

NUT General Secretary Election 2004

elect MARTIN POWELL-DAVIES

PAY: National Strike Action needed



Clarke throws down the gauntlet

Charles Clarke and the Review Body have thrown down the gauntlet to us on pay.

Their proposals threaten the setting of fragmented local pay, the blocking of pay progression beyond UPS 3 to all but the chosen few, as well as the cutting back of Management Allowances. Perhaps worst of all, they want every teacher's pay rise to be performance-related, even on the main scale.

Faced with inadequate budgets, schools will use these measures to ration pay. "Teaching-to-the-test" will become even more rife as colleagues compete to show who has the "best" results. Unless we respond urgently, staffrooms will be divided and union action undermined.

Failed by our leadership

It was the failure of our present Union leadership to decisively oppose performance pay when it was first introduced that has encouraged the Government to act.

Unlike them, Martin Powell-Davies, as one of the main organisers of School Teachers Opposed to Performance Pay

(STOPP), worked to build a serious opposition to PRP. He also helped build the two solid days of strike action over London Allowances in 2002.

At Martin's initiative, STOPP organised a lively demonstration through London in 2000. If elected to NUT General Secretary, Martin would call for another protest – but this time with the full-backing of the NUT. Such a mass demonstration would be the first step in launching a campaign of national industrial action to oppose these attacks on our pay and to demand the restoration of teachers' negotiating rights.

Build a national one day strike

Given the scale of the threats we face, Martin believes that the Union needs to prepare a campaign to win a ballot for a one-day national strike.

The action over pay in London showed that where the Union gives a lead, members will respond. A serious national campaign linking both the need for pay rises to match the escalating costs of bills, mortgages and council tax, and the need to defeat divisive PRP, would gain support.

But to convince NUT members that, this time, the Union is serious about defending members, a new leadership is needed. A victory for Martin Powell-Davies would be a decisive step in making that change.

Oppose Performance Pay and the Pay Freeze

"The latest pay 'deal' threatens a future where our salaries are determined by questionable judgements of performance, instead of according to experience and responsibilities. I would organise a national demonstration as a first step in a campaign of action to defend our pay and conditions"

Martin Powell-Davies

Instead of receiving mailings offering them loans and credit cards, if Martin Powell-Davies was General Secretary, NUT members would be sent publicity explaining the Government's attacks – and what the Union was going to do about them.

If properly built for like this, a national demonstration could help lift the spirits and confidence of NUT members and prepare the way for the national action that will be needed to defeat the threats to teachers' pay and pensions.

To find out more about Martin's campaign:

<http://elect-martin.tripod.com> email: martinpd_uk@yahoo.co.uk tel: 07946 445488



Vote for Change

Vote Martin Powell-Davies

your pension or your health?

build a united trade union campaign

Our pensions are our right. They are part of the wages that we have earned over many years – years of stressful work that have left many teachers desperately waiting for retirement.

But the threatened changes mean that, in future, teachers will be faced with an impossible choice between their health and their pension. Many will be forced to work on until they are 65 to be able to afford to retire. This is the thanks we get for keeping underfunded schools going. We have to fight as hard to oppose these threats to our pension as we would any salary cut. Neither must we let the Government “divide-and-rule” by their attempt to phase-in changes so that older teachers are less seriously affected. We must also campaign for the reversal of the changes to the pension scheme that have made early retirement so hard to obtain.

Taking a stand as a Trade Union

As General Secretary, Martin Powell-Davies would make sure the NUT took its place alongside unions like the PCS, the Civil Servants' Union, who also have a new leadership standing for change. At the initiative of the PCS, the Trades Union Congress agreed to a national day of action to oppose the threats to pensions. In response, the TUC have now called a national demonstration on Saturday 19th June.

Left to the TUC leaders, this will be nothing like the day of action we need. But, built by Local Associations, this can help to build united activity between NUT members and fellow trade unionists over pensions. It can be a platform for the joint union struggle that Martin would work for if elected.

elect martin campaign meeting saturday 24 april 11.30am-2.30pm

Lucas Arms Pub, Grays Inn Road, Kings Cross, London

Every supporter of the Elect Martin Campaign is welcome to attend this meeting to help decide the priorities and activities that can help win a vote for change in June.

TUC Pensions Demonstration Saturday 19th June March to Rally in Trafalgar Square

A mood for action over pensions

Martin's stand in the General Secretary campaign has already helped sharpen debate within the Union over the way forward for teachers. Not surprisingly, the issue of pensions has been high on members' priorities in the hustings meetings that have been held so far. Perhaps the largest meeting of all was held in Bolton where 67 NUT members attended. They voted unanimously to conduct an indicative ballot to see if there was support for strike action on this issue. This is one example of how a mood can develop to take the industrial action agreed by Conference in 2003.

NUT Associations have already started to strengthen links with other unions as part of the joint pensions campaign. As General Secretary, Martin Powell-Davies would encourage this unity, at both a national and local level, in order to build the kind of united action that has already been taken by trade unionists in France and Austria against similar threats.

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