

**Branch
Meeting**
**Tuesday
26th
August**
6.30 p.m.

STUC
333 Woodlands Road
Glasgow
G3 6NG



Maureen Jenkins chairing
the launch of the
Association of Medical
Laboratory Assistants

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- **Unions win £3 billion compensation**
- **Latest AfC profiles**
- **Gen Sec to quit**
- **H & S booklet**

Issue 165

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National Success for Branch Members

Congratulations are due to two of the Branch's active members, Maureen Jenkins and Helen McFarlane, on their election to national union positions. Maureen Jenkins is the first ever chair of the newly formed Association of Medical Laboratory Assistants. The organisation has the active support of both amicus and the Institute of Biomedical Science and was launched at a special fringe

meeting held at the recent amicus annual conference.

Helen McFarlane has been elected as one of the union's national trustees. Both Maureen and Helen are active within and outwith the Branch. For example, Maureen is Branch Secretary and a member of the union's Pathology Occupational Advisory Committee. Helen holds the Branch positions of Women's Officer and Vice-chair in addition to numerous other commitments.

Commons Committee Attacks Government Targets

The influential public administration select committee of the House of Commons has called for a root and branch reform of the Government's target setting system in the public sector. In a devastating critique the committee accuses government ministers and senior civil servants of failing to understand 'what life is like for those delivering the services'. The report describes targets as 'very often more harmful than productive' and found evidence of P45 targets which were seen as crucial to the continued employment of hospital

chief executives.

The committee heard evidence of 25 patients who had lost their sight because their urgent operations had been cancelled in order to meet politically inspired targets for out-patient waiting times.

The report suggests that there should be a shift in emphasis from absolute targets to measures which assess progress.

Whilst the select committee report refers to the health service in England, many of the points it makes are equally valid in Scotland.

Contacts

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Treasurer	Richard Shaw	0141 201 0412
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Safety Officer	Bill Gray	0141 531 3715
Women's Officer	Helen McFarlane	0141 211 0800
Newsletter Editor	James Ito	0141 201 0405

Unions Win £3 billion for Injured Workers

In the last 10 years unions have won £3,000,000,000 in injury compensation for their members according to the 11th annual legal survey carried out by the TUC. Brendan Barber, General Secretary elect of the TUC, stated "Union members would prefer an injury free workplace ... but until workplaces are safer we will continue to make sure that victims get justice."

In June of this year, amicusMSF reported a number of financial settlements achieved on behalf of members including: £40,000 for a radiographer who suffered a shoulder injury; £188,000 following a fall at work; £50,000 for a broken arm whilst on corporate activities; £44,500 for a lifting accident.

Latest Agenda for Change Profiles

Another batch of Agenda for Change job profiles were published on the 8th August (they can be downloaded from www.doh.gov.uk/agendaforchange). Among the profiles agreed are highly specialist therapy radiographer (pay band 7) consultant therapy radiographer (pay band 8) and professional manager (clinical, clinical technical service, social service) pay bands 8a, 8b/c and 8d). Disappointingly, there are still very large number of missing profiles including for example biomedical scientist section head, MLA/senior MLA or the many professions covered by the MTO grades.

Health & Safety Law 2003

The Branch has sent senior representatives in each Trust a copy of the latest Labour Research Department booklet on health and safety law. The 96 page publication covers a spectrum of health and safety including safety reps and committees, hazardous substances, equipment at work, physical hazards at work, stress bullying and violence etc.

General Secretary Roger Lyons to Quit

Roger Lyons, joint general secretary of amicus, has announced that he intends to retire with effect from January 2005. Roger has been a full-time union official for 38 years and is expected to become the next president of the Trades Union Congress (TUC). In his statement Roger emphasised the recent nine consecutive months of record recruitment within amicusMSF and the 2002 financial position of an operating surplus of £1.5 million.

Branch Meeting Tuesday 26th August

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of previous meeting and arising.
3. Correspondence.
4. Reports.
5. Motions.
6. A.O.C.B.

The next meeting of the Branch will be held on Wednesday 24th September at 6.30 p.m. All meetings are held in the Scottish Trade Union Congress, 333 Woodlands Road, Glasgow G3 6NG.
(Tea, coffee & biscuits 6.15 p.m.)

