

In Touch

NUJ members

October 12, 2009

Number 1

RESPECTED EX-GENERAL SECRETARY BACKS ALL-ROUNDER FOR EDITOR'S CHAIR



Kevin Cooper Photoline

Foster's favourite is Tim Arnold



Nail Gear

John Foster

Tim Arnold

THE election to be editor of the NUIJ's magazine, the Journalist, has taken a dramatic turn with former General Secretary John Foster entering the debate to back his chosen candidate, Tim Arnold.

John Foster released a statement from his Dorset home saying: "I am backing Tim Arnold because he is the best candidate for the job. I urge all NUIJ members to vote for him."

"He has the right mix of skills from his local newspaper and subsequent broadcasting background to make an immediate improvement to the union's communications

from day one – especially its on-line presence, without having to hire in expensive consultants.

"Tim Arnold has sat alongside me in national negotiations with employers, helped to deal with personal cases, and has accompanied me to the conciliation service, ACAS, on behalf of members.

"So he has the right combination of industrial relations experience, reporting skills, and broadcast production knowledge to provide a real boost to the union's efforts from a standing start."

Tim Arnold says: "I am immensely proud to win the backing of one of the union's most

respected former general secretaries. I will do everything that I can to live up to the high expectations of John and every NUIJ member."

Tim Arnold is the only candidate with the skills to single-handedly deliver on the following pledges:

- give every sector its own regular magazine in PDF format;
- introduce daily podcasts to improve the website;
- maintain the award-winning print edition of the Journalist.



Moi Ali

Top Scots writer lends her support

Tim Arnold has a long track record defending trade union members who are being victimised at work.

He fought a campaign against a public body which routinely bullied people – with the result that the chief executive resigned after the case was aired in Parliament.

One of the victims was the leading Scottish writer Moi Ali.

"I am most grateful to Tim Arnold for the support he gave me during a discrimination case against a public body. He advised me to re-join the NUIJ, and he showed genuine concern for me and for the issues that my case raised. He gave up his time to be supportive

and I'm aware that he was also supporting another member in the same organisation, again offering a huge amount of his personal time for someone else's benefit."

Tim Arnold is a former joint vice-chair of the Disabled Members Council and earlier this year successfully campaigned for the European Parliament to introduce access rights for 60m people throughout the EU in a programme called "Petra's Law."

He was a co-founder of the Corporate Social Responsibility Foundation, launched by cabinet member Hilary Benn MP in 2004, to oppose plans to transfer hundreds of thousands of British jobs to low wage economies abroad.

VOTE TIM ARNOLD... because professional journalists deserve professional communications

Election latest

How to get more for less



*Tim Arnold is the only candidate with the production skills to single-handedly deliver on **all** the following commitments to:*

- *introduce daily podcasts to improve the NUJ web site;*
- *give every sector its own regular magazine in PDF format;*
- *maintain the award-winning print edition of the Journalist.*

The new editor of the Journalist has a daunting task: how to improve communications for members with fewer resources. Cutbacks throughout the union have already resulted in some organisers leaving their jobs. So there is no extra money available to pull in more people to help with podcasts, or other web-delivered radio and television streams.

As a newspaper journalist who subsequently trained in broadcast production, Tim Arnold is unique among the candidates in that he alone has the proven craft skills to single-handedly write copy; take photographs; edit them in Adobe Photoshop; lay-out pages in Adobe In-Design; shoot high quality video; light a film set; record and edit sound and video, and present broadcast programmes. Tim Arnold was the launch consultant for Amicus the Union's highly acclaimed podcasts for 1m members.

Former BBC presenter and producer Guy Roberts says: "I am backing Tim Arnold to be the next editor of the Journalist because he alone is the only candidate who has the skill set to produce multi-media content single-handedly for the NUJ – to network standards. The current webcasts are dismal: poorly edited, badly shot, and sometimes impossible to comprehend. We deserve better for our subscriptions. This shambles should not be allowed. It is an affront to our profession."

Quote, unquote...

John Terrett, Washington correspondent, international tv network: "Tim Arnold is a fine journalist. He has a superb track record of working at some of the world's biggest news organisations, such as Associated Press, the BBC, Reuters, and Sky. He is a class act."

John Foster, former NUJ General Secretary: "Tim Arnold has a unique position in the trade union movement for helping everyone – from individual members, to F/MOCs, and general secretaries of other unions – to use the media to get social justice. Tim will always give the best professional advice. So we listen to his views. I hope all NUJ members will have the good sense to follow our example."

Debbie Smith, charity press officer: "Having worked with Tim Arnold, I know he has a demonstrable record in fighting for the rights of minorities, not least in the field of equal pay for women."

Alex Ritson, BBC business news journalist and former Newsnight reporter: "Tim Arnold has a track record of defending public sector broadcasting in general, and the BBC in particular. His work as an on-the-road-reporter during the Troubles in Northern Ireland proves he is an excellent journalist. Tim Arnold is exactly the right person to become the next editor of the Journalist."

Kenny Ward, Lead Amicus/Unite shop steward during the Lindsey Oil Dispute: "Tim Arnold's unique mixture of journalism and broadcasting production skills was a key reason why the Amicus Podcast was the first weekly trade union programme to be successfully transmitted over the internet. Tim Arnold's input transformed the effectiveness of the union's communications. He played a significant role in helping us to win at Lindsey."

Mike Bartlett, freelance photographer: "The best advice Tim Arnold ever gave me was to join the NUJ. Photographers like me know that we need someone as editor of the Journalist who understands our unique problems – and will give us support when we need it. Tim Arnold has proved on numerous occasions that he will do that."

Gary Curtis, GMTV: "Our chapel thanks Tim Arnold for the important role he played in helping the NUJ in its 15 year struggle for recognition at the company. He has been a superb advocate for members. Many of us owe our jobs to him."

Eamonn Rafferty, Financial Times: "I have known Tim Arnold for more than 20 years. His commitment to journalism and the trade union movement has always impressed me. Tim Arnold would be a superb editor of the Journalist. He is the best candidate by a mile."

Vote...



The NUJ election to decide the editor of the Journalist uses proportional representation. You have up to eight votes. We recommend that you put the figure 1 beside Tim Arnold as your first candidate. Then the figure 2 next to Mark Watts as your second candidate. Industrial action by the Communications Workers Union has delayed delivery of many ballot forms. Contact vote@arnoldstrategy.com if you haven't received one yet.

Note

The campaign committee thanks all those who have contributed to electing Tim Arnold as editor of the Journalist. Picture of John Foster by Kevin Cooper. Tim Arnold picture by Neil Gear.