

## Editorial

This edition of Engineer Today is devoted almost entirely to reports of the two conferences which have recently taken place. The UKAPE Biennial Delegate Conference (BDC) was held over the weekend 24/25 May at the Imperial Hotel, London. Very nearly a fortnight later, the Federation of Professional Associations (FPA) Conference took place at the Metropole Hotel, Brighton on 6 June. Both conferences were of considerable significance to this association and consequently they are reported in detail.

The UKAPE BDC has traditionally been seen as central to the management of UKAPE. It is the forum at which the membership receives formal progress reports from the Executive Committee (EC), can question the EC on previous conference decisions, set policy for the next two years and equally importantly, network with other members. For readers who have not experienced a UKAPE BDC, the conference divides into four distinct sections. Following the formal opening, Conference receives progress and financial reports from the EC, after which there are motions presented by the delegates and EC which are voted on only by the delegates and during the course of this there is a break for delegates to participate in workshops on various topics. The decisions arising from the motions and workshops are taken away by the EC which then has the job of deciding how best to implement them. We have reproduced here the reports presented to Conference, the motions that were carried and a short report on the workshop recommendations. The EC met on 7 June to discuss the conference decisions and we have included here the decisions reached by the EC in connection with each of the motions.

The FPA Conference is somewhat different, but before dealing with this it is probably worth dwelling briefly on what the FPA is and how it fits in to the structure of the main union. Those old enough to remember the day that UKAPE decided to join the Electricians' Union will recall that we were lumped in with EESA, the then staff section of the union. As more independent staff associations decided to join the fold the decision was made to create a new industrial sector for these associations and give it the title FPA. By way of brief explanation, the old EETPU, apart from its geographic structure, was also divided into industrial sectors which included, for example, ship building, and power generation. The FPA is an artificial industrial sector which crosses many industries and was created exclusively for those members in staff, management and professional jobs. UKAPE is part of FPA and as such sends delegates to the FPA Conference. The FPA Conference opens with an address from the General Secretary and then follows with motions on various topics presented by the delegates. As a result of the merger between AMICUS and TGWU it is almost certain that the FPA will disappear from the new union's structure but how it will be replaced, if at all, is not clear at present. This greatly exercised the minds of Conference delegates.

We also include an overview of the UKAPE submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Engineering. Previously we asked the question what is an engineer and due to space limitations, your comments will have to be held until the September edition, so if you would like to contribute to this debate or to any other points raised in this issue your comments will be very welcome.



Conference 2008

## The President's View

Well, another Conference has come and gone. An interesting experience for me since it was the first time I had chaired that sort of meeting (some of those who attended might say that was obvious). Conference is reported in more detail elsewhere in this issue but it was nice to see some new faces; and thanks to all those who were prepared to spend a wet bank holiday weekend in a hotel in central London with a group of "procedurally challenged" engineers.

It is only too easy for the Conference to get bogged down in procedures and other organisational issues so we included a workshop session aimed at brainstorming ideas to help with the recruitment of students and young graduates. This was a very successful session despite starting late because the previous session (about procedures, of course) overran. This delinquent session was where we discussed the proposed change from BDC to an AGM so it was an important issue for the Association.

A couple of new angles surfaced from the workshop, two which struck me as typical UKAPE "good ideas" which need support from us all if they are to go anywhere were:

"Get a charismatic celebrity to promote UKAPE to Students." And

"Lighten up the publicity material and produce a Joke Book about industrial situations."

So we need suggestions of suitable "charismatic celebrities" who will help us at a fee we can afford, and some good Engineering stories. I think the latter could be the more realistic prospect. There are some stories in the Rough Guide which is on our website, and when I was drafting the early versions I hoped that other members would contribute from their experiences to broaden the field. It hasn't happened yet, but I am still hoping. Any contributions will be welcome, either to the editor or any Officer or to your local Executive Committee representative.

Peter Everitt, President

**UKAPE Biennial Delegate Conference 2008**

We have included a full report of the 2008 Conference to ensure that all members are aware of the matters discussed and the direction in which the association is moving.

Conference took place at the Imperial Hotel in Central London and was attended by a number of delegates from around the country, members of the Executive Committee and guests. We were particularly pleased to welcome Ian Cameron, the President of the Steel and Industrial Managers Association (SIMA), and Marjory Broughton from the Electrical and Engineering Staff Association (EESA).



Conference was opened by Steve Hart, the London and Eastern UNITE Regional Secretary, who outlined the significance of the recent merger between AMICUS and TGWU, the most likely way forward following the final merger process and then answered questions from the floor. Unfortunately Conference was unable to obtain a satisfactory assurance concerning the future of the FPA.

Following the usual formalities President Peter Everitt gave the Executive Committee Report for the period covering two years to 31 December 2007. This report is reproduced below:

**2006 BDC**

There were a number of motions from the 2006 BDC which required action by the Executive Committee.

[Ed: The details have been omitted because of space limitations, but are available on the web-site, or by post, if internet access is not available.]

**Relationship with AMICUS/UNITE**

Several of the motions from the 2006 BDC addressed the question of the future of the FPA and UKAPE's relations with the other member associations. This has been a recurring topic at Executive meetings and has resulted in proposed mission statements for both the FPA as currently constituted and for a possible future grouping of Professional and Managerial members within UNITE. These have been used as part of the lobbying of union officers, both lay and full time, and have been published in Engineer Today. We have also been actively liaising with other FPA associations to co-ordinate activities in this area.

**Governance of UKAPE**

A major topic of discussion at the 2006 BDC was the need for annual meetings to enable the Association to react more quickly to external events. In response to this the EC organised a pilot meeting combined with the June 2007 Executive meeting. This was held in central London so there was good access from all parts of the Country and the opportunity for all

members to contribute to discussions on the future direction of UKAPE (2006 BDC motion 4).

The governing principles for revisions to the UKAPE rules are planned to be generated by Southern Centre as motions submitted to the 2008 BDC.

**Engineering Profession**

The ETB elections to the Registrants Panel of 2006 were worse even than those of 2005 with an even lower turnout. The EC wrote to the ETB requesting a meeting to discuss this problem and offering some suggestions for improvement but received no response. It is quite possible that the decision to disband the Registrants Panel had already been taken, or was imminent.

Over the last two years the ETB has operated under several temporary Chairmen and had one new Chairman who was taken seriously ill and died in office. This affected the operations of the organisation and made it difficult for UKAPE to deal effectively with the head of ETB.

EC members and others have used the petition on the Downing Street website to support the introduction of Registration of Professional Engineers (BDC motion 12).

**Communication and Recruitment**

The Association's newsletter, Engineer Today, suffered a major hiccup in May 2006 with the death of Ken Paterson. Ken had instigated Engineer Today when he was President and had acted as its editor ever since. Bob Simpson volunteered to take on the editor's job at the Special Meeting in June 2007, but it took a little while to sort out how Ken worked with the printer and get this knowledge transferred. In spite of this we did achieve the target of four issues in 2007 – although all in the second half of the year. 2008 should be back to normal.

The website had also become out-of-date and needed significant improvement. Another volunteer appeared at the June meeting (John Gallen) prepared to keep track of the site and make sure it stayed current and relevant. We are still employing a specialist to look after the technical side. The basics are now complete including making the Rough Guide available from the site and we are in the process of setting up some enhancements. The main changes planned are the introduction of a discussion forum and mass email facility. The discussion forum will be divided up into geographical 'centres' matching the UKAPE organisation so that it can be used by members to contribute to Quarter-Night discussions without having to drive across a county or two. The exact form this will take is subject to a review of what is currently technically possible and the associated costs. We also hope to set up the capability for potential members to join 'on line' without the need (as at present) to print out the form and post it to Hayes Court.

This leads on to Recruitment because the website is becoming the most powerful tool to generate new members and we need to design it to be as effective as possible. In addition to the work on the website we have been liaising with full time officer responsible for the UNITE student recruitment campaign. We have generated a UKAPE flyer to be included in the pack used for University/College events. A reduced student

*A major topic of discussion at the 2006 BDC was the need for annual*

membership rate (same as AMICUS student rate) was agreed by the EC in September 2006 (2006 BDC motion 3).

### General

Executive Committee meetings have been moved round the Country with one at Bristol, two at Quorn Grange (Leicester), one in central London (June 2007 all members meeting). Planned venues for 2008 include Quorn Grange and Wortly Hall near Sheffield.

A member attended the Annual Conference of the Trade Union Disability Alliance. This organisation identifies the specific needs of disabled people to enable them to operate actively in society and campaigns for changes which will facilitate this. The attendee produced a report on the conference and copies can be made available on request.

*Following the EC Report the Treasurer gave a report on the Association's financial position. Treasurer Brian West's contribution is reproduced in its entirety.*

### 2006

After the last collection of Direct Debits into the UKAPE account in January, which required us to pay AMICUS their contribution, retain the balance and claim for our Administrative Allowance, subscription collection was changed over to the new system.

This requires AMICUS to collect all Direct Debit and cheque payments and UKAPE to claim the balance of subscriptions over contributions plus the Administration Allowance for our Retained Funds. This results in a per capita sum per annum and it was agreed to make our claim quarterly being the best compromise between cash flow and administrative effort. As UKAPE has no means of knowing how many members have paid or how much, the AMICUS IT department has to provide a monthly record of leavers and joiners to update the agreed starting number (414) of paying members so that the total number of paying members for each month can be determined and the claim can be quantified. Year-end membership was 406. After a slow start this system has worked satisfactorily, with our claims being paid in reasonable time and administrative work considerably reduced.

Income was about £3k low due to late payment of the 3rd quarter retained funds and expenditure was low due to £1.1k unpaid for RRMPSA so income exceeded operational expenditure by £3.5k instead of £5.4k. BDC costs of £9.1k caused a deficit of £5.6k overall, reducing our funds from £46.9k to £41.3k, a satisfactory position.

### 2007

The Retained Funds claims were promptly paid so cash flow was adequate. Paying membership fell by 13 to 393. The £3k retained funds carried over from 2006 inflated the apparent income but operational costs were £1.1k lower than listed due to the RRMPSA underpayment in 2006 and so the true operational surplus for the year is £0.7k despite EC costs being £1.3k higher than 2006. The Special EC held in London cost £4.0k so there was a net loss for the year of £1.4k, which reduces our reserves to £39.9k, still a very satisfactory situation.

Increased EC costs were mainly due to increased travelling expenses to venues other than Esher. We also spent £3.1k on publication of the 'engineer today' so we are now operating with no significant contribution to our reserves. This means that any future BDC or AGM will have to be funded entirely from the reserves.

### 2008

We will start the year with about £40k of which £10k will be used for the BDC and probably £2.5k on operational deficit. We will then have £27.5k to cover a £5k BDC or AGM reserve plus £2.5k operational deficit every year for at least for the next three years, which is a lot longer than we can predetermine our own destiny. If we reserve £5k for immediate website development and other recruitment and retention methods we may reach the modern communication-conscious engineers, recruit them and cover the costs.

After several years of holding our subscription at £132p.a. it is fairly certain that the Union will raise its rates for 2009 and so will we. Rule 4.3.2's limit of £3.00 p.a. (2.3% of £132) over the union's rise may be inadequate so the EC will be asked to change the limit to 5%.

*Both reports were then approved by the Conference Delegates and Conference moved into the main conference business of debating the various motions offered by the delegates and other centre members. As previously indicated, our space is limited so we reproduce here the substantive motions and not the individual amendments that were presented and also only those motions that were carried or referred back to the EC. As previously indicated the EC met within a fortnight of the BDC and we are also able to include the actions agreed by the EC for each of these motions.*

## Motions Binding on the EC Calling for Action

### Substantive Motion 3

Following the success of the special Executive Committee meeting in June 2007, this Conference agrees that the Biennial Delegate Conference (BDC) is replaced by an Annual General Meeting (AGM). The current rules for the BDC will be replaced with a new set for an annual meeting to which all members are entitled to attend. In order to implement this, Conference will appoint a committee to formulate a proposed change of rules to facilitate the AGM. The Executive Committee will inform members of this committee's proposals so that they can be discussed at a Special Delegate Conference to be arranged no later than June 2009 and, if agreed at that meeting, to be implemented with immediate effect.

*EC Action: The EC endorsed the members of the Special Committee, nominated by BDC. They are Peter Milne, Peter Michael, Bob Bravington, Bob Douglas and Keith Armstrong. Bob Bravington was asked by EC to act as Chairman.*

## Conference contd...

### Motion 6

Conference calls upon the Executive Committee to support the development of the proposition that the manufacturing sector is a major stabilising factor in a modern economy and sponsor work to quantify the benefits. Also to publicise this to the parent union and beyond as further evidence in support for the campaign for manufacturing.

*EC Action: Kevin O’Gallagher agreed to contact Roger Jeary in the UNITE Research Department to determine how best to deal with this motion.*

### Substantive Motion 7

The Executive Committee is instructed to examine prospects for establishing professional and managerial employees as a coherent body within the new structures that UNITE is developing. Also to write to the UNITE Joint General Secretaries expressing our concerns and giving any constructive conclusions reached which might help in the establishment of an effective support structure attractive to professional and managerial employees. If the Executive Committee is unable to establish such a structure, Conference instructs it to examine what further possibilities exist for our professional members outside UNITE.

*EC Action: It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the UNITE (AMICUS Section) General Secretary; the President to action.*

### Motion 9

This Conference directs the Executive Committee to investigate the actual situation in regard to our members’ remuneration and dependent upon the result to consider the appropriate action.

*EC Action: The proposer of the motion, Graham Sturdy, agreed to prepare a suitable questionnaire to be sent to all members to obtain the necessary information.*



Rare pic of Graham Sturdy

### Substantive Motion 10

This Conference directs the Executive Committee to write to and seek a meeting with the UNITE Joint General Secretaries urging to engage more proactively with the Engineering and Technology Board to protect the democratic rights of individual professional engineers and press for the reintroduction of the Registrants’ Panel.

*EC Action: It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the UNITE Joint General Secretaries; the President to action.*

### Motion 11

This Conference believes that full regulation of the engineering profession is essential to maintain standards, protect the public and raise the status of professional engineers and that all practising UK engineers should be registered with the Engineering Council UK. Conference instructs the Executive Committee to write to the Engineering and Technology Board and the Secretary of State for innovation, universities and skills urging them to promote the ECUK Register amongst engineering employers.

*EC Action: It was agreed that this would be deferred until the September EC Meeting when it was expected that Ian Hay (the proposer) would be in attendance.*

### Motion 14

Conference believes that more qualified engineers need to be able to gain a management qualification especially as so many advance to higher positions. UKAPE must urge Government and the ETB to promote management training for potential managers by encouraging organisations through tax relief or for example bodies like the ETB to add an M after CEng in conjunction with the Chartered Management Institute

*EC Action: It was agreed to send a letter to the ETB, the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Department of Education.*

### Motions and Amendments Referred Back to EC

#### Motion 4

UKAPE has traditionally considered itself to be a slightly elitist organisation with only Chartered and Incorporated Engineers allowed into membership. The Institution of Mechanical Engineers has recently introduced a new Corporate Membership grade to be known as EngTech MIMechE. On this basis Conference believes that UKAPE should follow suit and instructs the EC to organise an effective recruitment campaign for this new grade of membership.

#### Amendment to Motion 4

In last sentence delete all from “On this basis” to “EC” and insert “The Executive Committee is instructed to arrange for the Eng. Tech. Grade of Registrant to be eligible for full membership of UKAPE and”.

In last sentence delete “new grade of membership” and insert “Eng. Tech. Grade of Registrant”.

*EC Action: It was agreed to defer a decision until the September EC Meeting.*

#### Motion 5

As part of the drive to improve recruitment, UKAPE should consider re-branding itself, for example by changing its name.

*EC Action: It was agreed to defer a decision until the September EC Meeting.*

#### Amendment to Motion 11 (Referred Back to EC independently of the main motion)

In first sentence delete “UK engineers” and insert “UK professional engineers”.

In last sentence delete all after “promote” and insert “to engineering employers the advantages in using ECUK Registered professional engineers.”



Conference in session

*EC Action: It was agreed to defer a decision until the September EC Meeting.*

The following motions were transferred into Section 5 by decision of Conference and having been proposed referred back to EC en bloc.

[Ed: Section 5 motions are motions of general interest which may result in expressions of opinion but will have no binding effect on the policies or actions of the Association.]

#### Motion 8

This Conference has the gravest concern that in spite of the current strong economy there are severe longer term problems which are not being addressed by the Government with the financial priority and forethought required to sustain the quality of life of the nation. This Conference instructs the Executive Committee to communicate this view to the Government. Some of these problems are as follows:

- Surface water protection and disposal.
- Provision and accommodation for population movements.
- Drinking water resource and distribution.
- Fixed and mobile energy supply and resource.

#### Amendment to Motion 8

In first sentence, delete "in spite of the current strong economy", delete "longer" and insert "long".

*EC Action: It was agreed to defer a decision until the September EC Meeting.*

#### Motion 12

This Conference accepts that global warming is a problem but believes that it cannot be dealt with without serious attempts by the United Nations to encourage a reduction in World population by birth control means. The Executive Committee is instructed to urge the Government to adopt and promote this view to the United Nations.

#### Amendment to Motion 12

Delete "a reduction in world population by birth control means" and insert "positive action for sustainable occupation of our planet".

*EC Action: It was agreed to defer a decision until the September EC Meeting.*

#### Motion 13

Increasing use is being made of energy saving light bulbs which contain mercury and can pollute the atmosphere. However many local authorities are slow to provide safe disposal of this toxic material. Recycling is possible and the Executive Committee is instructed to write to Government and local authorities to make them aware of this and the lighting industry required to include disposal instructions on the packaging.

#### Amendment to Motion 13

In third sentence, after "make them aware of this and", insert "to press for the introduction of legislation forcing". Delete "required".



*EC Action: It was agreed to defer a decision until the September EC Meeting.*

#### Motion 15

This Conference requests the Government to reduce Council Tax for pensioners or to scrap it in favour of a more equitable system such as a small increase in income tax. This would distribute the cost more fairly.

*EC Action: It was agreed to defer a decision until the September EC Meeting.*

[Ed: Of all the motions before BDC 2008 probably the most far-reaching is motion 3 above. The ethos of UKAPE has always maintained that BDC is at the heart of UKAPE and this motion seeks to replace it with an AGM. I am sure the committee and the EC would be very happy to hear the views of the membership, so please join in this debate. Has BDC run its course, should it be replaced by an AGM, or should we maintain the status quo?]

The final session of the Saturday afternoon was given over to workshop discussions on the subject of recruitment and in particular the recruitment of students and other young engineers. Conference was divided into four groups to brainstorm these propositions and the following bullet points give a flavour of the ideas that bubbled up from this session:

- Provide information on the reality of industry
- Address groups of engineering graduates
- Enforce the concept that a manager is still an employee
- Provide information in a light hearted manner – produce a joke book
- Arrange for a stall at freshers fairs
- Advertise in Institution magazines and at meetings
- Get a charismatic celebrity to promote UKAPE to Students

[Ed: Any suggestions?]

- We need to be aware of what competitors provide and see if we can provide alternative, better or niche
- What do students want? Currently in debt/have no job and need assistance with both
- Undertake PEST and SWOT analyses

[Ed: These are a selection of the ideas put forward, if you feel you can add to them in any way we would be delighted to hear from you.]

**UNITE-AMICUS  
UNITED KINGDOM ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

Branch 1922

**FPA Conference June 2008**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER 2007**

The FPA Conference was held in Brighton on Friday 6 June, UKAPE sent four delegates, President Peter Everitt, Vice Presidents Bob Douglas and Bob Simpson and South Western EC Member Roger Sabido.

As this was the first UNITE conference for the FPA there was some trepidation as to what was likely to occur at the meeting. The activists were concerned that the new draft rules did not specifically refer to a Management and Professional sector for the new union which could mean the death knell of the FPA.

On the evening prior to the conference there were a number of discussions between various delegates but no definite course of action was agreed. We decided we were just going to see what happened on the day.

As usual the conference opened with a presentation by Derek Simpson. He is a very good speaker and does not use notes. The main thrust of his speech was on forming links with unions abroad to counter the effect of multi national companies. Nothing was said about the future of the FPA. After his speech he answered questions from the floor but little more was elucidated, despite a very probing question from Roger Sabido who also made reference to the recent changes within the ETB.

We then went into the FPA conference proper. Due to its more active membership over half of the delegates were from SIMA. UKAPE was the third largest with our four delegates. A lay chairman was selected and this was Ian Cameron, the President of SIMA. Despite their overwhelming numbers they do not dominate the debate and Ian Cameron is a fair chairman.

A report was given by Paul Talbot an Assistant General Secretary and the officer responsible for the FPA. He was also not able to give assurances on the future of the FPA apparently due to the fact that the rules are not yet finalised.

		2007		2006	
		£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>					
Retained Funds Subs Payback	[1]		10,051	[2]	7,665
Administration Allowance	[1]		5,798	[2]	3,883
RRMPA Subscriptions Received			1,320		1,562
Branch Subscriptions	[3]		133		463
Misc Income			108		108
Total Income			17,410		13,681
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Recruitment		981		701	
Newsletter		3,136		-	
E.C. & Officers	[4]	6,110		4,774	
Working Parties		121		1,226	
Centre Expenses		211		491	
Federation Expenses		233		487	
Affiliation Fees		-		185	
Book-keeping & consumables		417		776	
Sundry Expenses		200		179	
Bank Charges		-		-	
Branch Contributions	[5]	2,541		463	
Life Members		792		749	
Depreciation		119		159	
Sub-total – Operational Costs			(14,861)		(10,190)
Operational Surplus/(Deficit)			2,549		3,491
Special Costs	Special EC		(4,002)	BDC	(9,118)
Surplus / (Deficit) for year			(1,453)		(5,627)

		2007		2006	
<b>BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER</b>					
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Initial value (Laptop & Printer)		476		635	
Additions		-		-	
Depreciation [25% p.a.]		(119)		(159)	
Value at year end			357		476
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Current a/c		22,913		18,701	
Reserve a/c		12,454		16,456	
RRMPA a/c		4,209		4,203	
Total		39,576		39,360	
Debtors	[6]	3,391		7,029	
Total			42,967		46,389
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
Uncleared cheques	[7]	(3,445)		(1,960)	
Other creditors		=		(3,573)	
Total			(3,445)		(5,533)
<b>NETT ASSETS</b>			39,879		41,332
<b>REVENUE BALANCE</b>					
ACCUMULATED FUNDS B / F			41,332		46,959
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR			(1,453)		(5,627)
ACCUMULATED FUNDS C / F			39,879		41,332

Notes:

- [1] Direct Debit and cheques to UNITE/AMICUS. UKAPE claims payback on agreed sum per capita.
- [2] Income a mixture of Direct Debit and Payback.
- [3] Members payments to Treasurer.
- [4] Increased travel costs.
- [5] RRMPA plus member's payments to UNITE/AMICUS.
- [6] Retained Funds + RR subs due 2007Q4.
- [7] Current a/c and RRMPA.

*As this was the first UNITE conference for*

## FPA Conference contd...

The motions submitted by the various constituent bodies were then debated. Most of them were on the future of the FPA and how it would be organised in the future. Five out of fourteen motions were very similar and the most comprehensive one was debated, the others being withdrawn. It was no surprise at all that there was overwhelming support for the continued existence of the FPA. Two motions from UKAPE dealing with the future organisation were debated and passed with unanimous support. The two motions in question are reproduced in full below.

### FPA aims, organisation and identity workshop – Proposed by Roger Sabido

This conference calls on the National Sector Committee to organise as soon as practicable, a workshop on the topic of the organisation aims and identity for a professional and management staffs grouping with the UNITE structure and rule book. This workshop is to be open to all activists within the FPA Structure of the AMICUS Section. It shall have as its objectives the making of recommendations to the National Sector Committee on this topic.

### Mission Statement – Proposed by Peter Everitt

This conference calls upon the National Sector Committee to approach the NEC to develop the FPA into a grouping for cooperation among managerial and professional members of UNITE based around the following mission statement. The first essential is to have an identifier on the membership database for managerial and professional members. The grouping must allow any individual association which wishes to maintain its own identity to do so:

#### UNITE M & P Mission Statement

1. To provide an appropriate grouping for the professional and management membership within UNITE.
2. To facilitate recruitment among the growing population of professional and managerial staff by providing a place within UNITE where they feel comfortable that their particular concerns are understood and they will receive the type of support they are looking for, exploiting the brand images of the constituent members of FPA is part of the campaign.
3. To lobby government and politicians in support of the "professional dimension".
4. To liaise with Eurocadres and other equivalent bodies in Europe and Worldwide.

After the discussions representatives for a FPA national sector committee were nominated. I indicated that if the FPA was to be abolished why should we do it. The good chairman however said it has not been abolished yet so we will form the committee. This was then done. I am the UKAPE representative. How many meetings we will have no one knows. But all the FPA is in favour of a new and possible expanded M&P sector which is the area of expansion for membership if only the leaders could see.



It was enjoyable to see so many old friends again but for how long will these conferences continue?

Bob Douglas

## Parliamentary Inquiry into Engineering

In March this year the Innovations, Universities, Science and Skills Committee announced that it was to hold a very far reaching inquiry into engineering. This of course is the very stuff of UKAPE and it was decided at extremely short notice to make a submission. The rules of the game are such that we were not allowed to go public until the Committee had received the submission and that has now happened, our efforts are now reproduced in précis form below.

- For the purpose of this submission, the definition employed by UKAPE of a Professional Engineer is:
 

A person who has successfully undertaken a course of study to a minimum level of first degree or its equivalent, and has either been elected or is working towards election to Corporate Membership of a recognised Engineering Institution.
- In the United Kingdom, and in most of the English speaking world, the term "Engineer" has come to mean any person involved in the engineering field, particularly in the areas of manufacture or maintenance. In the United States it also means the driver of a locomotive.
- This situation is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future, and as things stand at present anybody from a gas fitter to a bridge designer can legitimately call themselves an engineer. Clearly this is unsatisfactory.
- Other professionals, for example Architects, Dentists and Veterinary Surgeons have their job title protected in law so that, for example, only a person suitably qualified in Architecture can legally be called an Architect. Others employed in this field and not suitably qualified are known as Architectural Technicians.
- As far as the Engineering Profession is concerned, the position in continental Europe is similar to that described in paragraph 6 above. In other words, there are clear definitions regarding the level of qualification required to fulfil the style of address or job title that goes with it.

## Parliamentary Inquiry into Engineering Contd...

- The Engineering Council UK (ECUK) also gives three distinct qualifications, as follows:  
Chartered Engineer (CEng) is similar to the French *Ingénieur* and requires a second degree and Corporate Membership of an appropriate Engineering Institution before it is awarded.  
Incorporated Engineer (IEng), which requires a first degree and Associate Membership of an Institution.  
Technician Engineer (EngTech), which is reserved for suitably qualified tradespersons.
- The above qualifications are protected in law, but the essential difference between the UK and the Continental system is that in the UK there are no situations in which there is a legal requirement to appoint a Chartered Engineer.
- This means that complex engineering plant, e.g. chemical works, oil refineries, etc. can be designed and subsequently operated by anyone who claims to be competent, regardless of their true qualifications.
- In the UK there are some specific areas where there is statutory regulation but it has grown up over many years and is applied in a piecemeal and illogical manner. For example, there is statutory control over the competence of the technician who installs a gas appliance (CORGI) but no similar control over the designer of the appliance, or the person who writes or approves the instructions to which the installer.
- There is a clear and immediate public safety issue with the installation of gas appliances, but the regulation is only applied to the practical installation and not to the decisions leading to it.
- It is clear that this whole situation needs urgent review to establish a logical regulatory framework to replace the current piecemeal arrangements.
- It is recommended that where decisions are taken which could affect the public or public safety, a Chartered Engineer should be part of the decision-making process.
- It is further recommended that those Engineers be subject to regular review and should be legally required to undertake regular Continuing Professional Development studies, which at present are completely voluntary

The full document is available on our website and also on: [http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary\\_committees/ius/iusevidence.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/ius/iusevidence.cfm) along with other submissions received. If that doesn't work go to: [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk) and follow the links to committees. Our submission is item 11 on page 69 of the memoranda received. As ever, your comments on the UKAPE submission and/or any of the others would be extremely welcome.

[Ed: I would stress this is a shortened version of our submission and any comments should reflect the contents of the complete document.]

## UKAPE Contacts

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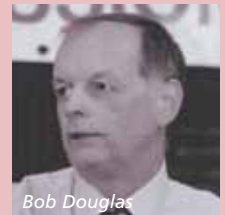
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