

## A CHANCE FOR MEMBERS TO GET OUR UNION BACK

This year two elections will stand out from all others and both will be defining moments. One is the General Election and let's hope the Tories don't win it. The other will be the election for General Secretary of Unite.

**Jerry Hicks**, whose successful legal challenge last year forced an election in the Amicus section of Unite and who confounded all by coming second with 39,307, is to stand again and it seems certain that **he will be the only candidate who's not an appointed Full Time official.**



Whichever party wins the General Election they will try to make us pay for the banking bosses' mistakes. Cuts and attacks are staring us in the face and employers are already sticking the boot in. Disputes and strikes are inevitable. Members have proven their worth over and over again, but will the union's leadership be the solution or part of the problem?

BA used anti-union laws at the High Court to stop the strike, reversing the 92% members' vote. It's a scandal that employers can still do this.

**Repeal of Anti Union laws**, although union policy, has never been a priority. Whilst our opponents are the employers, responsibility extends to those in the union leadership who have allowed this to happen.

Unite's failure to protect members despite the £10s millions handed over to the Labour Government amounts to squandered and wasted years. The union opposes PFI hospitals and academy schools yet are ignored. We demand better pensions yet we have the second lowest state pension in Europe. **Fundamental change** is needed in the union's relationship with Labour, where we **should support only MPs or councillors who support our policies.**

Our union leadership, some seeking to become the General Secretary, have buckled under pressure. **We need a different leadership**, one that will stand up for our members against any government, whether it be Tory or Labour, and a union that employers will take seriously. *(See overleaf)*

**Change won't come with more of the same**

## WE CAN'T AFFORD MORE OF THE SAME

The union is run like a business, not a service. There's a massive divide between the union leadership and members. It can only be bridged by returning ownership of the union to where it belongs - with the members. Giving reps, committees, combines and branches independence and authority over decision making and organising. **Members decide the union provides.**

**Election of all union officials** will bridge the gap, as would mergers that make us **stronger not just bigger.** We need to show that we can fight not just campaign for **jobs not bombs** and **pensions, services, green energy, public ownership and oppose privatisation.** Exceptional times will require extraordinary responses, including backing unofficial action when necessary.



Jerry Hicks - Staythorpe Power Station protest

A General Secretary living a lifestyle nothing like that of our members has to end.

If elected Jerry Hicks would only take the average wage of a skilled worker.

Fine words are easy, but it's what someone does that counts. Here's what Jerry Hicks has said and done:

*"In 2003 when offered a job in the union I declined on principle - I support elections not appointments. In 2005 I was sacked by Rolls Royce for trade union activities."*

*"Last year I was assaulted by police at a construction demo at Staythorpe, and I stood along side the Vestas workers' occupation on the Isle of Wight."*

**None of the other candidates will say any of that!**

If you share these views, then get in touch and be part of the campaign. When determined people come together all things are possible.

If you wish to help, want to know more, or make a donation

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