

LANCASTER DISTRICT CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

MINUTES OF BUSINESS MEETING, 4 NOVEMBER, 2010

Present: Dick Allwright (DA), Joan Allwright (JA), Graham Bartram (GB), Audrey Harland (AH), Karen Heath (KH), Jacky Skinner (JS).

The meeting was chaired by Graham Bartram.

1. Apologies: Graham Kemp (GK), Andrea King (AK), Cliff Laine (CL), Marilyn Tahernia (MT), Jean Wangermann (JW).

2. Agenda Review: Accepted with the amalgamation of 8.2.3 and 8.6.

3. Minutes: June and September Business Meetings minutes accepted. Minutes of September 24 AGM noted.

4. Matters arising or for report only.

4.1 Hiroshima/Nagasaki report: a good day with fine weather and good campaigning opportunities via crane-making, petition signing and responding to our £76Bn spending chart on Trident.

4.2 Menwith Hill report.

4.2.1 July 4th Independence from America demo: an excellent occasion, with fine music and humour, and an impressive reading of the American Declaration of Independence. Our gazebo was much appreciated by demonstrators.

4.2.2 October 2nd Who are the Invisibles? demo: disappointing turnout (partly due to major traffic problems), impressive Quaker silent vigil, brief blockade of main gate.

We noted there were no photos on the website of these events, and agreed to provide some. **Action DA, JS**

5. Correspondence.

We noted the very large quantity of correspondence since the last review at our July Business Meeting, the first three items of which had been received too late to be acted upon (see also 9.3 below).

5.1 August: an invitation to join Lancaster Quakers' Silent Vigil for Peace on August 4.

5.2 September: an invitation to join the Summer Gathering of Trident Ploughshares.

5.3 September: an invitation to a showing of "Beating the Bomb" in Manchester.

5.4 September: a letter from CNDUK urging us to organise a local showing of "Beating the Bomb".

5.5 June: e-mail from LDCVS detailing availability for hire of PowerPoint and other projection equipment.

5.6 The registration form for an upstairs table (costing £10) at the Green Christmas Fair in November, and two good posters for the event.

5.7 Notice of a Remembrance Day lecture in London on Nov 14 by Philippe Sands, on "War and Law".

5.8 Letter from CNDUK about new Scrap Trident campaigning materials, including a new petition.

5.9 Notification from CNDUK of three Early Day Motions (696, 825, 909) to ask local MPs to sign.

6. Literature received.

6.1 Newsletters from:

6.1.1 Blackpool and Fylde, Merseyside, and Scottish CND groups.

6.1.2 CAAB, CAAT, and CADU.

6.2 "Campaign" summer and autumn 2010 editions.

6.3 ICAN documents:

6.3.1 The Case for a Nuclear Weapons Convention (4 copies).

6.3.2 Securing our Survival (3 copies).

6.3.3 Twenty Questions on a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

6.3.4 ICAN Campaign Overview.

6.4 UK Uranium Weapons Network briefing document (downloaded).

6.5 CNDUK Briefing documents:

6.5.1 Trident, Jobs and the UK Economy (11 copies).

6.5.2 Replacing Trident (2 copies)

6.5.3 US Missile Defence.

6.5.4 Infant Leukaemia near Nuclear Power Stations (2 copies).

6.6 CNDUK Peace Education materials:

6.6.1 Under Pressure (2 copies).

6.6.2 Peace Education Pack.

6.7 Scottish CND document: Expeditionary War or Territorial Defence.

6.8 World Disarmament Campaign document: Beyond Obama: Priorities Towards Nuclear Abolition.

6.9 Yorkshire CND: a No to Nuclear Power postcard.

6.10 Notice of the Trident Ploughshares "Big Blockade" at Devonport on November 1.

6.11 Notice of a London demonstration on November 20: "Afghanistan: Time to Go," organised by CND, Stop the War and the British Muslim Initiative.

7. Officers' Reports: Treasurer JW reported assets of just over £900 (no significant change from June).

8. Matters for discussion and decision.

8.1 *AGM Review:* the group was slightly larger than last year, and having a guest speaker was judged a good idea. Lindis Percy's talk: "Menwith Hill: Does Obama still want it?" was very well received as highly informative. We agreed to send feedback to Lindis, as she had requested, with a £50 donation to CAAB.

Action DA, JW

Next year we plan to present our AGM activity report with photos using PowerPoint. **Action DA/JA**

8.2 *Planning for the Green Christmas Fair:*

1. Setting up: DA/JA, GB and AH will be there at 09.30.

2. Bringing produce: JA will bring cakes and AH jam. We will contact GG and JW re jams and fudge.

3. Bringing campaign materials: DA/JA will bring new Scrap Trident petitions and briefing documents, etc. KH will bring Scrap Trident postcards. Briefing documents will be obtained from CNDUK. **Action JA**

4. Collecting petition signatures: GB, AH and JS volunteered, with others expected on the day.

5. Looking after the stall. GB and JW will only be available for the morning, KH from midday.

6. Packing up: DA, JA, KH and AH will be there at the end.

8.3 *Reaching the Young*: In the absence of the Education Officer we could only discuss the arrangements for the Dec 7 UNA debate, in Kendal. DA described the plans for the event and the current situation regarding Anna Liddle's possible participation. Given the lack of a strong role for her it does not seem sensible for her to attend. DA/JA will attend and can offer lifts to others, if required.

8.4 *National Conference and AGM*: A full report was circulated in advance by DA. DA/JA attended the National Conference and AGM. They especially appreciated the liveliness of the AGM debates. One resolution (strengthening CND's support for the UN) had been particularly problematic for members of Blackpool and Fylde CND. It was very hotly debated, but did eventually pass (with amendments), with consequences for the viability of the Blackpool and Fylde group (see 8.5 below).

8.5 *Cumbria and Lancashire Area CND developments*: the next area meeting is being arranged for the week beginning December 6, at Joan West's house in Great Harwood. Representatives from East Lancashire, North Cumbria and Lancaster District CND groups have agreed to attend, with Thursday 9th preferred by LDCND members, and acceptable to the others. Given the resignation from the Blackpool and Fylde committee of Ken Gorman, and the likely resignations of both Alan and Jean Johnson (all in response to the passing of the resolution noted in 8.4 above), it is not clear if Blackpool and Fylde will be represented, but Ann Mortimer has been approached, and JS offered to give her a lift from Blackpool to Great Harwood.

Action DA, JS

8.6 *New Anti-Trident petition*: covered under 8.2 above.

8.7 *HANA and nuclear new-build developments*: we had no time to fully discuss the recently vastly increased e-mail activity on this topic by Rachel Western and Gisela Renolds in particular. JS very kindly agreed to monitor these developments, alert others as required, and to report at business meetings. **Action JS**

8.8 *Website management arrangements*: Cliff Laine has suggested several possible dates for a meeting with Committee members. DA will propose November 9, at 29 Vincent Street, to view the website and discuss Cliff's possible contribution to it. RB will be informed in the hope that he will be able to attend. **Action DA**

8.9 *Newsletter Distribution reorganisation*: we agreed a meeting would have to wait for AK's return to Lancaster. Any meeting to discuss reorganisation will need all distributors to attend if at all possible. DA/JA and JS offered to help with GG's widely spread distribution route.

8.10 *Next Newsletter issue*: we agreed a four-page edition by the end of November. GB and JA offered to help with material, drafting, and proofreading. **Action KH, GB, JA**

9. AOB:

9.1 We agreed to send cards to Joan West and Marilyn Tahernia. **Action JA/DA**

9.2 We agreed to ask BF if she would be willing to monitor such CND communications as requests to contact MPs about Early Day Motions, and other opportunities for letter-writing campaigns. **Action DA/JA**

9.3 Concerned that much of the literature sent to LDCND goes unread, JA asked people to take away any literature of interest to them.

9.4 DA asked for consideration to be given to setting up a public screening of *Beating the Bomb*, perhaps with Dave Webb (current CNDUK Chair) or Kate Hudson (now General Secretary) as speakers.

10. *Date and chair for next business meeting*: Thursday, February 17, 2011, from 7.30pm, at 2 Laister Court, Bare Lane, Morecambe.

Dick and Joan Allwright, Joint Secretaries