

Amicus

National Executive Council
General Purposes & Finance Committee

Meeting 15th March 2004
Radisson Marlborough Hotel, London WC2

1. Present

Derek Simpson – General Secretary
Steve Davison – Chair

Alastair Fraser	Allan Cameron
Gordon Whitman	Howard Turner
Peter Taylor	Jerry Hicks
Sharon Allen	

2. Apologies

Vi Huddart, Judy Box, Jane Lewis

3. In Attendance

Michael Short (Director of Legal Services)
Georgina Hirsch (Director of Legal Services Designate)
Michael Cardell (Director of Finance)
John Gibbins (Head of Conferences)
Chris Matheson (Personal Assistant to the General Secretary)

4. The minutes of the last meeting, 16th February 2004, were **agreed**

5. Matters Arising

- a) Lifting of Suspension of Holding Office: The General Secretary reported that Mr David Beaumont had indicated that if his suspension from holding office was lifted he agreed not to pursue any appeal against the union in relation to that suspension. Formal agreement from David Beaumont and Susan Michie will be sought following NEC endorsement of this course of action.
- b) Branch Officers' Honoraria: The schedule of adjustment of honoraria was agreed.
- c) Lay Members' Expenses: Members agreed the paper on lay members' expenses. There was some discussion on delegation fees. The General Secretary reminded the GPFC that the NEC can keep expenses under

review. In answer to a question, the General Secretary confirmed that expenses for officers and staff are currently under review.

- d) **Branch & Regional Council Finance:** The General Secretary and Director of Finance confirmed that calculations had been made to establish the permissible expenditure for every branch for this year. Branches would be informed of their expenditure limits, but this would not be actioned until the NEC agreed this course in ratifying the GPFC decision. The General Secretary also confirmed that branches have a choice between holding their own cheque book or using a central administrative function.
- e) **Affiliations:** It was agreed to make a donation of £1000 to Unite Against Fascism.
- f) **Unifi & GPMU mergers:** The General Secretary reported on progress in the merger with Unifi, and that the Unifi Special Conference had voted 5 to 1 in favour of proceeding to ballot on merger. The GPMU Merger is also progressing well. It is now anticipated that both unions' NEC members will join the NEC at the same time.
- g) **Delegation of NEC Powers:** A paper was tabled and, following a discussion, was agreed, on a vote, by 7 votes to 1.
- h) **Role of Individual NEC Members:** A paper was considered on the role of individual NEC members and, following a discussion, was agreed, on a vote, by 6 votes to 2.

6. Finance Report

The General Secretary presented a Finance report. There is now an offer to sell Cudham Hall. It was agreed to recommend to the NEC that this sale proceeds.

7. Publication of NEC nominations on the website

Members raised the question of the provision of full details of nominations for each candidate in the NEC elections. It was agreed undertake this on an individual basis on request. It is intended that election procedural issues should be reconsidered by the NEC in good time to allow full preparation and appropriate systems to be in place for any future NEC elections.

8. Correspondence

The General Secretary tabled correspondence, which was referred to the NEC.

9. Dates of Future NEC Meetings

The following dates were proposed for consideration for future NEC meetings:

Tuesday 11th May (agreed already)

Wednesday 14th July

September - pre – or post TUC 13th to 16th September –NEC advice sought

Tuesday 16th November