

March for Manufacturing – a Milestone for UK Jobs



from left: David Crausby MP, Tony Dallas and Dick Hegerty

The highly successful amicus 'March for Manufacturing' in Bournemouth on Monday 29th September, a peaceful and restrained demonstration at the Labour Party Conference by some 2,500 amicus trade union members from all over the UK, drew the attention of the nation to the serious decline in UK manufacturing capability. There was extensive TV, radio and newspaper coverage of the event. It may well turn out to be a historical turning point for the survival of the manufacturing sector, where the fundamental importance of manufacturing has finally been recognised.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown, recognising the objectives of the March, referred to the importance of manufacturing in his address to the Labour Party Conference the very same day, and proved the point that this most important sector of the economy needs to be properly nurtured by the government.

UKAPE was well represented by President Dick Hegerty, Immediate Past President Ken Paterson and National Secretary John Kearney. Also participating were former UKAPE administrative secretaries Susan Davies and Ann Marshall from Hayes Court, and fraternal greetings were exchanged with former UKAPE National Secretary Brian Strutton, now with the GMB.

Dick Hegerty and Ken Paterson also met up with David Crausby MP, one of the AEEU sponsored MPs and Member for Bolton North. He addressed UKAPE's BDC at Higher Disley in April 2000. David Crausby was works convenor at Sandusky Walmsley Ltd (paper making machinery manufacturers) in Bolton before becoming an MP. He is pictured here at the start of the March with the current chairman of the shop steward's committee there, Tony Dallas, and Dick Hegerty.

A friendly sense of common interest prevailed throughout this good-humoured and well-behaved company, with a cloudless sky and warm and enjoyable conditions throughout the day. Pre-march addresses of support were made to the assembled marchers by George Brumwell,

Gen Secretary of UCATT, Tony Woodley, TGWU Gen. Secretary elect, and Danny Carrigan, amicus AEEU Assistant Gen Secretary, prior to the arrival of Derek Simpson.

Amicus General Secretary Derek Simpson led the march and addressed the marchers both before the start of the march

and at the main rally outside the Labour Party Conference meeting hall on the Bournemouth seafront. Roger Lyons also spoke in support of the continuing campaign on manufacturing. The enthusiasm of the marchers was indicated by the cheerful flag waving and the huge resonating echoes of the whistles used by many marchers, resulting in a deafeningly solid wall of determination and commitment.



UKAPE BDC 2004 – Have Your Say!

Do you have strong views of the way forward for the engineering profession? Have you ever identified a problem at work and thought "I wish I could do something about this"? If so, now is the time for you to develop policy motions for the next UKAPE Conference and to register your interest as a delegate to influence and set the policies of UKAPE.

For submission of motions, your contribution has to be submitted by your Centre on your behalf, to arrive at Hayes Court on or before 23rd January 2004. Similarly, you should advise your Centre ASAP if you want to attend Conference, which is to be held at Esher Place on 24/25th April 2004, as places are limited. Partners are welcome, and there is always a very good programme for non-delegates.

Stop Press – amicus National Executive Council Election Results

The ballot for elections to the new 48 seat National Executive Council closed on 5th December, and the results are now available on the AEEU website at www.aeeu.org.uk.

In general, there was a very low turnout. For the regional seats, turnout ranged between 12.1% and 22.9%. For the industrial seats, turnout ranged between 6.6% and 14.2%. Turnout for the women's seats was 10.8%.

UKAPE's nominated FPA candidates were unsuccessful, in one case failing by just four votes.

Once the dust has settled, the successful candidates are found to be distributed exactly evenly, at 24 each, between former AEEU and former MSF members. 23 candidates supporting the left wing Gazette Group have a seat on the new Executive.

Meet the Executive Part 3

Syd Croft Northern Centre

Syd served a student/graduate aircraft apprenticeship with English Electric Aviation working on the Lightning, Canberra and the TSR2. Returning to his native North-East, he became involved with R & D on turbines, electrical switchgear, and filters, which included investigating the function of rotary shaft seals with George Angus & Co. Ltd in their Engineering Laboratory. Several promotions later, he ultimately managed both the Engineering Laboratory and the Applications Engineering Department, before the company was taken over and redundancies followed. Syd ended up in Somerset, designing the main shaft seals for hydraulic turbines for five years.



Syd Croft

Now a consultant fluid sealing specialist, based in Newcastle, Syd is Convenor of an ISO Working Group and a member of the associated BSI Committee. An active member of the IMechE, he has served on several committees, at local and national level, and is currently Vice-Chairman of the Tyne Tees Centre of the Automobile Division. A long-standing UKAPE member, he serves as the EC member for the Northern Centre and is a member of the Engineering Profession Working Party. He stood for election and was successfully elected to the Engineering Council Senate immediately prior to its transfer to the Engineering and Technology Board.

Syd is totally convinced that the only way to improve the status of Engineers is to raise their salary levels to match those of other professions. Any other method is doomed to failure, and smacks of wishful thinking on the part of employers. At the moment he sees licensing as the best way of achieving this goal.

Brian Lewis West Midlands Centre

Brian served a production engineering apprenticeship at GEC Telecommunications, following in his father's footsteps. He augmented this training with studies at Coventry Technical College and Coventry University to become a Chartered Engineer. Although his engineering career was interrupted by National Service, he was able to pursue his passion for music, playing clarinet in concert and on parade.

He has worked in the motor industry, in machine tools and in train manufacture, applying value engineering techniques to the design, costing and manufacture of products. He is currently an engineering consultant and part time lecturer.

Brian joined UKAPE in 1972. He has long been keen to ensure that the West Midlands has had a voice in UKAPE, as the Birmingham and Coventry areas have been at the heart of manufacturing of engineered products for many years. He has attended and participated in many UKAPE Conferences and has served as EC Centre Representative for the West Midlands Centre since 1991.



Brian Lewis

MPA Update

MPA Update

The Managerial and Professional Association (MPA) acts as the umbrella organisation for M & P trade unions in the UK. It has developed close links with similar organisations in Europe, and lobbies in Europe on behalf of UK professionals. UKAPE is one of over twenty member organisations within MPA, and Graham Maxfield, Northern Home Counties EC Rep, is UKAPE's nominated representative to MPA.

At the MPA meeting held in October, the MPA Employment Relations Committee reported that submissions had been made in response to government white papers on two subjects, Equality/Age Diversity, and Dispute Resolution. Copies of the submissions are available on request via UKAPE at Hayes Court.

John Morgan-Evans presented an employment law update, including working time, derecognition and teleworking. Reports were also received relating to updates in discrimination law. Contact John Morgan-Evans at Hayes Court for details.

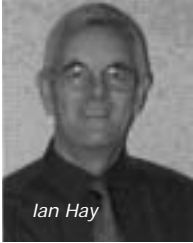
More information about teleworking, including information about the government publication 'Teleworking Guidance' is available on www.worksmart.org.uk.

An excellent presentation had been made to the MPA Pensions Committee by the TUC. The pensions saga continues to be an active topic, and further effort will continue.

Graham Briggs attended a Confederation European des Cadres (CEC) Conference in November, with major themes on Gender Equality and Continuing Professional Development.

Proposed primary topics for the 2004 MPA AGM, to be held on 22nd or 29th March 2004, are stress in the workplace, home working and pensions. Please contact UKAPE at Hayes Court if you would like to attend.

Particular benefits include individual representation



Ian Hay

Ian Hay Metropolitan Centre

Ian graduated with a degree in civil engineering from Edinburgh University in 1964. He has worked for consulting water engineers throughout his career, initially in Scotland and for the last thirty years with Rofe, Kennard and Lapworth (RKL) in Sutton. He has been involved in the promotion, design and construction of many major water supply schemes throughout

the UK and overseas, notably in Cyprus, the Middle East, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea. He now works as an independent consultant.

He is a Fellow of both ICE and the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM). He is a member of the CIWEM Council and Vice Chairman of CIWEM's Engineering Professional Board, which has close links with the Engineering Council (UK).

A member of UKAPE for over thirty years, Ian has served on a number of committees and working parties, and was Chairman of the Consultancy Industry Committee. He led detailed negotiations with the partners of RKL, which culminated in the firm granting UKAPE formal recognition. So convincing were his arguments that two of the partners joined UKAPE at the same time!

He believes passionately that we should be proud of being members of UKAPE and prepared to promote an Association that cares deeply about the welfare of professionals in engineering and seeks to safeguard their interests by providing individual support and collective representation at local, national or international level. He welcomes the latest moves to unify the profession by the formation of a super institution embracing all disciplines of engineering and advocates the introduction of a universal code of ethics for professionals in engineering to protect individuals and their institutions in an increasingly litigious society.

Bob Simpson South Eastern Centre

Bob completed an apprenticeship with the Taylor Woodrow Group and soon after that began working as an Assistant Hospital Engineer at The London Hospital. He became qualified as MIMechE, MCIBSE, FIHEEM, and FFB. He continued with the Health Service until 1997, becoming Works Director at Guy's Hospital and latterly Works & Energy Manager at The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery.

For the greater part of his work in the NHS, Bob dealt with large scale capital projects, being involved in all stages, including concept, pre-planning, design, procurement, project management, maintenance, management of services, condition analysis, strategic planning, employment legislation, industrial relations, risk analysis and health & safety.

Subsequently he has become Managing Director of his own management services consultancy, dealing with schemes in health, industrial and academic sectors, including maintenance reviews, outsourcing strategies, condition surveys for prestige London premises, strategic planning, risk assessments and project management.



Bob Simpson

He has been actively involved with UKAPE and the wider union for many years, serving as South Eastern Centre Representative for 15 years, President for two years 1994-1996 and Vice President since then. His

contribution to the wider union includes election to the Union Executive Committee, as one of the three FPA representatives. He is standing down at the end of 2003 after serving five years on the National Executive.

Recruitment Progress at REME

Many army personnel leave the forces environment every year and enter into an unknown world of industry. With this in mind, UKAPE's Membership & Communications Committee has been in contact with REME to consider opportunities for membership of UKAPE for REME personnel leaving the army. Particular benefits include individual representation and legal advice, as well as membership services. Discussion has progressed with REME over the last few months and information about UKAPE is expected to appear in their monthly journal 'The Craftsman', distributed worldwide, in the new year. UKAPE extends a warm welcome to all REME and other ex-services engineering colleagues returning to civilian employment.

APEG Question Time on Research Funding

The Associate Parliamentary Engineering Group (APEG) hosted a highly successful 'Question Time on Research Funding' meeting at the Houses of Parliament on 28th October 2003, attended by around 100 senior UK researchers, managers and academics. Chaired by Bill Olnier, Chairman of APEG and AEEU sponsored MP for Nuneaton, membership of the eminent panel of five included Lord Sainsbury of Turville, Minister for Science and Innovation, and Dr Andrew Herbert, MD of Microsoft Research UK.

Ken Paterson noted the linkage between research effort and manufacturing jobs, and asked the Minister what he was going to do to ensure engineering research would continue in the UK. The question was repeated by a senior member of staff from Rolls-Royce. The Minister responded that government research was "steadily rising" but did not give any further real encouragement.

Other questions revolved around the adequacy (or otherwise) of EPSRC funding, and other academic affairs.

Management Summary – EC Action

At recent Executive Committee (EC) meetings, it was agreed that subscription rates for 2004 will be held at 2003 rates. EC also agreed that the mileage rate for Association activity be increased to 30p per mile as from 1st January 2004. Final arrangements were confirmed for the BDC to be held at Esher Place on 24/25th April 2004.

Keith Armstrong, Western Home Counties EC Representative, noted serious concerns about the way in which companies were withdrawing from their pension schemes. He advised that more details are available from pensionstheft@yahoo.co.uk. It was noted that this would be taken up via MPA.

Benefits of Membership – Case Histories Study

Representation and support for members is a central benefit of UKAPE membership. A compilation of recent 'Case Histories' has been prepared by Membership & Communications Committee, indicating some of the spectacular results achieved for members by UKAPE. Hard copies are now available from UKAPE at Hayes Court, and the document is also available on the UKAPE website.

Engineering the Profession – The Way Ahead

The Engineering Profession Working Party (EPWP) continues to monitor developments within engineering. Critical aspects include Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and governance of the profession. Some highlights are indicated below.

ETB Registrants Panel Elections 2004 – Step Forward Now!

The Registrants Panel is the primary avenue for communication from grass roots engineers to the Engineering and Technology Board (ETB), the governing body for the engineering profession. The Panel has 24 members, which presently includes UKAPE members Peter Frost and Ken Paterson, who anticipate continuing in office for another year. Elections to the Registrants Panel will take place in the first half of 2004. One third of the Panel members are to be elected each year, to hold office for three years.

In this year's election, five seats are designated for chartered engineers, two seats for incorporated engineers and one seat for engineering technicians. Thirty supporting signatures are required for every candidate. The nomination process is expected to require completed entries to be submitted by late January / early February, elections taking place in April, with successful candidates taking their place in May, in time for the ETB and Registrant's Panel AGM in mid-May.

Expressions of interest in being nominated to join the Panel should be made immediately to UKAPE at Hayes Court, or to President Dick Hegerty.

Manufacturing Matters in Manchester

The Registrant's Panel of the ETB held a meeting at the Manchester Manufacturing Institute in Old Trafford on 30th Sept 2003, attended by Peter Frost and Ken Paterson on behalf of UKAPE. The meeting heard that the ETB was launching a new website for engineering, www.scenta.co.uk, which contains material aimed at informing 16-18 year old students at school, teachers, parents, undergraduates and graduates. Arrangements were also confirmed for the election process to secure renewal of membership of the Registrants Panel.

After the formal business of the meeting, Panel Members met local representatives of NW institutions, and joined with them in receiving informative presentations about manufacturing in the North West by staff from the Manufacturing Institute.

Quarternights 2004

Enclosed with this newsletter is the listing of 2004 Quarternights for all Centres. They offer the opportunity to discuss any industrial relations matters at your site, meet fellow professionals and contribute to the development of UKAPE policy. President Dick Hegerty will be completing his circuit of the centres with a final visit to Metropolitan Centre on 10th March. The March Quarternights will also be the time to brief and mandate Centre Delegates to the April UKAPE Conference.

Copy Deadlines 2004

Copy dates for articles, letters and contributions for future issues of Engineer Today for 2004 are:

Issue Date: March June September December

Copy Date: 1st February 1st May 1st August 1st November

Please send all contributions to Dick Hegerty, or to John Kearney at Hayes Court.

UKAPE Contacts

If you have a home e-mail address where we can contact you, please e-mail the details to either Dick Hegerty or John Kearney. Updated information is also posted on the UKAPE website at: www.ukape.org.uk

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