

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Goodmans Fields Branch of Amicus
Held on 25th May, 2006, Conference Room 1, A/2 West.**

Present.

Eleven members and Sue Lawrence, London Regional Officer.

Apologies.

Received from ten members.

Minutes of the Meeting 25 April.

Agreed

RBS Group Technology Divisional Committee.

- Edinburgh GT Branch – has met twice recently.
- Dublin GT Branch – no Amicus recognition on this site. Work in progress to set up a branch.
- Changes Affecting Members – Aldgate Union relocation, ITD Resource Management Restructure and GT Capability Management. No issues outstanding at the moment: Divisional Committee members would be keeping a watching brief.
- UIP Testing Shifts – GT staff are being asked to work shifts and extra hours from July to support Ulster Bank integration. The Union is in consultation with the Bank over the detail of this.
- Lombard/OBB (including APS) staff integration into GT – staff are being asked to come in to work two days a week at Eastgate, including some who have spent the last five years working from home. Discussions on pay scales continue and the District Committee will keep a watching brief on the whole issue.
- APS transfer to India – The support and development, initially of UKBMIS, is moving to ITD India, so far leaving 27 staff in ITD looking for other assignments. The Union has written to the Bank asking for further details and it is anticipated the matter will be raised at the June meeting of the NCC.

Sue Lawrence – Guest.

Sue, who has taken over from Richard Munn, provided the meeting with a potted CV, which included that she was a former Unifi Organiser and, before Unifi was formed, worked for the Barclays Group staff union. She is based at Moreland Street and, as well as RBS, has shared responsibilities for International Banks, a very diverse area with low Union recognition. She will be liaising with other officers in the RBS Section to bring herself up to speed

Pensions Changes.

The Chair said that he had e-mailed a very basic survey on the changes to all members who regularly attended Branch. Response had been in the short time since he put it out. Only a small number of those who responded were happy with the Bank's actions.

The Chair then invited views and questions from the floor and the following points and questions were raised:

- Will there be any effect on existing AVCs?
- What will be the changes, if any, in other parts of the Group?
- If a member of staff switches to other RBS Group savings or pension products, will there be a waiver on commission charges?
- Will there be other incentives offered to new and existing staff to compensate for the loss of a final salary pension?
- What guidance will there be for line managers when asked for pensions advice?
- What will be the pension arrangements for new executives and directors?
- The booklet issued looked like a sales brochure designed to persuade staff to leave the scheme (e.g. "slippers" for those that decide to stay in it). Will all subsequent advice be independent?
- When will the next valuation of the pension scheme be undertaken? Staff will want to see the latest independent projections regarding the ability of the scheme to pay a final salary pension.
- Will there be sufficient time given to staff to make a decision, armed with the most up to date financial information?
- Amicus should issue a leaflet giving guidance to its members i.e. giving sources of independent advice.
- What are the Amicus pension fund trustees planning to do? A roadshow for all members would be appreciated.
- Are there currently any members in dispute with the pension fund, if so, will they be affected by the changes?

All the points raised would be fed to the NCC and the Chair said he welcomed further comment and questions from members to go to this meeting.