

**Minutes of the Meeting of Amicus Goodmans Fields Branch held on
23rd March, 2006, Conference Room 1, A/M Core**

Present: 13 members

Apologies for Absence: 8 members

Minutes of the Meeting 23 February, 2006. Agreed

Matters Arising.

(a) April Branch. Agreed to re-schedule Branch for Tuesday, 25 April as Bank activities would mean that numbers of members would be away from Godmans Fields on 27th April. The invited speaker from Platform could accommodate the change in date.

(b) Pay 2006. Branch was given an update and advised that the balloting period had been extended to encourage maximum participation in the ballot. The NCC would discuss the situation the result on Tuesday, 28th March. Various suggestions were put forward as to why the return was not as high as hoped for, but there had been insufficient time yet to carry out any analysis to get a more definitive answer.

Aldgate Union. Some photographs taken on a visit to the sixth (top) floor of the site in December were circulated. On the positive side ceilings would be higher than the existing suspended ones, the building should allow in more light than Goodmans Fields and £50 million was being spent on the refurbishment. The basement would house a completely new canteen and there would also be a café adjoining the atrium; also showers, changing rooms and lockers. A lot of information was available from the display in Goodmans foyer. The refurbishment was still expected to be completed by July 2007 and the move to take place over the following quarter.

On the negative side there was no parking for motorcycles, lack of cycle parking and there would apparently be no 'kitchen' areas on office floors or staff refrigerators. For those who liked to sit outside at Goodmans in suitable weather, there was no green space at Aldgate Union and the roof of the building was taken up with air conditioning plant.

Of continuing concern to Branch was 'hot desking' or the 'new way of working' as the Bank puts it. There were concerns as to how effectively the system would work in reality, notwithstanding the survey carried out by Group Property Services of the working habits of Group IT staff. There were also continuing concerns that the exact number of desk reductions was not known and whether or not the reduced figure was in comparison with the Goodmans Fields complex or Goodmans Fields on its own. Concern was also expressed that RBS appeared to be mirroring actions by Norwich Union which had led to substantial reductions in jobs.

Branch was reminded that the Bank did not view the move to Aldgate Union as having negotiable item status, it was part of 'business as usual'. However, Branch concerns would be relayed to the National Company Committee (NCC) as these could still put to the Bank, regardless of what status it felt they had. Further concerns or questions regarding the move could be raised at future Branch meetings.

Any Other Business.

(a) Newsletter. The Chair reported that the next edition was currently being put to bed. It would be on glossy paper and in three colours.

(b) Childcare. Running a further survey was receiving attention.

(c) Edinburgh and Dublin. Edinburgh was getting a branch off the ground and members who went there regularly were asked to make contact and offer support. There were also indications that Dublin would like to form a branch. Members were asked if they could offer practical support here as well, likely to be needed in the next couple months.

(d) Overtime Rate Cap. The issue of the overtime rate cap, in Group Technology £32k, was raised. Agreed that this be included in the current newsletter and members' opinions sought.

(e) The Goodmans website was now operating again. A full list of updates, additions and changes had been submitted on 21st March and the work was due to be carried out over the next few days.