

**MINUTES OF NORTH WEST INTERGROUP MEETING HELD AT
CATTERALL VILLAGE HALL, GARSTANG ROAD, CATTERALL, PR3 1XN
ON SUNDAY 8th February 2026 at 11:00 am**

THE NWIG BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS ARE: -	
Name of Bank	Unity Trust Bank
Name of Account	North West Intergroup
Sort Code	60 – 83 - 01
Account Number	20464532

OFFICERS PRESENT in the room:

Chair	Phil H	1
Secretary	Chris D	2
Vice-Chair (and Region Rep 2)	Catherine C	3
ECLO	Neil D	4
HLO	Nigel C	5
Public Information Liaison Officer	Adam	6
Region Rep 3	Jim F	7
YPLO	Ed B	8

GSRS PRESENT in the room:

Adam D	Tarleton Friday	PILO
Cal C	Carnforth Tuesday	9
Chris D	Settle	Secretary
Chris L	Warwick Bridge (Near Carlisle)	10
Ed B	Leyland Young Persons meeting	YPLO
Elaine C	Lancaster Women	11
James F	Lindale Sunday	12
Jess F	Lancaster Arch to Freedom	13
Jim F	Longridge	Region Rep 3
Jim T	Bartle Beginners (And former Hon Treasurer of the Board)	14
Jo W	Kendal Monday	15
John M	Lancaster Wed	16
Liza	Windermere	17
Michael A	Chorley - Monday	18
Neil D	Morecambe Wednesday St Marys Reflection	ECLO
Nick S	Lancaster Monday	19
Nigel	Fleetwood	HLO
Paul C	Morecambe, St Marys Sunday	20
Phil H	Garstang Friday	Chair
Rob S	Kendal Saturday	21
Simon	Morecambe Newcomers	22

VISITORS PRESENT in the room: -

Derek H	Leyland	23
Jeff H	Morecambe St Marys Wednesday	24
Michael D	Kendal	25
Richard F	Garstang Monday and Friday	26
Suzie S	Longridge	27
Tracy	Carnforth Tuesday	28

ATTENDING REMOTELY: -

	GSR/OFFICER = VOTING RIGHTS	Visitor From	
Dawn	-	Lancaster	29
Duncan	REGION REP 1	-	30
Gemma	GSR Barrow	-	31

1) **INTRODUCTION: -**

Welcome	By Phil.
Thanks to the provider of technical support	ECLO Neil.
Thanks to the refreshment helper	Richard and others.
Preamble	Read by Phil.
Traditions	Read by Cal.
Declaration of Unity	Read by Paul.
Aims of Intergroup	Read by Jim T.
Responsibility Statement	Read by Nigel.
Number of members present	28 in the room + 3 joined remotely. Grand Total 31. Of which 7 were visitors. 6 in the room + 1 online.
Number of members with voting rights	23 raised hands in the room + 2 online = 25. 25 x 2/3 = 17. (This should have been 22 in the room + 2 online = 24: 24 x 2/3 = 16)
Signing in sheet	Phil reminded all to sign in please.

- 2) Clarification of who can vote at NWIG and count of those present with voting rights – including those zooming in.
Voting rights: Hands up = 25.

THE POT WAS PASSED AT THIS POINT: Thank you, Neil, for standing in for Jed our treasurer today and dealing with this.

3) **AGM: -**a) **LIAISON OFFICERS SERVICE DATES:**

- i) Circulated in advance of the meeting.
See the chart. (Paper 2026/1)
- ii) How many vacant service positions are there now at NWIG?
Five. Keep advertising them.
- iii) Are we doing all we can to fill the vacant service positions?
We constantly advertise the vacant positions and encourage members to come forward for service. Hopefully the Service Workshop in March will result in more positions being filled.

b) **LIAISON OFFICER BUDGETS:**

- i) See the NWIG budget circulated before the meeting.
(Paper 2026/2)
- ii) Each LO's annual budget is for routine expenditure.
Special items can be approved additionally.
- iii) Are the proposed LO's budgets agreed?
RESOLVED: The LO's budgets are approved.

c) **NWIG BUDGET 2026:** To approve the draft budget.
(This dictates the Prudent Reserve figure for NWIG)

RESOLVED: Budget approved.

- d) PRUDENT RESERVE:
As determined by the agreed budget.
RESOLVED: The NWIG Prudent Reserve is £1,862.50 – so round up to £2,000 for ease of reference.
- e) **SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCE:**
- i) Please note that group information that is submitted to GSO is NOT shared with NWIG. It's against the GDPR rules.
- ii) How many of the groups registered with NWIG has the Secretary made contact with?
Secretary has made contact with 68 out of the 74 groups currently registered with NWIG = 92%.
Contact details for the following 6 meetings are missing: -
- 1) Farrington Newcomers.
 - 2) Chorley Online.
 - 3) Cumbria Online.
 - 4) Preston Bamber Bridge One Day at a Time.
 - 5) Southport Share (Sunday)
 - 6) Whitehaven.
- iii) How many groups sent a GSR/group representative to NWIG during the year 2025?
During 2025 a total of 42 groups sent a GSR/group rep to NWIG = 57% of the total 74 groups.
Some groups only sent a GSR once in the year (16 groups), some twice in the year (8 groups), some three times (8 groups), and some to all four IG meetings (10 groups).
- iv) Every group should update its pink form annually.
A request to do so, with a link to the pink form, was circulated by the Secretary to all groups on 10/02/2025, and again on 10/01/2026.
- 4) To receive apologies. Apologies have been received from: -
1. Treasurer – Jed.
 2. TLO – Debs.
 3. Lindsay – Bartle Beginners.
 4. Tom – Garstang Monday.
 5. Paul – Carlisle Topic.
- A late apology was also received from Terry W – Chorley St Chads.
- 5) To agree the minutes of the NWIG meeting of 9th November 2025. (Papers 2026/3 and 4)
Proposed by: Jim F.
Seconded by: Nigel.
RESOLVED: That the minutes of 9th November 2025 are accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
- 6) **Chair's Report: -**
- a) To receive the chair's report. (Paper 2026/5)
As circulated before the meeting, and: -
- **The members of AA are the ONLY funders. This is in accordance with the Disposition Act 1986.**
 - We do not accept contributions from outside organisations or individuals.
 - For example, we do not shake collection tins in the street like other charities.
 - All of the finances come from contributions from members and book sales. (Note from Chris: Page 100 of the Structure Handbook 2025/2026 says *Money, whatever its source, is AA money and should be spent only to further our primary purpose of helping the still suffering alcoholic. All who are trusted with the responsibility of handling AA money at every level should remind themselves constantly of this simple traditional principle.*)
 - **Perhaps the Charity Commission are not fully aware of this fact. It is worth emphasising.**
- b) Update regarding the complaint to the Charity Commission (CC). (Paper 2026/6)
Copy of the complaint and the response circulated before the meeting.
There was a lengthy discussion about the decision not to investigate by the CC. The main points were: -
- There was wide spread disappointment that the CC will not be investigating.
 - It was pointed out that the complaint was submitted by NWIG, but that any individual can personally submit a complaint should they so wish.
 - It was suggested that IG should consider producing a template of the complaint to enable members to do so.

- Barrow group wished to know if the CC has conducted an audit. No, that is not their function. An audit is conducted annually by an external firm of accountants, at the fellowships expense. The 2023 audit red flagged nine issues and orange flagged five more.
 - Suzie (Conference Delegate) explained that she had been obliged to resign from the NWR Forum Committee because her position in that role was unsustainably after the Trustees vilified NWIG for asking the various questions that it did about the lack of financial transparency.
 - It was stressed that financial transparency is the only thing that is being sought, that there is no blame culture. Facts are all that are being requested.
 - An online participant reported that the government.com website advised that there is a month to object to the response from the CC, and that the customer care team will look into it.
 - It was agreed that although very strong feelings were expressed in the NWIG meeting of November 2025 that nobody was bullied. This can be absolutely confirmed by reading the minutes. And several of the online visitors have reported back to their own Regions, that reports that Trustees were bullied at NWIG are untrue.
 - It was reported that the questions put to the trustees at the Nov NWIG meeting were “direct but accurate”, and it was thought that the problem appears to lie with an Hon Treasurer who is not coping with the demands of the role.
 - One member noted that although we can control how we behave at NWIG, we cannot control how it is received.
 - It was reported that it is highly inappropriate for the General Secretary to have written to the NWIG Chairman expressing his view of events when he was not present at the meeting, and BEFORE he had received the minutes, and BEFORE he was aware that the entire meeting was recorded on zoom.
 - It was stressed that at the heart of the problem is the fact that the Trustees agree to do things, and then totally fail to do so. (Eight quarterly financial statements that are correct and add up were promised at the Nov 2025 NWIG meeting, but have not been supplied. Copies of the accounts for earlier years in which the Prudent Reserve was in deficit were promised at the Nov 2025 NWIG meeting, but have not been supplied. The polite reminders sent by the Secretary have been totally ignored, not even acknowledged.)
 - It was reported that the total lack of preparation for the Nov NWIG meeting by the trustees is shocking and a massive cause for concern. As are the problems created when Board members agreed to do something and then blatantly do not do so – how is anybody supposed to move forward in a constructive way in these circumstances?
 - There was a discussion about the mechanism for a vote of no confidence in the Board:
 - In theory it is technically possible to have a vote of no confidence in the Board. (Note from Chris. I have reproduced the relevant section of the Structure Handbook at the end of these minutes for your information).
 - In practice it is difficult to see how it would ever be considered because it is next to impossible to get any Question for Conference that the Board does not like accepted.
 - Apart from which this would be a very serious step and would it really be in the best interest of the fellowship? We don't want the fellowship to fold.
 - It was reported that in the USA all GSRs get to vote at Conference, and not just a small number of Conference delegates. A similar arrangement in the UK could prevent some of the terrible difficulties with the Board from arising, but in the absence of this arrangement in the UK, the only power that dissatisfied groups/IG's/Regions have is the power of the purse, i.e. withholding contributions.
 - The question of fraud was touched upon, with a member asking, “if we don't know what all this money has been spent on, do we actually know that there has *not* been fraud?”. Technically, as the Board are refusing to disclose sufficient detail of the expenditure to restore members faith in what's happened to it and what use its been put to, we don't categorically know that there has not been fraud. But it was stressed that there is no evidence of fraud and no reason to think that there has been fraud. What a great shame it is that the Board did not just circulate the eight quarterly financial statements that have been corrected and actually add up, to put this concern to rest. And they could so easily do so.
 - How many groups, Intergroups and Regions are withholding money? We do not know. But the Chair of the Board, Jo, said this at the Annual Region Chairs meeting in York in July 2025, *some IGs and Regions are still holding funds and are reluctant to pass down the structure*. This is minuted and is absolute confirmation that NWIG are not the only assembly withholding donations because of the continued lack of transparency.
 - We were reminded that all officers, including Board Trustees, are Trusted Servants who do not govern.
- c) Update regarding the “serious incident report” made by GSB to the Charity Commission about NWIG.
- The Board has never at any time informed NWIG that a serious incident report had been submitted to the CC. We heard it through the grapevine, which is absolutely disgusting.

- The copy of the “Statement from the Board” regarding the serious incident report that has been circulated to NWIG by other Regions is unsigned, undated, not on letter headed paper, is atrociously written and very confusingly reads as though it was actually written by NWIG. All in all it is a remarkably shoddy piece of work.
 - The NWR Trustee, Ange, agreed at the NWR meeting on 7th December 2025 to send a copy of the serious incident report to NWIG immediately. She agreed to send it on Monday 8th December 2025. She did not do so.
 - NWR requested a copy of the serious incident report from the Board and the request has been refused.
- d) Update regarding the treatment of NWIG by GSO/GSB. (Paper 2026/7)
- You have all seen the letter that the General Secretary sent to the Chair of NWIG immediately after the 07/11/25 meeting.
 - Note that it is written by somebody:
 - Who was not at the meeting themselves, so has no first-hand knowledge of events,
 - States as fact the opinion of *three* of the total *fifty-nine* attendees,
 - Made no attempt whatsoever to hear the account of events/opinions of the other 56 members present at that meeting,
 - Did not wait for the minutes to be received before judging the matter.
 - Incredibly, the Board appear to not be speaking to NWIG. Every email sent to them since November has been ignored.
- e) Closure of neighbouring IG’s – to discuss the impact on NWIG and how to deal with.
CARRY FORWARD TO NEXT AGENDA.
- f) Any other matters arising. **PROPOSALS:** -
1. That the Secretary composes a brief account/explanation of why NWIG is withholding funds (5 or 6 lines) and circulates it to all IG’s. Leaving them to decide whether to take similar action or ignore, as they see fit.
VOTE:
For 24.
RESOLVED: That the Secretary will send a brief explanation of why NWIG is withholding funds to all IG’s.
 2. That the Secretary writes back to the Charity Commission asking to whom a complaint about mis-management of funds should be directed?
VOTE:
For 24.
RESOLVED: That the Secretary will write to the Charity Commission asking for guidance on who can deal with a complaint of mismanagement of funds by the Charity.
 3. That the Secretary asks for a copy of the Serious Incident Report from the Charity Commission under the Freedom of Information Act.
VOTE:
For 21.
RESOLVED: That the Secretary will request a copy of the Serious Incident Report from the Charity Commission.
- 7) **Secretary’s Report and any matters arising.** (Paper 2026/8)
Report Received. No matters arising.
- 8) **Region Reports: -**
- a) To receive the Minutes of the Region meeting of 7th December 2025. (Paper 2026/9)
Minutes Received.
 - b) To receive reports from the NWIG Reps to Region and to deal with any matters arising.
Nothing to add to the minutes from the Region meeting at this time.
- 9) To consider proposals from groups for expenditure on projects to reach the still suffering alcoholics.
NONE RECEIVED.
- 10) **Liaison Officer Reports** and matters arising: -
- a) Archivist (Charlie).
 - **No report received.**
 - b) Electronic Communication LO (Neil). (Paper 2026/11)
 - **Report received. As read.**

- c) Health LO (Nigel). (Paper 2026/12)
- **Report received. As read. No questions.**
- d) Prison LO (VACANT: Phil covering). (Paper 2026/13)
- **Report received. As read.**
- e) Public Information LO (Adam). (Paper 2026/14)
- **Report received. As read.**
- f) Telephone LO (Debs). (Paper 2026/15)
- **Report Received. As read.**
- g) Young Persons LO (Ed). (Paper 2026/16)
- **Report Received. As read.**
- 11) **Reports from Sub-Committees: -**
- a) Service Workshop Sub-committee. (Catherine)
- It was reported that the event will take place on Saturday 21st March 2026.
 - Time is from 12pm to 4.
 - First half of the day will be on zoom.
 - Helpers please come forward and contact Catherine.
 - There is a shortage of male speakers, especially on the traditions. Please consider speaker and contact Catherine.
 - Please send your “service story” to Chris L – there are flyers about this to take and distribute please.
 - There are also flyers about the actual event to take away today and distribute at your groups.
 - **BOOK ONTO THE WORKSHOP for in person places please.**
- b) NWIG Convention Committee – Has anybody come forward to form a Committee for this?
- **Carry forward to next agenda.**
 - **Take back to groups. If you want a NWIG Convention, come forward and form a committee.**

Nominations for vacant service positions: - (See the Service Handbook for details of the roles and requirements).

12) a)	Employment Liaison Officer.	None.
b)	NWIG 2026 Convention Convenor.	None.
c)	Prison Liaison Officer.	None.
d)	Probation Liaison Officer.	None.
e)	Share Liaison Officer.	None.
f)	North West Lancashire and Cumbria Telephone Service (NWL&CTS) committee members. (There should be six and there is currently one)	None.
g)	Tea person for NWIG meetings	Suzie C.
h)	ASLO.	None.

Please take details of all vacant roles back to groups.

- 13) Election of Officers: -
- **Suzie C was elected as refreshment person for NWIG meeting.** Thank you, Suzie, for stepping forward and taking this service position on.
- 14) **GSR Reports.** (Paper 2026/17)
- Reports received and circulated. **As read.**
 - No matters arising.
- 15) Any Other Business: -
- None.**

- 16 Finance: -
- a) To receive the Treasurer's Report. (Paper 2026/18)
- The Treasurer's report was circulated on 07/02/2026.
 - The bank balance is £22,112.29.
 - The Prudent Reserve is £2,000.00 (rounded).
- b) To consider making a contribution of £1,000 to NWR to cover the insurance and conference delegate costs.
The proposal was to make a contribution of £1,000 to NWR.
VOTE:
 For: 23.
 Against and/or abstain: 1.
 Total: 24.
RESOLVED: Treasurer to make a contribution of £1,000 to NWR.
- c) To consider sending the excess of surplus funds over £1,000 to Region, or to continue to withhold.
The proposal was to continue to withhold the excess of surplus funds over £1,000.
VOTE:
 For: 21.
 Against: 2.
 Abstention: 1.
 Total: 24.
RESOLVED: To withhold the surplus funds over £1,000 at this time.

- 17) **Dates and times of next meetings:**
- a) 10/05/2026.
 - b) 09/08/2026.
 - c) 08/11/2026.

The meeting then moved on to discuss the

QUESTIONS FOR CONFERENCE 2026: -

As published in the 2025 Winter edition of the AA Service News, available on the website, and circulated to all GSR's and group contacts on 10/01/2026.

Notes for GSRs to take back to groups:

- **Let Catherine C know asap if you can contribute to the Service Workshop. Particularly men to speak in the afternoon.**
- Submit your group report at least TWO WEEKS BEFORE the next IG meeting.
- Broadcast that NWIG would be delighted to hear from the remaining groups for which we don't have contacts at the moment.
- Think about visiting Region – especially if you are considering becoming a Region Rep.
- Please put your group number on contribution's to NWIG so that they can be identified. Group ID in banking reference - please put in the first 4 or 5 characters of the reference
- Bring specific proposals to NWIG on how to use the surplus funds to reach the still suffering, along with details of exactly how you and your group will actively participate in doing so. Include costings for the proposal.
- If you have items to be added to the micro site, send them to the ECLo at ecommm.nwest@aamail.org
- Everybody interested in establishing a hospital 12-step list in their own area contact Nigel the HLO at health.nwest@aamail.org
- Consider visiting a prison meeting to share. (Contact Chairman Phil)
- Consider becoming a telephone responder. (Contact TLO Debs)

- Consider adding your name to the 12-step list. (TLO Debs)
- Ask everybody to speak a little about their own service work and the way in which this has contributed to their sobriety when sharing in meetings.
- Announce all the vacant service positions at NWIG at your groups.

Actions to be added to the list of ongoing actions from this meeting: -

- Treasurer: To make a contribution of £1000.00 to NWR.
- CARRY FORWARD TO NEXT AGENDA.
 - Closure of neighbouring IG's – to discuss the impact on NWIG and how to deal with.
 - NWIG Convention – who will form a committee?
- Secretary: Write to all other IG's about NWIG withholding funds.
- Secretary: Write to CC about where complaint of mismanagement of funds should be directed.
- Secretary: Write to CC for copy of the Serious Incident Report under FOI.

For reference: Pages 152 and 153, Structure Handbook 2025.

3. The Conference Charter – Great Britain

Adopted by the General Service Conference, Great Britain, 1995

Article 4. Conference relation to the General Service Board and its corporate services

Since 1966 Conference has been for all practical purposes the voice and the effective conscience of the Fellowship in Great Britain. A quorum of Conference shall consist of two thirds of all the Conference members registered. Conference decisions will be addressed by the General Service Board as the body responsible for any action that may be required as a result of resolutions approved by Conference.

To give effect to this purpose, and as a matter of tradition, it will be understood that a simple majority vote by Conference constitutes a recommendation to the General Service Board to take any necessary action; and that a two-thirds vote of the Conference shall be considered binding upon the General Service Board (provided that in each case the total vote cast constitutes at least a Conference quorum), except where this shall conflict with the General Service Board's legal obligations as a charitable company; and no such vote ought to impair the legal rights of the General Service Board and the service entities to conduct routine business and make ordinary contracts.

It will be further understood, regardless of the legal prerogative of the General Service Board, as a matter of tradition, that a three-quarters vote of all Conference members may bring about a reorganisation of the General Service Board and the directors and staff members of its service entities if or when such reorganisation is deemed essential.

Under such a proceeding the Conference may request resignations, may nominate new trustees, and may make all other necessary arrangements regardless of the legal prerogatives of the General Service Board.

Pages 152 and 153, Structure Handbook 2025.