

## **NEC Meeting**

**14<sup>th</sup> July 2004**

A more formal précis of the meeting should appear on the Amicus website within the next few days. This is not a comprehensive record of the meeting, but it does include issues that have been raised with me by members in the health service.

### **Branch Finance**

During discussion of the minutes of the previous meeting, several NEC members raised concerns over the financial situation of branches following the removal of funds from accounts, and over the continuing lack of information to branches on finance. It was confirmed that branches do not have to pay for postage and room bookings, and can reclaim this money. It was also confirmed that branches with exceptional financial difficulties following the withdrawal of funds can write to Head Office making a case for additional funding.

### **NEC By-election**

The by-election for the vacant Women's NEC Seat will take place this autumn, with nominations from branches in September this year, ballot papers to be sent to members on 15<sup>th</sup> November, and a closing date of 6<sup>th</sup> December. After lengthy discussion over legal implications, it was agreed that the ballot would be confined to existing Amicus members (i.e. not Unifi or GPMU members, who will have their own reserved seats on the NEC).

### **Regional Sector Committees**

An issue of great importance to many of us. The NEC agreed in May that these Committees could meet. The NEC agreed again in July that they could meet. The failure of Regional Sector Committees to meet in the interim was reportedly due to a misunderstanding by Regional Secretaries.

### **Roger Lyons**

Roger Lyons – previously General Secretary of MSF and Joint General Secretary of Amicus – left the Union's employment on 30<sup>th</sup> June. The background to this is a case taken to the Certification Officer by David Beaumont, an Amicus member from London. David argued that Roger Lyons had illegally extended his term of office without holding an election. The Certification Officer agreed. Roger Lyons' most recent contract of employment was null and void, so he reverted to a previous contract. This allowed him to retain employment as an Assistant General Secretary if he lost his post of General Secretary. Roger then opted to take voluntary severance.

### **Bullying**

Work on bullying at work will be taken forward, led by Mandy Telford (a new appointment, previously President of the NUS).

### **Regional Councils**

Apparently a lot of issues have arisen about standing orders, the procedure for submitting motions, and such like. A meeting of the General Purposes & Finance Committee this week will look more closely at Regional Councils. There may have been procedural irregularities with the running of one Regional Council meeting. Regional Council

minutes will be available to Management Committees and to subsequent Regional Councils without having to be approved by the NEC first (contrary to the procedure adopted in one Region).

### **Posted Workers Directive**

Amicus will be pushing for better protection of workers from other EU countries coming to work within the UK. Current implementation provides inadequate protection around e.g. pay and health and safety standards.

### **Recruitment Material**

New recruitment material (including a CD-ROM) is now available.

### **Other Issues**

The union will consult with members on the question of the European Constitution, possibly taking a final position by a ballot of the membership.

The NEC agreed to support Regional Assemblies.

### **Correspondence**

The question of correspondence submitted by branches but not appearing on the NEC agenda was raised.

Motions on health issues were referred to the Health Service National Committee. This included items on Occupational Advisory Committees, support for speech and language therapists over the loss of parity with psychologists, the NHS pension scheme, and Foundation Trusts.

A motion calling for the withdrawal of UK troops from Iraq was defeated.

A motion calling for closer scrutiny of the General Secretary's expenses was defeated.

### **Gill George**