

CONSERVATIVE TRADE UNIONISTS' NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE 185TH MEETING, BEING THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD ON SATURDAY 9TH JUNE 1979  
AT CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER

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Present: F. Hardman, MBE (Chairman); G. Campbell (Vice-Chairman); P. Alder (ASTMS Members); E. Ashcroft (Co-opted); R. Bennett (Communications); M. Turner-Bridger (Wessex); B. Brum (Eastern); A. Carroll (North West); M. Carse (Scotland); R. Cross (Yorkshire); M. Daly (South East); D. Exley (Yorkshire); H. Gardener (Teachers); T. Ham, MBE (Ex-Officio); D. Harrison (West Midlands); J. Hodges (Eastern); R. Humphrey (South East); K. Hutchinson (East Midlands); E. Langcaster (Greater London); B. Lippiatt (Western); R. Parkhouse (YCs); L. Parkin (ASTMS Members); B. Patton (Co-opted); B. Philpott (Co-opted); F. Sharratt (Co-opted); H. Shaw (East Midlands); K. Thornber (Wessex); R. Tuck (Wales); G. Warhurst (Teachers); M. Watts (Local Government); G. Woodhouse (Western); Sir Charles Johnston; Patrick Mayhew, MP; Peter Wilde; Martin Gillate; John C. Bowis (Hon. Secretary)

Apologies: Rt Hon James Prior, MP; Lord Gowrie; Jim Lester, MP; Patrick Jenkin, MP; Tim Renton, MP; Tommy Hubble; David Moor; David Sinnott and Georgina Lawson.

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th February 1979:

The Minutes have been circulated were agreed and signed. The Minutes of the previous AGM having been previously signed, were confirmed.

2. Matters Arising:

It was noted that one of the journalists in the NUJ at the Nottingham Post, had lost his case for wrongful dismissal.

3. Chairman's Annual Report:

The Chairman reported on a good year for CTU with a number of firsts. A successful fringe meeting had been held at the TUC. There had been close liaison with the Shadow Employment Team in Parliament which had now developed into regular contact with Ministers. The complaints from left wing trade union leaders about CTU activities was a sign that the organisation was making its mark. He hoped that it would do so equally where there were found to be inefficient employers. Finally he reported on the work of CTU during the Election Campaign where a great deal of work had been put in in many ways and not least in the Trade Unionists for A Tory Victory Rally.

He then went on to welcome Patrick Mayhew, the new Under Secretary of State for Employment; Sir Charles Johnston, the Chairman of the National Union Executive Committee; Peter Bottomley and Jack Page.

4. Election of Vice-President:

Peter Bottomley, MP and Tim Renton, MP were elected unopposed as President and Vice-President respectively.

5. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen:

The President took the Chair and proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring officers. At the suggestion of members, it was agreed that for future elections, biographies including union records would be circulated in advance. It was further agreed that on this occasion each candidate should say a few words. A secret ballot was then taken with the following results:

Chairman:	Fred Hardman	21 votes - ELECTED
	Ken Hutchinson	9 votes

Vice-Chairmen:

	Geoff Campbell	23 votes - ELECTED
	Ken Thornber	15 votes - ELECTED
	Ken Hutchinson	7 votes
	Anne Carroll	6 votes
	Bill Lippiatt	4 votes
	George Woodhouse	4 votes

Tom Ham becomes Senior Vice-Chairman as immediate past Chairman, a position he will hold for one year.

6. CTU General Purposes Committee:

The following were elected unopposed to serve on the new CTU General Purposes Committee:

Bill Brum  
David Exley  
Daniel Harrison  
David Howell  
Ken Hutchinson  
David Sinnott

7. Co-options:

The following were elected for co-option by secret ballot:

Category i (Engineering, shipbuilding and steel)

Roy Moore Unopposed

Category ii (Mining and construction)

Len Stapleton	27 votes - ELECTED
Wally Saunders	3 votes

Category iii (Transport and docks)

Nigel Stone	27 votes - ELECTED
R.M. Gidden	3 votes

Category iv (Energy)

Bill Patton Unopposed

Category v (Printing)

NO VALID NOMINATIONS RECEIVED

Category vi (Public Employees)

Betty Philpott	10 votes -ELECTED
Sam Radford	9 votes
Jack Davies	5 votes
Tom Devonside	3 votes

7. Co-options (contd.):

Category vii (Technical, professional, entertainment and clerical)

Frank Sharratt                      Unopposed

Category viii (Textiles, clothing, food and retail services)

Charles Birss                      Unopposed

8. Nominations for National Union General Purposes Committee:

It was agreed that the four names to be put forward for election by the National Union Executive Committee to the National Union General Purposes Committee should be the Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen (Geoff Campbell and Ken Thornber) and Margaret Daly.

9. General Election:

The Chairman pointed out that three members of the Committee had been candidates for the General Election and had each put up a very good fight in Labour seats - Geoff Campbell at Edinburgh East, Daniel Harrison at West Bromwich West and Ralph Tuck at Abertillery. In addition Moira Carse had stood as Candidate for Strathclyde East in the Euro Elections, the result of which was awaited. They were all congratulated on their campaigns as were the many members of CTU who had stood round the country. It was pointed out that many of the successful new MPs had put their success, to a considerable extent, down to CTU activities and it was noted that there were large swings where there were CTU candidates. Since the Election Ralph Tuck had been invited to debate on Welsh TV with the Secretary of the Welsh TUC which was a sign of how CTU was being increasingly noticed by the media.

The main CTU activity of the campaign had been the Trade Unionists for a Tory Victory Rally. It was agreed that this had been highly successful and the following motion was carried unanimously having been proposed by Rodney Bennett and seconded by Geoffrey Warhurst:

"This Committee congratulates the organisers of the CTU Election Rally as a most successful event and propose that CTU should organise such a CTU Rally on the final Sunday of the Campaign of every forthcoming General Election."

It was suggested that we should try to obtain the television films of the event.

10. CTU President:

Peter Bottomley put three points to the meeting for future discussion. He felt that pressure should be put on the Party to divert more resources to CTU and its activities than to the traditional activities of Constituencies and their Agents. He hoped that in a year or two, there might be a Vice-Chairman of the Party responsible for the activities of the Community Affairs Department as a whole. He also suggested that there might be some CTU event which would attract TV coverage at the time of the TUC so as to keep a political balance.

11. Chairman of the NUEC:

Sir Charles Johnston addressed the meeting and thanked members for their work during the past year and in particular those members who had served on the various Party committees where they had made a considerable contribution.

12. Under Secretary of State for Employment:

Patrick Mayhew, MP addressed the meeting and emphasised the importance of CTU to the Government as spelt out by Jim Prior. Help is always needed from CTU and the Government Department doors are always open. Jim Prior and the Employment team want to give CTU more public status and therefore on regional visits by Ministers, advice will be sought from the local CTU. As regards employment policy, Mr Mayhew said that partisanship in the industrial tribunals will be changed and he went on to explain how the SLADE enquiry will operate. Most important of all, the role of ACAS will be looked at and at the same time certain amendments to the Employment Protection Act will be sought. In the future Ministers will be asked to consult CTU on the background of various disputes.

In questions to Mr Mayhew, the circular to teachers from the ILEA on Blair Peach's funeral was discussed.

13. 1980 Annual Conference:

It was suggested that time and venue for the next CTU Annual Conference should be discussed at the next meeting with Jim Prior.

14. Reports from Areas:

Written reports were received from Northern, Wales and Scotland and reports to come at the next meeting should be from London, Wessex and Eastern.

15. Reports from Specialist Groups:

Teachers: Geoffrey Warhurst, the Chairman, said that had the Times Education Supplement been published, there would have been a report that at the last Election, 52% of teachers voted Tory, 33% Labour, 14% Liberal and 1% other.

The Group would shortly be bringing out two or three Blue Papers of about 1000 words each for distribution on current education issues. Two future meetings of the Group will take place on 14th July in Derby and 8th September in Cardiff.

ASTMS: Margaret Daly emphasised the importance of the case brought before the Certification Officer by Loudon Parkin and she felt that he should be congratulated on his perseverance.

Local Government and Health Services: Mike Watts felt that there should be an extra co-opted member on the CTUNC from the Health Services, and he agreed that a constitutional change was needed.

There will be a meeting of some Health Service Group members with Dr Gerard Vaughan, MP, Minister of State for Health, on Monday 16th July at 4.00pm. There will also be a CTU Fringe Meeting at the NALGO Conference on the 14th June at 8.00pm when Warren Hawksley, MP (Wrekin) will be the guest speaker.

16. Any Other Business:

The District Council Elections in Bristol are to be held on 14th June. Bill Lippiatt is to stand.

David Exley asked if the venue of the CTU National Committee could be rotated round the country. It was agreed that this matter be included in the Agenda for the next CTUNC.

A request was made for more CTU members to speak at the Party Conference now that that General Election has passed.

17. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the National Committee will be on Saturday 7th July at 11.30am at Conservative Central Office.