

**UKAPE 2008 Conference Reminder**

Please remember that the UKAPE 2008 Biennial Delegate Conference will take place from 24 to 25 May 2008 and that original motions should be received at Head Office on or before 22 February 2008.

**Editorial**

It could possibly have escaped most readers' notice, but in the previous edition your editor managed to achieve complete and total anonymity. This was not as a result of false modesty on my part but simply an administrative oversight. So that there is no doubt in the future, allow me to introduce myself; I am Bob Simpson, my details are on the back page and I would be very pleased to hear from you.

Following our report on the ETB debacle in the last edition we seem to have opened something of a hornet's nest and have received a number of comments from members which are reproduced as part of the article on ETB and EC (UK).

President Peter Everitt reports on the latest position concerning the FPA and urges all members to participate in their local Regional Committee meetings. Further details can be obtained from Michele at Head Office.

Our new webmaster John Gallen tells of the improvements to the UKAPE website; on this topic please send your observations direct to John.

As indicated in the previous edition we have included two items on legal matters which it is felt are relevant to our members.

As I said before your comments are very welcome and the deadline for the next edition is the end of February 2008.



It now only remains for me to wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Bob Simpson, Editor

**From The President's Desk**

I knew that I was taking a risk when I accepted Bob's offer to act as editor of Engineer Today. As a Past President he can pester his successor with enthusiasm and no fear of retribution. Although the fact that he treats all his potential contributors in the same way makes me feel slightly better. [Ed – Perish the thought!] Also I know that this is the only way for him to gather the material for ET without writing it all himself; and this is definitely NOT the editor's role other than a brief editorial linking the contributions together when necessary.

So what momentous happenings have occurred since the last issue (less than a month ago as I write this)? As UKAPE President I was invited to attend the Steel and Industrial Managers Association (SIMA) conference in Manchester at the end of October. SIMA is one of the other large member associations of the FPA and it was clear that they have very similar concerns to us; and both associations see the benefits of co-operation where possible. It was a good opportunity to discuss the future role and form of the FPA and I was encouraged by their positive reaction to the draft FPA 'Mission Statement' (see below).

The active members in both organisations see the need to co-ordinate our lobbying activities within Unite to ensure that the new rules enable professional and managerial members to feel confident they will receive the type of support they are looking for.

**Draft Mission Statement for the FPA**

1. To provide an appropriate grouping for the Professional and Managerial Associations which have joined Amicus and its predecessors.
2. To give these associations a forum for co-operation and exchange of information and a mechanism for involvement in the Union's internal democracy.
3. To exploit the brand images of the constituent members of FPA in support of recruitment among Professional and Managerial staff.
4. To lobby government and politicians in support of the 'professional dimension'.
5. To liaise with Eurocadres and other equivalent bodies in Europe and worldwide.

This mission statement had been produced after concerns expressed at the SW Region FPA Sector Committee and was sent to the FPA senior official (Paul Talbot who is also an Assistant General Secretary of Unite). We received a positive response and are planning our strategy to follow this up with the objective of creating an effective grouping of Professionals and Managers within Unite.

As Bob Douglas explained in the last issue there have been 'organisational adjustments' to facilitate elections to the initial Unite Joint National Executive; but the FPA structure continues to exist with Regional Committees, Regional Sector Conferences and a National Sector Conference in July. This is the established mechanism to influence the parent union and I encourage members to get involved with the meetings where possible.

Finally, since this WILL be the last issue in 2007 (Editor please note!), I wish all of you the best for Christmas and a successful 2008.

*"Both organisations see the need to co-ordinate our lobbying activities within Unite"*

Peter Everitt, President

## Engineering Council UK and Engineering and Technology Board

The apparent irrelevance to the majority of the profession of the two bodies dealing with the affairs of the professional engineer prompted me to remind our readership of their functions. This is the position:

EC<sup>UK</sup>'s mission is to set and maintain realistic and internationally recognised standards of professional competence and ethics for engineers, technologists and technicians, and to license competent Institutions to promote and uphold the standards.

Under its Royal Charter EC<sup>UK</sup> regulates the Engineering Profession in the UK and formally represents the interests of UK Engineers abroad. The profession in the UK is regulated through 36 Engineering Institutions which are licensed [Ed: by EC<sup>UK</sup>] to put suitably qualified members on the EC<sup>UK</sup>'s Register of Engineers in the appropriate category.

The ETB is a charity that exists to promote, for the public benefit, the art and science of Engineering and to advance education in Engineering and Technology.

ETB's vision is: "To become an authoritative voice for Engineering and Technology, integrated seamlessly with Science and Mathematics and facilitator of a skilled, innovative workforce."

ETB's mission is: "To improve recognition within UK society of the importance of Engineering and Technology and to encourage the ready supply and professional development of appropriately skilled individuals."

*The ETB is a charity that exists to promote, for the public benefit, the art and science of Engineering and to advance education in Engineering and Technology.*

Further comment is unnecessary at this stage, other than to question EC<sup>UK</sup>'s claim to represent the interests of UK Engineers abroad. Nevertheless, given the previously pathetic voting statistics concerning the ETB elections, Member Peter Milne observes: "Perhaps the reason that fewer than 3% of registered Engineers voted was that hardly anyone knew about the vote. I found out only at the last minute through the emailed Catalyst newsletter, and had very little information on which to base my vote. Non-UKAPE registrants would have had even less information.

"Do registrants who have no internet access receive any information from the ETB? [Ed: Answer – No!]

"I have the impression that the ETB has been making participation by registrants more and more difficult over the years.

"I hope UKAPE can maintain its 'voice in the wilderness' on this issue. Is there any scope for a campaign in Parliament?"

Retired and longstanding Member John Lattey makes this observation: "I cannot comment on the ETB's relevance to Chartered Engineers, but feel that it is typical of collective institutions to design a camel when a simple horse would do the job. Disenfranchise all the trouble makers! Democracy will be best served by the powerful Institutions who always know best! Perhaps we need a Registrants' Al-Qieada to sabotage the Institutions. I will join any campaign to write to MPs or lobby Parliament on behalf of our Profession."

Following the demise of the Registrants Panel we now understand that no less than six Institution Chief Executives have been appointed to the ETB's Board of Trustees

Ed: Well has there been a move to silence the Registrants (or is that the trouble makers)? Is there indeed scope for a campaign in Parliament? If there is how do we go about it or is an Engineers' Al-Qieada more attractive? Your views as ever would be most welcome. For more information on the rôles of both the ETB and EC<sup>UK</sup> a brochure is available from ehallatt@engc.org.uk.

## UKAPE Website



In June 2007 I responded to a request for a volunteer (I know it's something you should never do) to bring the website up to date and act as a point of contact for members. This is therefore a brief update for members on progress since June.

An initial review of the website revealed that many areas were out of date and several internal and external links to pages on the website and other websites were no longer active. Over twenty separate changes and updates were identified as requiring attention. Additionally there was little continuity in the design of the pages and no common theme for the website as a whole.

The majority of the out of date pages have been replaced (but some are still in progress) and this work has been carried out in conjunction with John Mercer of Net Communications who hosts the website for UKAPE. Some of you may have noticed that the member's area link has been disabled; this is pending an update to ensure that this area is more secure.

Some minor changes are still to be completed and changes to the 'How to Join' and 'Contact Us' page have recently been submitted. It is planned that early 2008 will see a new design and layout for the website approved; in addition a members' forum will be set up that will improve communication and allow debate on subjects of interest to UKAPE and its members.

If you wish to provide any input to the re-design or have any comments on the website please contact me on 01953 887191 or email me on webukape@btinternet.com.

John Gallen

EC Member and erstwhile Registrants Panel Member Syd Croft offers his own intriguing theory on the apparent insignificance of ETB and EC<sup>UK</sup>.

"As a follow up to the article on ETB, I may have found one of the reasons why that organisation is unknown to the vast majority of I Mech E Members.

"When I opened my I Mech E subscription reminder recently I read down the list of the recipients of our cash and noticed that although the first one is 'The I Mech E Subscription', the second is 'The Engineering Council Fee'. This latter item should read 'Engineering Technology Board/Engineering Council UK.'" As we know the Engineering Council was disbanded about five years ago and EC<sup>UK</sup> is a different organisation altogether.

"In view of this mistake, it is not surprising that when members pay their annual subscriptions they do not realise that the bulk of 'The Engineering Council Fee' in fact goes to ETB, and since it is not even mentioned, they have no reason to question who, or what ETB is.

"With this in mind, I am pleased to record that the I Mech E has agreed to change the offending text on the subscription forms to read ETB/ EC<sup>UK</sup> Fee, but I wonder how many other Institutions have committed the same error."

Ed: Has your Institution made the same mistake? If so, and you do not wish to contact it direct, let us know and we will.

**Finally member W E Brunger offers the following blistering comments on the entire professional situation.**

"I was interested in your comments in the [previous] Engineer Today about the demise of any representation on behalf of the Registered Engineers who provide a large proportion of the income of the ETB. I find this totally unacceptable. I agree entirely with your view that the ETB is totally irrelevant to the interest of practising engineers. The same could be said to apply to the EC<sup>UK</sup> and to a lesser extent the Professional Institutions which have in my view failed the Professional Engineer.

*"I hope UKAPE can maintain its 'voice in the wilderness'"*

"The issue is the status of our Profession, which is low in comparison to other professions demanding the same level of knowledge and training. Engineering is also of the same or greater

importance to society. As long as I can remember, the Engineering Institutions have made no impact on this vital element. They say we are short of engineers and are trying to interest young people to enter the profession although many new graduates remain unemployed. It seems that their main interest is with obtaining the maximum income from membership fees rather than the interest of the profession.

"As Dyson said in his television lecture it is time for the engineer to rise up and make his voice heard. Unless this happens the Profession will never get the status in society it deserves. Our professional bodies seem not to have noticed that young people flock to careers in those professions which have high status in society. UKAPE is the only organisation likely to have the incentive to raise the status of our profession."

Ed: A veritable call to arms. Have the Institutions failed us? Can UKAPE fill this gap? Again your views would be most welcome.

### Kevin O'Gallagher – UKAPE's Mystery Man

In March this year Kevin became UKAPE's new National Secretary. He has since then been strangely reticent to tell us anything about himself. We know he has been a Union Official for a good many years and that he came from the EETPU. We also know that he assisted significantly in a previous UKAPE recruitment campaign and that his father was a member of UKAPE. We know he is committed to the UKAPE cause but we would like to know a little more, so Kevin, over to you please!



## Claims for Accident Compensation and Work Related Diseases

Unfortunately, it is a fact that many people are injured every day at work in various different types of avoidable accidents. If you have suffered an injury in an accident which was not your fault, you may be able to make a claim for the pain and suffering caused to you, together with any losses and expenses such as medical costs or loss of earnings.

With all personal injury compensation claims, you need to prove that your injury, illness or disease was caused as a result of the negligence of another party (for example your employer, or another employee). Once you appoint an

accident solicitor, they will help you to compile your evidence and present it to the third party and/or their insurers.

Accidents at work include, for example, instances where an employee has received inadequate training for the job, a lack of safety equipment has been provided or faulty or dangerous machinery has been supplied for use.

It is also quite common for people to develop an illness or disease after coming into contact with harmful substances in the workplace. If your employer has exposed you to a potentially harmful substance and you have developed an illness or disease you may be able to make a personal injury claim for compensation.

If you feel this could apply to you, contact Kevin O'Gallagher in the first instance.

### John Kearney 1948 – 2007

Following the report of the sad death of our former National Secretary John Kearney I received the following from Michael Murdoch, the former FPA National Secretary. Ed.



John died on the 28 September, at the age of 59, having contracted cancer in the last twelve months. Fortunately he died peacefully. John had served the union as a fulltime officer for twenty years until he took early retirement in March 2004. He had worked primarily in the Federation of Professional

Associations (FPA), the staff section of the EETPU, later becoming the AEEU. He was responsible for and represented members across the industrial and professional spectrum, from engineering to contracting to civil aviation and the probation service. At the time of his retirement he was the National Secretary of UKAPE.

He was highly respected by those who knew him for he was sincere, honest and genuine in all he undertook. For those of us who worked with him, he was a reliable, dependable and loyal colleague who would always find the time to assist, cover or support whatever his own workload and however short the notice.

John was a warm hearted person and was never short of an engaging smile or kind word for those who came in contact with him. Following his retirement from the union he had continued working as a taxi driver and on a few occasions had union members as customers, in some instances without their knowledge of who he was. Regrettably he never got to enjoy a life without work.

He will be deeply missed by many and in particular those of us who had continued to meet up with him. He is survived by his wife Sheila and sons Paul and Brian.

Michael Murdoch

### Corporate Manslaughter

Both UKAPE and AMICUS have for some time been campaigning for corporate manslaughter to become law in this country and at last it has.

The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act became law in July 2007, although it will not come into effect until April 2008. This should make it easier to prosecute organisations which cause the deaths of workers but it will still be necessary to show that the failure in health and safety was as a result of decisions made at a senior management level.

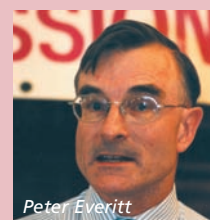
The number of workers killed last year at work was 341 according to the Health and Safety Executive. Falling from height continues to be the most common accident accounting for 19% of fatal injuries. Being struck by a moving vehicle is the next most common fatal accident.

Further statistics are available at:  
[www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/fatals.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/fatals.htm)

### UKAPE Contacts

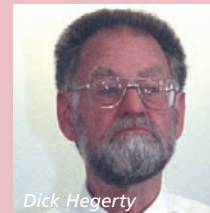
If you have a home email address where we can contact you, please email the details to either Dick Hegerty or Peter Everitt. Updated information is also posted on the UKAPE website at: [www.ukape.org.uk](http://www.ukape.org.uk)

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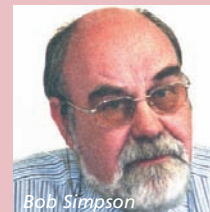
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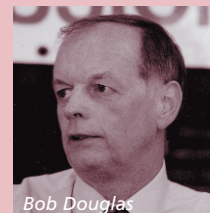
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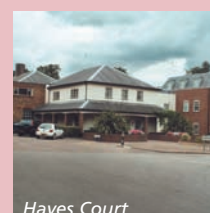
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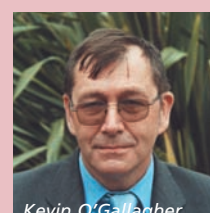
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