

LANCASTER DISTRICT CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday, 23rd September, 2010.
Minutes

A. Lindis Percy's talk: Menwith Hill: Does Obama Still Want it?

The whole evening was chaired by Andrea King. We started with welcoming music from Celia Briar on her harp. Paul Andrews introduced Lindis Percy to an audience of around twenty people who then heard Lindis speak eloquently and movingly about the history of US bases in the UK, and her own attempts, through the establishment of CAAB (The Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases) to find out more about these bases, especially Menwith Hill, and to protest against their continued presence in England. She emphasised the importance of asking questions to get at the often 'awkward' truths, and of sharing any information gleaned. In particular she emphasised the importance of taking every opportunity, however unpromising it may appear, to talk to people about concerns over US bases, given her own experiences of unexpectedly positive reactions, some with far-reaching positive consequences for the campaign. Asked how LDCND could best support CAAB's work, Lindis noted national CND's strong anti-missile defence policy and suggested we work within that framework.

Lindis also encouraged people to go to Menwith Hill on Saturday, October 2nd to join in the "Who are the Invisibles?" protest being organised by CAAB as part of a Keep Space for Peace international week of protest.

The discussion was followed by Rob Brown demonstrating LDCND's website, during refreshments.

B. AGM Business Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Dick Allwright	Joint Secretary
Joan Allwright	Joint Secretary
Paul Andrews	Member
Graham Bartram	Newsletter Distribution Coordinator
Rob Brown	Press Officer
Gill Goodridge	Member
Audrey Harland	Newsletter Distribution Coordinator
Karen Heath	Newsletter Editor
Andrea King	Membership Secretary
Marilyn Tahernia	Member
Jean Wangermann	Treasurer

1. Apologies: Barbara Fairbairn, Graham Kemp, Cliff Laine.

2. The Minutes of the last AGM: accepted as accurate.

3. Matters arising:

A constitutional amendment (proposed by Dick Allwright and seconded by Graham Bartram) to delete the office of Chair, add the office of Education Officer, and institute formally our current practice of informally rotating the chairing of business meetings, was passed overwhelmingly. Paul Andrews accepted the role of Education Officer, having for some years organised our Reaching the Young work. (Copy of the revised constitution appended.)

4. Reports.

4.1 Chair. We have eliminated the office of chair so there was again no Chair's report. Instead the secretaries reported the activities of the past year on behalf of the Committee.

4.2 Joint Secretaries. The secretaries' report summarised (summary and full report appended) administrative matters, campaigning activities, and fund-raising, drawing attention to the good level of campaigning activity we maintained over the year.

4.3 Treasurer. There was a deficit of around £140.00 on the year, with continuing assets now below £1000.00. This was mostly due to our increasing expenditure on campaigning. If we felt we needed more ‘in the bank’ we would need to consider increasing our fund-raising activities.

The treasurer also noted that she had been advised that we need to look for a new person to scrutinise the accounts annually. Paul Andrews will contact someone he thinks will be able to help.

4.4 Press officer. Rob Brown reported his work - issuing press releases and managing the LDCND website, which now also hosts material from other groups in the Cumbria and Lancashire Area CND. Interest in the website has grown well, with 200 independent visitors each month, and is now international in scope.

4.5 Membership. Membership remains steady.

4.6 Reaching the Young. Paul Andrews reported a highly successful workshop with Bruce Kent and Anna Liddle and a group of 50+ local sixth-formers in Lancaster in December 2009. Other plans have had to be deferred until this autumn, when there will be a session with young Woodcraft Folk, and another session with Bruce Kent and Anna Liddle. We also hope to participate in the UNA’s December event for sixth-formers in Kendal, “Ground Zero: Charting a path to a nuclear weapons free world”, a simulated Security Council debate.

5. Campaigning priorities agreed for 2010-11.

- Stopping Trident.
- Reaching the Young.
- Opposition to Missile Defence and US bases in England.
- Broadening our campaigning base (eg through the Area CND groups, the Quakers, HANA, and UNA, etc.).
- Opposition to nuclear power (through HANA) by monitoring the situation on new-build and nuclear waste disposal.

6. Elections.

There was one resignation, of Rob Brown as Press Officer (including website management), but no nomination for his replacement. This Office is now vacant.

LDCND member Cliff Laine will be meeting with Rob with a view to taking over his role as Website Manager, and we look forward eventually to making that another position on the committee.

The 2010-11 committee will therefore be:

Dick Allwright	Joint Secretary
Joan Allwright	Joint Secretary
Paul Andrews	Education Officer
Graham Bartram	Newsletter Distribution Coordinator
Barbara Fairbairn	Newsletter Distribution Coordinator
Gill Goodridge	Member
Audrey Harland	Newsletter Distribution Coordinator
Karen Heath	Newsletter Editor
Graham Kemp	Member
Andrea King	Membership Secretary
Marilyn Tahernia	Member
Jean Wangermann	Treasurer

7. Date of next AGM and Business Meeting.

Following the suggestion that the date of the AGM should be put back to facilitate pre-AGM planning, the 2011 AGM was set for September 29th.

The next Business Meeting has been provisionally set for Thursday, November 4th, at 2 Laister Court, Bare Lane, Morecambe from 7.30pm. Since the AGM, Graham Bartrarm has kindly agreed to act as chair.

NB: During the meeting thanks were expressed to the Newsletter Editor, the Treasurer, the Secretaries, and especially to Rob Brown, retiring Press Officer. Heartfelt thanks also to Andrea King for chairing the entire evening.

Dick and Joan Allwright, Joint Secretaries, September 28th, 2010.