

**Branch Meeting**

**Thursday  
30th  
March  
6.30 p.m.**

STUC  
333 Woodlands Road  
Glasgow  
G3 6NG



Scottish Regional Secretary John Quigley in discussion with National Secretary (Health) Gail Cartmail at the amicus Scottish Conference of NHS representatives held earlier this month

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- **Employment trends**
- **New equality body approved**
- **Independent sector treatment slammed**

**Branch website launch a success**

In the five weeks since the Branch website was launched last month, there have been more than 760 visits with a total in excess of 3,800 page requests. The website features frequently updated news stories with an emphasis on local and NHS news; details of Branch and Group meetings including an online map link; contact details (name, email address and phone number) of all branch officers; reports and minutes of meetings; links to useful internet sites (mainly union or Agenda for Change related) as well as an archive

of Branch Newsletters.

The website address is:  
[www.amicusglasgowhealth.org](http://www.amicusglasgowhealth.org).

Any member wishing to be added to the Branch's email list should send an email with the subject 'subscribe newsletter' to: [editor@amicusglasgowhealth.org](mailto:editor@amicusglasgowhealth.org) and they will then receive electronic copies of the Branch Newsletter and emails informing them of updates to the Branch website. Comments on or stories for the website are welcome and should be emailed to the editor at the above address.

**Scottish NHS Conference calls for 35 hour week**

The Conference, which was held on the 3rd March, was addressed by Regional Secretary (Scotland) John Quigley on the rationale behind the current union merger proposal. This was followed by National Secretary (Health) Gail Cartmail who spoke on the national (UK) NHS picture. Regional Officer Michael Fuller then updated the Conference on the situation in NHS Scotland. Video extracts of these addresses may be downloaded from the Branch website. The conference passed two motions,

both submitted by Donald Sime (NHS Greater Glasgow).

The first called on the union to campaign and negotiate for a 35 hour week within the NHS coupled with 12 days public holidays and 4 weeks parental leave per child for the whole NHS in line with the Scottish Partnership Information Network Policy. The second motion called on the union's National Executive to ensure that the union's current and future structures took full account of the devolved administrations within the UK.

**Contacts**



Chair	Donald Sime	0141 201 4610
Secretary	Maureen Jenkins	0141 201 3044
Treasurer	Richard Shaw	0141 201 0412
Vice-chair	Helen McFarlane	0773 310 2209
Assistant Secretary	Vacant	
Safety Officer	Derek Anstee	0141 211 2128
Women's Officer	Helen McFarlane	0773 310 2209
Education Officer	Ian Forbes	0141 211 4523
Newsletter Editor	James Ito	0141 201 0798

## Employment trends

The Government's Office for National Statistics publishes a Social Trends report annually. This year's report reveals that at Spring 2005 :

- The employment rate of working-age males was 79% (up from 75% in 1993 and down from 92% in 1971) and that of females 70%.
- Approx 16% of working age households were workless (i.e. no-one of working age was in employment)
- 88% of working-age people with a degree or equivalent were in employment. For those with no qualifications the figure is 48%

## New equality body approved

A new Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR) is to be established with effect from October 2007 when it will replace the Disability Rights commission and the Equal Opportunities Commission. It will also take over the functions of the Commission for Racial Equality in 2009.

The CEHR will produce a regular "equality" check for Britain and work with individuals, communities, businesses and public bodies to find ways to ensure that everyone in society is given equality of opportunity to achieve their full potential.

## Independent health sector treatment slammed

An article in the British Medical Journal has attacked the increasing use in England of Independent Sector Treatment Centres (ISTCs). The article by a professor of orthopaedic and accident surgery states that the number of patients subsequently seen in the NHS who have problems resulting from poor surgery in the ISTC is too great. He gives examples of incorrectly inserted prostheses, technical errors and infected joint replacements.

The ISTCs are employing junior specialists from abroad who in their own country are normally under the supervision of a senior consultant, but in the ISTC are allowed to operate without supervision. This means that NHS patients treated in the ISTC are being given an inferior standard of care compared to either NHS patients in NHS facilities or patients in the junior specialists' own countries (e.g. Hungary, Croatia)

## Branch Meeting Thursday 30th March

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 Tuesday 25th April 2006 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.)



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