

CWU NORTH WEST REGION ANNUAL CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 12TH 2016



Report & Minutes

Over 90 members attended the North Conference, many thanks to all the branches for securing release for delegates to attend, without this support the event could not have taken place.

♥ UNIONS

There were various stalls in the hall: retired members had a stand full of information and as it was the TUC week for promoting unions, there was a stall with a raffle for two hand painted glasses and a bottle of wine . Each glass had the week's logo -

The raffle raised over £100 for CWUHA. Delegates were asked to bring along a toothbrush or a small toy. These were handed in at the CWUHA stall.



The formalities of the day started with the sub-committee AGMs: Gordon Marsden MP for Blackpool South was a guest at the political AGM.

NW HEALTH & SAFETY



A BUSY YEAR PLANNED FOR NW WOMENS COMMITTEE



NW YOUTH HAS LOTS TO SAY

NW ULRS: AS VIBRANT AS EVER



RETIRED MEMBERS': FUTURE PAST AND PRESENT

Members congregated once again in the main hall. The regional committee AGM was handed over to the Chair Richard Morgan: Richard announced he was retiring and as such, this would be his last time as chair. Richard went on to give an inspiring speech of the trials and tribulations the CWU have overcome, he told the meeting he was honoured to have worked in the CWU and proud to have represented the North West Region. He told us all we can win!



Recognition and above all THANKS, was to be captured officially in the minutes here on behalf of every member in the North West for all of Richards support, time and commitment he has given to us all.



Delegates remained in the main hall to hear speeches from Dave Ward and Tony Kearns: these were in relation to the current financial situation of the CWU and their views relating to the future of the union. Carl Webb tweeted "you could hear a pin drop as Dave Ward speaks about changing this union!"



Dave opened by saying how proud he is of the work everyone across the country did for the recent **#CWUandPROUD** He told the attendees that the Trade Union Bill will come in some form or other, but the Trade Union

movement cannot be stopped: we will do all we can to make the bill unworkable. Dave said more work is needed to support our reps.



Speaking about the future of the CWU, Dave said we need a complete restructure: “we are totally committed to rebuilding our union and labour movement and want you to be part of it.”

Tony Kearns informed us of the declining figures in the membership, not because people are leaving the union in droves but simply because our main employers are employing less people; he too spoke of a restructure “this is your union and we want it with a future that is built for our members”

Members split into groups, to debate:-

- *What do we need to do to create our future and become a union that is more responsive and closer to its members, can achieve internal and external growth and is fit for purpose for the foreseeable future?*



In your groups decide on three priorities to help the CWU redesign the union. Please do ensure that your priorities can realistically be achieved

Once you have chosen your three priorities as a group put them in order of importance.

Finally your number one priority will go forward to the whole conference where a vote will take place to identify the overall number one priority for our union from the North West



The day ended with a Q&A session: both Tony and Dave answered questions put by delegates.