

## AMICUS EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS, 2003. CONSTRUCTION



**PHIL WILLIS**

I am 54, a Steel Erector by trade and a PASSIONATE trade unionist. Holding AEEU membership since 1968 I have served as an elected Shop Steward for many years on projects such as The Millenium Dome, World Cargo Terminal, Canary Wharf and have recently been elected to represent the lads on the largest structural steel-work site in this country, Heathrow Terminal 5.

If elected, I intend to become a voice for all Construction workers not just erectors but crane drivers, scaffolders, mechanical fitters, platers, welders, pipe fitters and ladders and will work shoulder to shoulder with Billy Spiers my fellow industry candidate, to defend the trade and skills of all electricians, through solidarity and fraternal support.

Having served on and attended Regional, National, Policy & Rules Conferences, the National Shop Stewards Forum, and being in regular attendance at London Construction Branch, I am fully aware of the issues effecting both our industry and our Union. There is much to be done.

### WORKERS ISSUES

I believe that we work in a first rate industry but on third rate terms. Working people deserve a better deal. If elected, here are a few of the campaigning issues I would want to raise on your behalf:-

- **HEALTH & SAFETY** Some industry bosses place much more emphasis on profit than they do on the value of a workers life. It's time that the Corporate Manslaughter Bill was passed to protect Construction workers lives.
- **SICKNESS & PENSION SCHEMES** If you get sick in Construction you go hungry, when you get old you live in poverty. Without a robust sickness and pension scheme specific to Construction this is the current reality. We need a vigorous campaign to highlight and resolve these vital issues.
- **BOGUS SELF EMPLOYMENT** A cancer in our industry. Many workers are forced into excepting terms less favourable than they should, simply because our bosses can dictate a 'take it or leave it' attitude to our wages and conditions. Each time new legislation is announced, our employers spend millions with their lawyers trying to circumnavigate their responsibilities to workers. This money could be better spent by investing in Construction, and commitment to direct labour forces.
- **FOREIGN LABOUR** Exploitation of cheap foreign labour must stop. It is detrimental to our skills, employment stability and job security. The UK Construction Industry is fighting a battle that at present they cannot win, simply because the government has not provided the level playing field required to compete with foreign firms. Amicus and its Construction members will be embarking on a major campaign in the coming months to tackle these problems.

### UNION ISSUES

- **PROPER REPRESENTATION** We need ELECTED Full Time Officers, who are fully accountable to the members they represent. They should be born of our industry, who understand our industry and who are willing to fight for us, especially when we are blacklisted, sacked or victimised as I have been many times.
- **RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY & ACCOUNTABILITY** After years of right wing leadership and abuse we need a HONEST, HARD WORKING executive who put members needs foremost, not their own. An executive of grass-roots workers not CAREERISTS.

I am and always will be a socialist. I campaigned vigorously last year for the election of Derek Simpson as General Secretary and am proud to stand now on a left wing ticket for a place on his executive. I do not support consensus politics and stick firmly to my principals. I ask for your vote in order that I may be given a chance to make a difference to the lives of working people and with your support, I pledge to do just that.

If you would like to contact me to discuss any of the above my details are as follows:

Address : 4 Stanton Close, Orpington, Kent BR5 4RN  
Mobile: 0771 3239082  
Yours Fraternally  
PHIL



**I am 57 years old and a JIB Graded Approved Electrician by trade, working in Electrical Contracting (Construction). At 16, I joined the ETU apprentice section and became a Shop Steward for the first time in 1970 aged 24. I have served as a Senior Shop Steward on many major projects including The Channel Tunnel for Balfour Power (Balfour Kilpatrick) and The Jubilee Line Extension for Pirelli Construction. At present I am serving as the Senior Steward on Heathrow Terminal 5 for the electrical and mechanical service contractors. I have been a lay executive member for the past 5 years, representing the Construction/Contracting sector.**

## **WHAT I STAND FOR**

### Union Issues

- An end to sweetheart deals
- Abolition of anti trade union laws
- Restore branches run by lay officers
- End centralised control
- Reintroduce election of full time officers
- Support legislation to create a level playing field for British workers
- Support for collective bargaining
- Restoration of Union democracy
- Free Up Branch Funds
- Improve members benefits
- Legal protection for workers pensions

In short, I want to put the Union back in to the hands of its members.

### Workers Issues

If elected I promise to campaign for a realistic hourly rate, to oppose any SMA or de-skilling practices that would be detrimental to the JIB,NAECI or HVCA trades. To campaign for direct employment, campaign for an industry specific sickness and pension scheme, oppose cuts to our travel payments, seek to obtain many more apprenticeships, and wholeheartedly support the passing of the Corporate Manslaughter Bill to protect workers lives. Foreign labour is an issue of very serious concern within our industry, as it undermines our skills and rates of pay. This can only be dealt with by legislation changes, which when implemented will then provide a level playing field for UK firms and UK workers. Bogus self employment scams must be stopped as they are now spiralling out of control. The ultimatums being given to our workers under bogus self employment are either to accept the bosses terms or don't work.

I know that it is essential to work hard on the executive as I am mindful that I am working on your behalf. I am a socialist and make no apology for that. I have always upheld the basic beliefs and traditions under which the Labour Party was born. I am a supporter of the new General Secretary, Derek Simpson and am proud to have been one of the executive members who walked out of the meeting when Sir Ken and his supporters tried to overturn Derek's democratic election result. Full democratic processes must be restored to Amicus and Amicus must be returned to the hands of its members. But to do this, we need your help.

Therefore,given the chance, I along with Phil Willis and all the other left aligned candidates seek your vote in the forthcoming elections to ensure that working people have a strong and lasting voice within Amicus and that our union becomes a strong and respected Union of the future.

**Amicus unity gazette**

**For a democratic union controlled by the members**

**We are standing for election as part of a group of candidates committed to returning the union to its members. We are supported by Amicus Unity Gazette, the grouping that was central to Derek Simpson's election campaign, bringing together activists from both AEEU and MSF.**

For more information, see [www.amicusunitygazette.com](http://www.amicusunitygazette.com) or write to **Bill Young, 22 Swale Road, Rochester, Kent ME2 2TT.**  
If you want to send a donation, please make cheques payable to "Engineering Gazette".