

AMICUS EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS, 2003. MOTOR VEHICLES & COMPONENTS

Over the past period we have witnessed the devastation of the Thatcher years that led to the decimation of our manufacturing industry, and brought forth a barrage of attacks on workers, and our rights as trade unionists. At the same time we had to face vicious attacks from the employers, while a weak dictatorial leadership turned our once proud union into a laughing stock.

The election of Derek Simpson, on the Gazette programme of returning the union to its democratic fighting traditions, was a tremendous victory and a turning point for our members.

Companies in Britain invest less per head than almost all of their foreign competitors; they are consequently falling further and further behind in terms of productivity. Hence in order to maintain their level of profits they are trying to offload their problems onto our members.

New technique and new machines should be used to make our jobs easier and more efficient. Instead of this the investment and innovation that is taking place is designed to squeeze more out of us as we have seen the emergence of flexible working patterns, and lean production.

In the same vein the employers are trying to undermine national pay bargaining and conditions by breaking up the bargaining units and 'spinning off' parts of the business into smaller chunks in the supply chain. This is a thinly veiled attempt to break workers unity by pitting plant against plant - extracting more work while paying less in wages.

At the same time we face unprecedented levels of instability, with layoffs and factory closures at an all time high.

The British motor industry has suffered blow after blow over the last period. There has been a torrent of closures over the last few years, this includes many of the biggest most established plants in Britain among many others that do not even make the headlines. All this took place with hardly a whimper from our leaders in the union and the Labour Party.

It is time to break with all of that and say 'enough is enough'. Our union must be at the forefront of the labour movement in launching a campaign to defend jobs, pay and conditions. We should no longer be prepared to accept the attacks lying down.

Where companies like Rover are threatened with redundancies after being run down for years they should be renationalised. We must put pressure on the Labour Government to act now to defend jobs and halt the decline of British industry before it is too late.

All of our candidates supported Derek Simpson in the election for General Secretary, and the Gazette programme on which he stood. A lot of good work has been done since he got in, however to continue that work and begin to really make an impact we must have an Executive committed to returning the union to the membership.

IF ELECTED WE WILL FIGHT FOR:

- Labour to introduce worker friendly legislation to protect jobs, wages and conditions.
- Protection for workers pensions, and the restoration of a decent state pension, linked to wages.
- An end to sweetheart or no-strike deals.
- Return branch control to the members.
- The reintroduction of District Committees.
- The maintenance of Collective Bargaining
- Put democracy back into our vocabulary
- End centralised control and put the union back into the districts.
- The election of all officials.

**FOR THESE REASONS WE ASK YOU TO SUPPORT US IN THE EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS.
HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR 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 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 joined the AEU in 1973
- Became Senior N/T Shop Steward in 1974 plus N/T representative on the Works Negotiating Committee.
- Was elected Deputy Convenor in 1988 after I moved to day shift.
- Was elected employee Chairman of Federal Moguls European Works Council in 1994
- Was elected Convenor in 1995
Since being elected Convenor I have been elected to attend all Policy and Industrial Conferences and 3 TUC Conferences.
- Branch president.
- District Committee Delegate
- Delegate to Industrial Committee.



POSITIONS HELD

- AEEU member: 19 years
- Shop Steward
- Convenor: 14 years
- Branch delegate to the Motor Industrial Conferences
- Policy Conference Delegate
- Rules Revision Delegate.
- NIC Delegate Motor Industry
- District Committee delegate.
- Pensions Trustee
- Life Long Learning Rep.



I am 43 years of age and a time served fitter/welder. I have been an Amicus-AEEU member for 27 years of which I have spent 15 years as a shop steward, and the last 5 years as works convenor. I have been a delegate to the regional industrial and national conferences, and also a delegate to the regional political conference. I am a Labour Party member and am currently the Chair of my local branch.