



**WALES NOC MEETING
28TH FEBRUARY 2006
WELSHPOOL**

Present:

Chris Edwards	PCS (Chair)
Andy Phillips	T&G
Mike Kennett	T&G
Barbara Anglezarke	Prospect
Matthew Park	PCS
John Williams	T&G (standing in for Chris Tucker)
Rhian Evans	PCS (standing in for Antony Griffiths)

Minute Secretary: Kath McNulty PCS

Apologies:

Chris Tucker	T&G
Edward Shephard	TUS Secretary
Paul Finch	PCS
Antony Griffiths	PCS
Eric Williams	T&G
Lucy Kirkham	Prospect

1. Introduction

Chris Edwards explained he was standing in as Chair as Antony Griffiths was on Annual Leave. We introduced ourselves, as not everyone knew each other.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Accepted as correct

3. Matters Arising From Last Meeting

a) CAPES

Kath has had a long-standing action to source information to help members make a business case for whichever (Capes, fleet or private) vehicle they feel is most appropriate for their duties. Kath was going to explore the cost of each option to the FC. This document exists already.

ACTION: Kath to find owner of document and arrange for it to be made available to members.

Matthew Park and Bruce Cochrane have been tasked by Trefor Owen to undertake a light vehicle review for the FCW fleet. Chris Edwards conducted the last review in 2002. The NOC feels that CAPES and the FC Fleet should be included in the review. The NOC suggested this was an issue for Greenaways.

ACTION: Matthew to draft a question. **Kath** to speak with Ian Forshaw. **Kath** to raise formally at Staff Council if appropriate.

b) Efficiency Review

Kath attended the FCTUS Council Meeting in Silvan House on behalf of the Wales NOC. At this it was reported that the position with the Welsh Assembly budget for the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) would not be known until after the elections. Boyd Glen who negotiates on behalf of the FC with Treasury regarding the Efficiency Review joined the meeting. The good news is that FC will do all it can to secure a good deal.

c) NOC poster

Sue Gillingwater (TU Office in Silvan House) has kindly created a “who’s who on the NOC” poster. Need John Dodd’s photo and need to clarify Aled Jones’ role on the NOC. Andy says Aled wants to represent the fleet but is not prepared to take on a wider NOC rep role.

DECISION: Keep one T&G post vacant. Publish without John’s or Aled’s photo.

d) Clawdd Newydd

Kath asked Ian Forshaw to raise this with Peter Garson. No feedback as yet.

ACTION: Andy Phillips to ask question at Staff Council.

e) Staff visits abroad / exchanges

This was discussed at the previous NOC meeting, however the action is still pending as we have not had a Staff Council meeting.

Minutes from previous NOC state “Ian Forshaw has stated his support for this kind of work and opportunities are arising. However the NOC feels the process for staff to apply should be clear, e.g. who is eligible, where does the money come from? How is the learning consolidated?”

ACTION: Kath to thank Ian for his statement and to ask Clare at Staff Council what can be done to clarify the application processes.

f) Assessment Centres

ACTION: Who? To ask 1) when would we have feedback from the second assessment centre? 2) where will assessment centres be used in the future? What is the policy?

See Antony’s paper to GEC.

Staff are very interested.

g) FC Choices

ACTION: Antony to write out to members.

h) TRA / TP

In answer to the previous NOC meeting discussion.

TRA is the correct term (TP is no longer used). Staff in benefit of TRA will receive for the duration of the TRA an 8% increase of the max of their current pay scale. If the increase does not bring them to at least the minimum of the higher payband, then they are automatically placed on the minimum of the new scale.

i) Full time TU rep for Wales NOC

Please see Antony's paper to the GEC.

j) District level TU / Management meetings

Chris T suggests District level TU and Management meetings would be useful. **ACTION:** Chris T to draft a proposal for next NOC.

4. Health and Safety

This issue is still outstanding from previous meeting.

Andy P informed the NOC that Chris Tucker has taken over from John Dodd as NOC H&S coordinator.

Fil Wills has drawn up a list of TUS H&S reps.

ACTION: Kath to send list to ChrisT **Chris T** to liaise with Gordon Adams, draw up list and publicise.

5. New Assembly Building

Nant yr Arian and Penrhyn Coch staff will be joining the new building with the proviso that provision will be made for visitors.

ACTION: Kath to ask Kevin Jenkins for update.

6. Prospect Conference feedback

Barbara attended the Prospect Forestry Group Conference and briefed the NOC on some of the issues raised. Lord Clark attended and made the point that FC does not publicise itself enough. There was also a discussion on Choices; Prospect are waiting for additional information from Edward Shephard.

Please speak to Barbara Anglezarke if you would like more information.

7. Staffing Plan Review Group

Clare Lewis would like to revive the group that drafted the plan. Although Andy Fryers has resigned from the NOC, the group felt it would be appropriate for Andy to continue representing the TU side on the Review group. This may not be possible as Andy will be working part time. John Williams offered to take Andy's place if necessary.

ACTION: Kath to ask Andy.

8. NOC Resources: Support from Silvan House

Sue Gillingwater has offered extra support to the NOC. She will be meeting Antony and Kath on Thursday 15th March to discuss.

One suggestion is for TU office to monitor posting to the Internet and to notify the relevant NOC reps of relevant materials, another is for executive summaries of some of the papers that are circulated.

DECISION: ask Sue what she feels she can offer.

9. FC fleet: rumours

There is a rumour circulating that the FCW harvesting fleet is under threat. The staffing plan, recent and ongoing investment in the fleet as well as Directors support for DP would seem to indicate no foundation to the rumours.

ACTION: Raise at Staff Council in a positive manner

10. Any Other Urgent Business

Diversity Working Group

The Diversity Working Group held one meeting but nothing seems to have happened since then.

ACTION: Barbara to ask Ruth for an update and ask her what support she needs to take it forward.

Contact Centre working forum

Members have systematically raised the Contact Centre at local TU meetings as being a source of frustrations. Kath does not feel this is an issue for the TU. Suzanne has frequently asked staff to raise any issues directly with her. NOC suggests the setting up of some kind of forum to look at the difficulties and help find ways to resolve them.

ACTION: Kath to speak to Suzanne, make the suggestion to Staff Council.

Next Staff Council meeting: 19th March 2007. Participants will be Andy P, Kath McNulty, Chris Tucker

Next NOC meeting: 30th May 2007