the printed Annual Report covering the last 12 months. The Branch Secretary outlined the following items:

- he was pleased with the large number of stewards at most locations
- he reiterated Branch policy on rejecting compulsory redundancies
- SAIC Report: 'IBM' to be amended to 'Accenture'. The new Company 'Accenture' had guaranteed to make good any shortfall in the SAIC pension fund.

Geoff Littler spoke with regard to the threat of redundancy in Energy Networks and advised that all 4 Unions had made their position on compulsory redundancy clear to ScottishPower.

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 the following points in his report:

- ❖ there was a deficit of £3,400 compared to a surplus last year
- ❖ better building society interest and a Regional Pool Grant in 2008 compared to 2009 also, higher costs because of more meetings and teleconferences
- ❖ as an 'active' branch it would run with a deficit balance this year but still very mindful of the branch's financial balances
- ❖ a slight fall in membership – from 690 to 682 members but the year could result in more losses due to job losses in Energy Networks and Accenture (SAIC)

It was RESOLVED that:

THE REPORT, INCLUDING THE ACCOUNTS, BE RECEIVED.

The Treasurer was thanked for his report and also thanks to Eddie Rothwell, Bookkeeper, for their detailed and accurate accounts.

3 Education Report

No report had been received.

4 Equal Opportunities Report

The report was received.

Carol Smith, Equal Opportunities Officer, reported that Unison were encouraging employers to recognise and work with Equal Opportunities Representatives. It was agreed that this be raised at Company Council level and the Branch Secretary to contact the Scottish Branch to engage in a similar action.

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.

11 Retired Members Report

The report was received

Jim Brown, Joint Retired Members Secretary, reported that Liverpool and North Mersey Districts retired members sections continued to meet regularly. He explained the difficulties of living on a pension linked to RPI and asked that members urge Unison to lobby for improvements to pensions.

6/2010AGM

Honoraria

It was proposed and agreed that £200 be paid to Jim Brown. Upon acceptance, Jim Brown undertook to donate part to charity and the rest to the Manweb Branch Welfare.

7/2010AGM

Election of Branch Officers for 2010/2011 (Rule 14(a))

The following were elected unopposed:

Vice-President	-	Steve O'Connor
Hon Secretary	-	Dave Read
Hon Treasurer	-	Tom Gibbons

Hon Auditor	-	Jim Brown
Welfare Officer	-	Anita Guy
Education Secretary	-	Joe Morgan
Publicity Officer	-	Mike Kay
Membership Services	-	Linda Razak
Sports Secretary	-	Julie Lockley
Equal Opportunities	-	Bernadette Woods & Carol Smith
Health & Safety	-	Andy McEwan
Youth Officer	-	Kelly Ann Booth
LGBT Officer	-	Michelle Kay
Labour Link Officer	-	vacancy
Retired Members Secretary	-	Jim Brown & Shirley Vickery

8/2010AGM

Election of Branch Stewards for 2010/2011 (Rule 15)

The following were duly elected for the year:

<u>1</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>Power Energy Networks</u>	<u>No of Stewards</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Vacancy</u>
1.1	<u>Prenton</u>		3	Irene Adams Geoff Littler	1
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>	<u>Power Energy Retail</u>			
2.1	<u>Regional Customer Service Centres</u>				
2.1.1	<u>Warrington</u>		10	As 12 nominations had been received, a ballot would take place at Warrington	
2.1.2			8	<u>Rhostyllen</u> Justine Bradey Kelly Ann Booth Chris Jackson Cath Littlewood Julie Lockley Andy McEwan Steve O'Connor Karen Shallcross	0
2.1.3	<u>Caernarfon</u>		2	Kath Hughes Carol Smith	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	Jeff Pye	0
2.2.2	<u>Rhostyllen</u>		1	Anita Guy	0
<u>3</u>	<u>ScottishPower Corporate 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

9/2010AGM

Motions Received – Amendments to Branch Rules

i) Adoption of Unison Core Branch Rules

‘This Branch agrees to adopt the UNISON CORE Branch rules to run alongside the current Branch Rules.

The Branch instructs the Branch Executive Committee to merge the existing rules with the CORE branch rules and bring a single set of Branch Rules to the 2011 Annual General Meeting for approval. The

current branch rules will take precedence until a single set of rules is adopted in 2011’.

It was proposed that the first paragraph be deleted

On being put to the vote the amendment was CARRIED.

ii) Removal of Honorary Titles

It was proposed that the title of 'Honorary' be deleted from all officer posts

On being out to the vote the amendment was CARRIED.

10/2010AGM

Election of Representatives to Company Bodies 2010/2011

- 1 Energy Networks Company Council (1)  
The following was elected: Geoff Littler
- 2 ERJNCF (3)  
The following were elected: Steve O'Connor, Anita Guy, Linda Razak
- 2.1 Customer Service Consultative Forum (4)  
The following were elected: Mike Kay, Andy McEwan, Carol Smith, Bernadette Woods. Justine Brady (substitute)
- 2.2 Operations Consultative Forum (2)  
The following were elected: Anita Guy, Jeff Pye
- 3 Learning & Development Forum (1)  
The following was elected: Joe Morgan
- 4 ScottishPower Company Council (2)  
The following were elected: Joe Morgan, Steve O'Connor
- 5 ScottishPower Company Health & Safety Forum (3)  
The following were elected: Anita Guy, Geoff Littler. Joe Morgan (substitute)
- 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

11/2010AGM

Guest Speaker: Roger Bannister, NEC member

Roger Bannister spoke of the importance of safeguarding jobs and pay and the difficulties of preserving pensions with TUPE transfers. It was important that stewards regularly attend branch meetings to demonstrate a collective attitude for defending members terms and conditions. The message of democracy and solidarity needed to be delivered to the employer.

He spoke of Unison's recorded message as part of the 'Million Voices for Change' Campaign in order to protect public services and discussed the suggestion of re-nationalising Energy Companies.

Roger was thanked for his enlightening talk

Paula Wrigley: Thompsons Solicitors

Paula reminded members of the information packs available from Thompsons Solicitors which provided cover for members and their families. Services included criminal law and criminal injury, pension advice, fixed price conveyancing and a free wills service.

The threat of action could improve the issue of stress at work but the present law related to breakdowns only. Any compromise agreement linked to a redundancy offer could be forwarded to Thompsons via the steward and Full-time Officer for signature at a cost of £350.

Paula was thanked for her contribution to the meeting.

12/2010AGM

Open Forum

- 1 Shirley Vickery requested the Branch Secretary write to Union's General Secretary concerning the election of NEC Representatives.
- 2 Also, to formally write to the General Secretary, Dave Prentis, concerning the dawn raids of Unison Offices where branch secretaries had been disciplined - this to include a timescale for a response.

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

2

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRANCH HELD AT THE CAERNARFON OFFICE ON THURSDAY, 11th March 2010

PRESENT:

Dave Read (Secretary) and 14 members of the Caernarfon Office as recorded on the attendance register  
Carol Smith – IN THE CHAIR –

- 13/2010AGM Opening Address  
A brief opening address was given.
- 14/2010AGM Election of Branch President (Rule 14(a) (1))  
Joe Morgan was elected unopposed as Branch President.
- 15/2010AGM Confirm Minutes of the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held at the Woodhey House Hotel, Little Sutton on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009, Rhostyllen Office on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009, Caernarfon Office on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009 and Queensferry Office on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2009  
It was RESOLVED that:  
THE MINUTES BE CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD.
- 16/2010AGM Matters arising therefrom
- it was reported that reps were not allowed to recruit new members
  - there was concern over term time working not being available to all due to limited numbers by the Company
- 17/2010AGM Reports for the Year 2009/2010  
1 BEC Report – this was received  
2 Financial Report – the accounts were agreed
- 18/2010AGM Honoraria  
It was agreed that £200 be paid to Jim Brown (Auditor).
- 19/2010AGM Election of Branch Officers for 2010/2011 (Rule 14(a))  
The list of nominated officers was agreed.
- 20/2010AGM Election of Branch Stewards for 2010/2011 (Rule 15)  
The list of stewards was agreed. Carol Smith & Kath Hughes confirmed as stewards for Caernarfon
- 21/2010AGM Motions Received – Amendments to Branch Rules  
Both amendments were agreed with no opposition.
- 22/2010AGM Election of Representatives to Company Bodies  
The results of the Annual General Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March were agreed.
- 23/2010AGM Open Forum  
There were no issues raised.
- 3 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE QUEENSFERRY OFFICE ON FRIDAY, 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2010
- PRESENT: Dave Read (Secretary) and 14 members of the Queensferry Office as recorded on the attendance register  
Tom Gibbons – IN THE CHAIR –
- 24/2010AGM Opening Address  
A brief address was given.
- 25/2010AGM Election of Branch President (Rule 14(a)(1))  
Joe Morgan was elected as Branch President.
- 26/2010AGM Confirm Minutes of the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held at the Woodhey House Hotel, Little Sutton on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009, Rhostyllen Office on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009, Caernarfon Office on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009 and Queensferry Office on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2009  
It was RESOLVED that:  
THE MINUTES BE CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD.
- 27/2010AGM Matters arising therefrom  
There were no matters arising.
- 28/2009AGM Reports for the Year 2009/2010

- 1 BEC Report – the Branch Secretary gave an update on SAIC TUPE transfers  
 2 Financial Report – the reports and accounts were agreed and thanks given to Bookkeeper & Auditor
- 29/2010AGM Honoraria  
 It was agreed that £200 be paid to Jim Brown (Auditor).
- 30/2010AGM Election of Branch Officers for 2010/2011 (Rule 14(a))  
 The list of nominated officers was agreed.
- 31/2010AGM Election of Branch Stewards for 2010/2011 (Rule 15)  
 The list of nominated stewards was agreed with Dave Read, Tom Gibbons & Howell Watson confirmed as stewards for Queensferry
- 32/2010AGM Motions Received – Amendments to Branch Rules  
 After being put to the vote both amendments were agreed.
- 33/2010AGM Election of Representatives to Company Bodies  
 The results of the Annual General Meeting were agreed.
- 34/2010AGM Open Forum  
 1 Pensions Website  
 A question was raised as to whether access to the pensions website still existed  
 There being no further business the Chairman thanked members and closed the meeting.
- 4 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRANCH HELD AT THE RHOSTYLLLEN OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY 17th MARCH 2010
- PRESENT: Shirley Vickery and 3 members of the Rhostyllen Office recorded on the attendance register  
 Steve O'Connor – IN THE CHAIR –
- 35/2010AGM Opening Address  
 A brief opening address and welcome was given
- 36/2010AGM Election of Branch President (Rule 14(a) (1))  
 Joe Morgan was elected as Branch President.
- 37/2010AGM Confirm Minutes of the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held at the Woodhey House Hotel, Little Sutton on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009, Rhostyllen Office on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009, Caernarfon Office on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009 and Queensferry Office on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2009  
 It was RESOLVED that:  
 THE MINUTES BE CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD.
- 38/2010AGM Matters arising therefrom  
 1 Stress Buster Campaign  
 Concerns were voiced over the lack of progress in making the Company aware of stress levels and promoting action to address the issue.
- 39/2010AGM Reports for the Year 2010/2011  
 1 BEC Report – this was received  
 2 The Financial Report – the accounts were agreed
- 40/2010AGM Honoraria  
 It was agreed that £200 be paid to Jim Brown (Auditor)
- 41/2010AGM Election of Branch Officers for 2010/2011 (Rule 14(a))  
 The list of nominated officers was agreed
- 42/2010AGM Election of Branch Stewards for 2010/2011 (Rule 15)  
 The list of stewards was agreed.
- 43/2010AGM Motions Received – Amendments to Branch Rules  
 Both amendments were agreed with no opposition.

- 44/2010AGM Election of Representatives to Company Bodies  
The results of the Annual General Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March were agreed.
- 45/2010AGM Open Forum  
1 Stress Campaign  
Discussion took place regarding the Company's lack of concern.  
Booking holidays was a particularly stressful issue with employees having to come into work on their rota days off to book holidays. Also, concern was raised about slotting staff into posts in a new structure being told to appeal in writing within 3 days. It was agreed to check this information along with travelling expenses as a result of 'shunt jobs'.  
There being no further business the Chairman thanked members and closed the meeting.
- 5 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRANCH HELD AT THE WARRINGTON OFFICE ON THURSDAY 18th MARCH 2010
- PRESENT: Joe Morgan (President) and 8 members of the Warrington Office as recorded on the attendance register  
Joe Morgan – IN THE CHAIR –
- 46/2010AGM Opening Address  
A brief opening address and welcome was given by the President.  
He outlined current issues concerning redundancies/jobs in Energy Networks also, the need to address the issue of stress
- 47/2010AGM Election of Branch President (Rule 14(a) (1)  
Joe Morgan was elected unopposed as Branch President.
- 48/2010AGM Confirm Minutes of the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held at the Woodhey House Hotel, Little Sutton on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009, Rhostyllen Office on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009, Caernarfon Office on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009 and Queensferry Office on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2009  
It was RESOLVED that:  
THE MINUTES BE CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD.
- 49/2010AGM Matters arising therefrom  
There no matters arising
- 50/2010AGM Reports for the Year 2009/2010  
  - BEC Report – this was received
  - Financial Report – the accounts were agreed
- 51/2010AGM Honoraria  
It was agreed that £200 be paid to Jim Brown (Auditor).
- 52/2010AGM Election of Branch Officers for 2010/2011 (Rule 14(a))  
The list of nominated officers was agreed.  
It was proposed and seconded that Gareth Foy fill the vacancy of Labour Link Officer. This was agreed
- 53/2010AGM Election of Branch Stewards for 2010/2011 (Rule 15)  
The list of stewards agreed at the AGM on the 10<sup>th</sup> March was confirmed.  
There being 12 nominations to fill 10 steward vacancies at Warrington, a ballot took place .  
The following were elected:  
Gareth Foy, Darren Garnett, Paul Garrity, Michelle Kay, Mike Kay, Jackie Murphy, Ian Smith, Gareth Walker, Steve Webster, Bernadette Woods
- 54/2010AGM Motions Received – Amendments to Branch Rules  
Both amendments were agreed with no opposition.
- 55/2010AGM Election of Representatives to Company Bodies  
The results of the Annual General Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March were agreed.
- 56/2010AGM Open Forum  
  - the Branch President referred to the excellent AGM speaker , Roger Bannister, on 10<sup>th</sup> March

- following concern about the availability of Health & Safety training for stewards it was agreed this be pursued by the branch
- massive stress issues remained at Call Centres
- equal opportunities – issues were raised regarding dependency leave & career breaks. It was agreed that this be pursued by branch stewards at Company Council level
- reason for the number of aborted calls at the call centre
- use of ‘break out’ area in the canteen taken over for management meetings
- to look at ways to encourage union members to participate which highlighted the branch being poor at promoting its own successes

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