

AMICUS EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS, 2003 - FOUNDRY AND METALS



EDDIE GRIMES

I am pleased to be standing as a candidate for the executive in the Foundry and Metals sector, in the forthcoming Executive Committee elections. I have worked in the steel industry for over 30 years, and for the last 18 years I have worked for William Cook Foundry in Sheffield. For the last 2½ years I've been involved in an official strike to defend our terms and conditions.

I WANT TO BE ELECTED BECAUSE NOW IS THE TIME TO GIVE SUPPORT TO THE NEW LEADERSHIP WITHIN OUR UNION.

If elected I will endeavour to get for the members:

- 1. Rank and file elections of all full time officers and lay Executive members.**
- 2. A union run by the members for the members.**
- 3. Accountability of all officials to the members.**
- 4. Abolition of all anti-trade union legislation.**
- 5. Legal protection from day one of employment.**
- 6. A change in procedures when balloting for strike action; 6 weeks is too long.**
- 7. The same protection in the law as workers in the rest of the EU.**
- 8. Stringent laws that protect British workers against redundancies and factory closures.**
- 9. Defence of employment through inward investment.**
- 10. Defence of pensions and equal pay regardless of race or gender.**
- 11. All agreements must be approved by the shop floor.**

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 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".



I am proud to be standing as a Gazette candidate in the coming EC elections. I fully supported the Gazette candidate, Derek Simpson, in last years General Secretary election. If elected I will work to implement the Gazette programme of returning the union to the members.

WHAT I STAND FOR

The history of Corus since privatisation has been one of chronic under investment. Our members at Corus have delivered year on year productivity increases, made greater and greater sacrifices, but at the end of the day the Corus management have not invested the profits back into the business and now they cannot keep up with their competitors.

Over the past period they have been trying to offload their problems onto our members, they have sacked 6,000 workers in the last 2½ years alone, they are holding down wages and they are currently taking a pension holiday. We have fears that when they finally do have to start paying into the pension fund that they will downgrade it to an inferior money purchase scheme. In short the privatisation of British Steel has been a total disaster and I believe the union should be fighting for the Labour government to renationalise steel production.

But these problems are not confined to Corus. All across the metals industry people are facing attacks on already low levels of pay, increasing working hours, the threat of redundancy and loss of pension etc. Our members should not have to bear the brunt of the crisis that the bosses have created. We must oppose every single attack on wages & conditions and every single redundancy.

I am proud to have been a part of the shorter working week campaign that our union led. However I am also conscious that this agreement has still not been properly implemented. I will take up the fight to force all employers to implement this agreement without any loss of pay.

If they say they have overcapacity and must cut jobs, then that is their solution - cut hours instead but keep our pay the same. I will also push for the union to immediately launch a campaign for a 35-hour week without any loss of pay.

If I am elected to the Executive I will push for the union

to take up these questions and where necessary take decisive action to defend and improve pay and conditions.

With the election of a new General Secretary things have begun to change within the union, but we need a strong left executive with the power to make changes and bring about more democratic control. I stand on this platform - ordinary members should have more say on how their union is managed!

IF ELECTED I WILL CAMPAIGN ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES;

- **Return the union to the members! District committee/shop stewards quarterly meetings must be restored to encourage greater organization, discussion, and control at local and regional levels.**
- **Democratic elections at all levels of the union, including fulltime officers.**
- **Open accountable structures.**
- **Financial openness.**
- **For a fighting, campaigning, union that will represent the interests of the members - not the employers!**
- **Repeal of all the anti union laws.**
- **Launch the campaign for the 35 hour week with no loss of pay.**
- **Defend Final Salary Pensions - fight for voluntary retirement at 50 with a full pension.**

Yours Fraternally
Peter Currall

UNION CV

I have been a member of the old AEU since 1966 and have worked in engineering all of my working life. I started as an apprentice fitter/turner and am currently employed at Corus Tubes as a multi-skilled craftsman.

AMICUS-ABEU Member 37 years

- Current convenor-Corus Tubes for last 23 years
- Shop Steward 26 years
- National Industrial Metals Delegate
- Member of Corus European Works Council
- Safety Representative
- Member of BJC-Corus Wage Negotiating Body
- Branch President
- Member of the Labour Party

Previous Union Positions

- District President
- Branch Secretary 16 years