



## **AMICUS MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

### **RAILWAYS PENSION SCHEME – JOINT UNION CAMPAIGN**

This campaign involving AMICUS, CSEU, ASLEF, RMT, & TSSA has 4 objectives:

Cap employee contribution at 10.56%,  
Maintain current level of benefits,  
Sections to be open to all employees  
Streamline the existing 103 sections down to 3.

AMICUS support for the campaign has included the following:

- \*F.T.Os, addressed a series of meetings held countrywide:
- \*Convened a Campaign conference for Shop Stewards and F.T.Os.
- \*Supported a lobby of Parliament 9 May 2006.
- \*Prepared industrial action ballot listings.
- \*Issued notices of trade dispute to employers.

A further objective of the campaign was to hold collective discussions with employers and Government. The employers refused to do so and when a Department for Transport Minister eventually did meet the joint Unions 24 April 2006, it was made quite clear that the government were not prepared to intervene in any way to resolve the dispute.

In the face of the employers refusal to meet, each Union found it necessary to make preparations for a ballot in line with each union rule book and established procedures. The legal advice given to both AMICUS and ASLEF was that in the event of an industrial action ballot the normal procedure for balloting must be adhered to i.e. Industrial action ballots must be conducted on a company by company basis. The RMT and TSSA procedures allowed them to conduct one ballot amongst all of their respective members within the rail industry whether in the RPS or not.

The joint Unions continued to seek a collective meeting with the employers and a lobby of parliament was arranged 9 May 2006 however the joint approach to the campaign ceased when during week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> May the ASLEFs executive approved 12 settlements. Since that time it is understood that in excess of 23 settlements have been made.

AMICUS, RMT and TSSA issued notice of trade dispute to employers with RMT & TSSA subsequently initiating a strike ballot.

AMICUS in its long democratic tradition is a membership led Trade Union and our position is very clear, where our members indicate that the employers proposal is unacceptable and they wish to move to a ballot for industrial action AMICUS will do so. It will though be our members that make that decision.

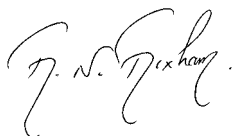
AMICUS members also will though understand that with the most influential rail Union having settled with the vast majority of companies the likelihood of improving the employers proposals through industrial action is negligible.

The question of industrial action has however, been overtaken by events in that all Unions have agreed in principle to the establishment of a "INDEPENDENT COMMISION" to investigate the structure of the RPS. This initiative to resolve the dispute has been promoted through the direct involvement of Brendan Barber, TUC General Secretary.

At the time of writing 2 June 2006 both our colleague Unions RMT & TSSA have written to all the employers indicating that no industrial action will be enacted if the companies also agree to the establishment of such a RPS "COMMISION".

I hope the above clarifies both the AMICUS and general position of this campaign.

Yours fraternally,



R.N. RIXHAM  
Industrial Officer - Railways

