

**AMICUS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**  
**GENERAL PURPOSES & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**35 King Street  
Covent Garden  
London WC2 8JG**

**6<sup>th</sup> May, 2004**

**Present:**

Derek Simpson. General Secretary  
Steve Davison, Chair  
Sharon Allen, Judy Box, Allan Cameron, Alastair Fraser,  
Jane Lewis, Peter Taylor, Howard Turner, Gordon Whitman

**Apologies:**

Jerry Hicks

**In Attendance:**

Georgina Hirsch, Director of Legal Services  
John Gibbins, Head of Conference

**1. Vi Huddart**

The Chair and General Secretary reported the sad death of Vi Huddart, GPFC and NEC Member. Appropriate tribute would be made at the NEC.

**2. General Secretary's Report**

**[a] NEC Vacancy**

The General Secretary reported that rule required that the vacancy created by the death of Vi Huddart would need to be filled. After discussion it was AGREED to recommend to the NEC that:

[ ] the election be called;

- [ii] the distribution of ballot papers be co-ordinated with an appropriate general mailing [eg new membership cards];
- [iii] the election procedure follow that used for the full NEC with the exception that branch nominations would not be notified to members individually. All nominations, whether from branches or working representatives, would appear on the web-site;

**[b] GPFC Vacancies**

It was AGREED that a replacement for Vi Huddart on the GPFC would be placed on the agenda of the NEC on the 11<sup>th</sup> May.

**[c] Finance Report**

The General Secretary presented a finance report.

**[d] Lay Expenses**

The General Secretary reported on representations and correspondence arising from the new lay members' expenses rates and procedures. Whilst the procedures had been receiving noticeable support, some concerns had been expressed about rates. Following discussion it was AGREED to recommend:

- [i] that a member may claim for loss of all earnings provided that loss can be authenticated with written evidence from the employer;
- [ii] that for conferences which involved at least one overnight a daily rate of £25 would be paid instead of the previously agreed subsistence payments;
- [iii] that Regional Secretaries and National Officers should be reminded of the need to strictly follow NEC decisions concerning lay expenses.

**[e] Internal Wage Claims**

The General Secretary reported that claims were on-going and were being considered in tandem with a review of contractual arrangements and wages to eliminate anomalies arising from sectional integration. A number of claims to tribunals had been submitted. NOTED

**[f] Pensions paid to former Executive Members**

A confidential report was given to the GPFC on this matter.

**[g] Campaigns**

The General Secretary reported as follows:

**[i] Bullying at work**

Substantial funding was available from Government, though this would have to be backed by a considerable commitment from the union. The General Secretary recommended, and it was AGREED, that as the Government approach was an alternative to legislation, it should not be pursued;

**[ii] Pensions**

The union's campaigns on retrospection and the Pensions Bill, backed by the work of Amicus MPs, particularly Dave Crausby, appeared to be having an effect which it was hoped would lead to Government action.

**[h] Property Report**

The General Secretary presented a property report. Following questions it was confirmed that the sales of the Castleford, Cudham and the old Sheffield offices were nearing completion. It was suggested that the union should have a presence in Edinburgh, particularly to assist with lobbying the Scottish Parliament.

It was AGREED to recommend the report.

**[i] Unifi and GPMU Mergers**

Indications had been received that the Unifi ballot would substantially endorse the transfer of engagements to Amicus.

**[j] Senior Full Time Officials**

The General Secretary reported that six National Officers, two Regional Secretaries and the Directors of Research and Legal Services had taken voluntary redundancy or early retirement. Replacement appointments were as follows:

Paul Reuter	SIMA/AMPS, Chemicals and Railways
John Allott	MOD, Food, Drink & Tobacco, Local Authorities
Mike Robinson	Higher Education, Universities, League Managers Assoc.
Tony Murphy	Motor Components, Motor Vehicles, Craft Sector [Terry Pye would continue to liaise with the GFTU and assist with the Craft Conference]
Gordon White	Civil Air Transport and Cabin Crew 89
Mark Jones	To assist in the Health Sector including the CPHVA
Rachel Maskell	Voluntary and not for profit
Chris Ball	Health and Safety
Cath Speight	Regional Secretary for Wales

Acknowledging the heavy workload of some National Officers, the General Secretary reported that all Regional Officers had been invited to volunteer to work in a sector rather than have regional duties.

Roger Jeary had been appointed the new Director of Research

This left two vacancies, Regional Secretary for Eastern and a replacement for Mel Barras, Regional Officer in the North East, who had sadly died the previous week.

After discussion, it was AGREED to recommend that:

- [i] an appointment panel be created to deal with these two vacancies, consisting of the General Secretary, Deputy General Secretary designate, the AGS responsible for Full Time Officials and the Chair and two Vice Chairs of the NEC;
- [ii] the Eastern Regional Secretary vacancy would be advertised internally amongst officials and staff;
- [iii] the vacancy for a Regional Officer in the North East would be open to members of branches which meet in that region or members employed in that region as per Rule 21;
- [iv] the GPFC would have a further discussion on a long-term procedure.

#### **[k] Branch Donations to Industrial Disputes**

The General Secretary reported that this would be discussed at the NEC arising from correspondence. Representations from Yorkshire NEC members had also been made arising from the dispute at William Cook. However, such payments would require a change of rule at next year's Policy and Rules Conference.

A number of alternatives were considered, following which it was AGREED to recommend that as Rule 19, Clause 13 provided that branch general purposes payments could be made to assist members, or their dependants, who had suffered misfortune that the Cook strikers should make application to appropriate branches. Relevant criteria included the fact that this was a dispute now in its fourth year, leading to unusual hardship issues.

Reference was made to traditional practice of keeping comprehensive accounts for strike funds.

It was further AGREED that guidance should be drawn up to clarify what payments should come out of the 3% general purposes expenditure, in particular, whether room rents and postage would be paid centrally.

#### **[l] Regional Councils**

The General Secretary reported that Standing Orders were being drawn up for Regional Councils. In view of the time scale it might be necessary for the NEC to delegate its powers for approval to the GPFC.

#### **[j] NEC Standing Orders**

The GPFC confirmed that individual members could not submit motions to the NEC and that the procedure was laid down in Standing Orders 6.2. Members of the NEC could submit proposals as laid down in Standing Orders 10.2.

#### **[k] Correspondence**

The General Secretary tabled recommendations concerning correspondence which were AGREED.

### **3. TUC Delegation**

It was AGREED to recommend the proposal tabled for the delegation to the TUC consisting of:

Two delegates elected by each Regional Council

One delegate elected in rotation by the four Equalities Conferences

Delegates elected from National Sector Conferences and the Women's Conferences based on representation on the NEC

Eight delegates from the NEC

The General Secretary, General Council and GPC nominees

Full Time Officials and staff determined by the General Secretary

### **4. Items referred from NEC**

#### **[i] Status of self-employed members**

It was AGREED to support the recommendations contained in the tabled report, including that invitations should be extended to the APTG branch and the PSA Section Executive to nominate guests to attend the FPA/CMA and Voluntary and not for profit National Sector Conference respectively;

#### **[ii] Role of individual NEC members & Delegation of Powers**

The General Secretary reminded the GPFC for clarity that the list of delegated and retained powers are those as previously presented to

members of the GPFC and discussed with them by Michael Short. It was AGREED that the GPFC had an on-going remit to consider the involvement of individual NEC members and, in this connection, it was AGREED to remind Regional Secretaries that NEC members should be invited to attend their Regional Council and Regional Management Committees.

**5. Date of next meeting**

It was AGREED to organise a special meeting prior to the National Sector Conferences on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June to, inter alia, receive a report back on filling the two outstanding vacancies and arrangements for Regional Councils.