

Amicus the Union – ATU Network

Amicus is Britain's fastest growing union; it is also becoming Britain's most influential union too.

Having over a million voters in membership and being the biggest affiliate to the Labour Party causes many with vested interests, financial and political, to eye our union and its development with suspicion, jealousy and fear. Mostly these people hail from outside Amicus but not exclusively. They harbour a desire to mitigate the union's influence and to reduce the effectiveness with which Amicus campaigns for the policies that our members have identified as those most dear to their hearts.

Our members want income security in employment and when they retire. They want fairness at work, freedom from bullying and harassment and fair pay for their labour. The majority of our members are not interested in process, in committees and in standing orders. They want us to make the world of work a safer and more secure place. They want representation when they need it, and they want their interests taken to the heart of government, by a leadership that will campaign on its behalf.

This year Amicus has changed the nature of campaigning and is in the process of changing the way we service our members.

More resources are being targeted at reps to support them in their work building the union and representing members. Officers will get support too, relieving them of tribunal work and, by supporting reps more directly, the day to day easily answered but often time consuming queries leaving them free to work on behalf of the collective

Our relationship with the Labour Party has been developed this year. A relationship based on recognition of the reality that only Labour can deliver the policies that serve the interests of our members. Amicus will not be a cash cow for the Party but it will never hold the Party to ransom over the financial support that is essential to its ability to fight the Tories.

Amicus must negotiate with the Party over policy in the interest of our members and the conclusion of these negotiations must always be based on the maximum benefit derived from the policy by the party and our members and not on deals for the advancement or benefit of individuals, as has sadly been the case in the past.

The **ATU Network** aims to bring together officers, reps and members who are determined to see the new relationship with the Party continue to flourish and for the union's drive to serve our members and reps more effectively move forward.

The **ATU Network** will bring in representatives of every section of the union with no group dominating. It will provide a space for discussion and for policy development with a commitment to develop our industrial/working sectors.

The **ATU Network** will banish the past, experience cannot be discarded but preconceptions and dogmatism must be cast aside.

Amicus must be relevant to a new generation of working people a generation not interested in where we've been but desperate to find out where we're going.

The **ATU Network** stands for

- Support of the of a centre left leadership with progressive policies
- A strong campaigning union dedicated to building a movement of activists capable of delivering sustainable social progress.
- A democratic union that is accessible to the members and representative of their needs and aspirations rather than those of outside vested interests.
- A union prepared to adjust to the challenges of a changing industrial and political climate.
- A union prepared to lead rather than follow.

Structure

Working closely with others that share the aims and objectives of the **ATU Network** an initial a steering group will be established to facilitate the organisation needed. Elections of officers of the **ATU Network** will take place at its first National meeting A Newsletter/leaflet will be produced together with a least one national meeting per year. The **ATU Network** will be based on a Full Time Officer (FTO) and Staff structure linked to a network of lay activists building support across all sections of Amicus. In order to organise effectively financial contributions will be needed (see below)

Organisers/staff	£2 per month
ROs	£3
RS/NO	£5
Directors	£8
Senior Management	£10
Lay member subs will be nominal	£1 per year

We hope you share with us the vision to help create a new culture within Amicus. One, which celebrates our achievements of the past but recognising, we need to organise for tomorrow.

Yours fraternaly

Kevin Coyne **Les Bayliss**

Steering Group Members