

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE** 29 June 2004

**NUT elects new General Secretary**

Steve Sinnott ([biography attached](#)) has been elected as the new General Secretary of Britain's biggest teachers' union, the National Union of Teachers.

Under Union rules, Mr Sinnott takes over immediately from Doug McAvoy, General Secretary of the Union for the last 15 years.

Mr Sinnott was elected under the single transferable vote system and won following distribution of the second preference votes of Martin Powell-Davies who dropped out of the race first, and those of John Bangs who was eliminated in the next round. (Full details of the voting are given in a separate attachment to this press notice.)

Mary Compton, President of the Union, said:

“I congratulate Steve Sinnott. He takes over a Union which is in a very healthy state. He will lead a team of highly skilled professionals at the Union's headquarters and its regional offices and Wales office. He will also enjoy the support of the thousands of local officers, executive members and the membership of the Union.

“I will introduce Steve at a press conference at the Union's headquarters tomorrow, Wednesday 30 June.

“Doug McAvoy leaves this Union in good heart. Its membership has grown under his tenure to its highest level for 20 years. His contribution to the well-being of the profession, the children in our schools and the education service has been enormous. I wish him well in his retirement.”

Steve Sinnott said: “This is an extraordinary honour. General Secretary of the NUT is one of the most important jobs in education and I am proud to be taking on that role. Every member of this Union and every child we teach is at the heart of the Union's policies and I will pursue those policies with enthusiasm.”

E N D Pr.42/04