

# An election called early - not for our benefit. But it's our opportunity!

- Len McCluskey was wrong to call a snap election 3 years early to suit him and Labour.
- All Unite's time and resources should have been used fighting cuts and defending members.
- He's wrong to try and extend his time in office to 67. We oppose the increased retirement age.
- This election timing is about clearing the decks for Labour and the General Election in 2015, piling our money in while taking the pressure off.

Len McCluskey may have hoped to be unopposed, but Jerry Hicks' success at getting on the ballot paper means 1.5 million members will now have a vote.

In the biggest union we ought to be stronger and feel safer and we can.

Some say things are better in Unite. Maybe, but the truth is the majority still feel angry and vulnerable in the face of the employers' and Con-Dem attacks.

Chances to make a difference come and go. Len McCluskey talks big but failed to back the co-ordinated public sector strike action last March. That was a big mistake.

The Olympics was the perfect opportunity to take on and defeat the anti union laws and end illegal blacklisting of workers. It was an opportunity lost.

Real change is needed to give us the confidence to turn isolated disputes into co-ordinated action and effective resistance.

## **Actions speak louder than words.**

We are shackled with anti union legislation brought in by the Tories, left unchanged during 13 years of Labour. Our union's policy is repeal of those laws, but nothing has ever been done. And we are vulnerable as a result, Unite's leadership has to shoulder the responsibility.

Facing down the anti-union laws has never been a priority, but it must be now, including support for unofficial and solidarity action when necessary. That will enable us to take swift and decisive action to defend ourselves, or the threatened hospital, school or workplace closure. Only Jerry Hicks will do this as General Secretary.

## **We need to fundamentally change our relationship with Labour.**

### **£6 million reasons to vote for Jerry Hicks.**

- Len McCluskey promised no blank cheques in the 2010 General Secretary election but has handed over £6 million.
- He talks of reclaiming Labour but with no evidence of progress.
- He is too close to Labour and it's too costly for us.
- Jerry Hicks would only fund Labour after they do the right thing.
- Negotiate to slash the £millions in affiliation fees.
- Would support Labour councillors who vote against cuts.
- Stop funding MPs who vote against Unite policies.



**VOTE for JERRY HICKS for Unite General Secretary**

*Not for less. Not for the same. But for more.*

*More democracy. More say. More member control.*

**BALLOT RUNS FROM MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup> TO APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup>**



# Vote Jerry Hicks for Unite General Secretary

## Not less – Not the same – But more.



- Workplace branches are progressive but re-organisation is dictatorial.
- Community branches are good but they've been painfully slow to be set up.
- We want to use leverage campaigns against employers, but too often they achieve better redundancy terms where sustained action could have saved jobs.
- Some regions are far too big, members are distant and disconnected. These should change.
- Retired members deserve greater status.
- Two-tier workforce deals are divisive, a different approach is needed.
- Members are often refused legal backing. Jerry Hicks would ensure members are properly represented.
- Jerry Hicks supports member controlled Sector Rank & File organisation.

### Is it our union or a business?

Unite is our union yet it feels like a big business, with a layer of appointed unaccountable officials like directors who don't live the same lives as us. Jerry Hicks would change all that.

- Len McCluskey enjoys a six figure salary.
- Jerry Hicks will take an average worker's wage of £26,000.
- Len McCluskey would keep the system of appointing officials.
- Jerry Hicks wants members to elect the officials that represent them.

### Jerry Hicks has real experience – that's the difference between talking and doing

Over the last 3 decades, as an elected Rep and Senior Rep, Jerry Hicks has stood up to the bosses, been on strike, involved in occupations and put his job on the line for others. During those years, Len McCluskey was an appointed official and lacks that experience.

In 2011 when the construction employers tried to smash national agreements, Jerry Hicks was elected by rank-and-file electricians to help organise a campaign of protests and unofficial actions. It ended in victory.

Jerry Hicks says Germany has created 1m Green jobs in design, manufacture and construction. So should we.

- In 1975, Jerry Hicks joined Rolls Royce in Bristol as an apprentice: During 30 years there elected as Rep and Senior Rep and elected to the Union's National Council.
- In 2003 was offered a union Regional Officer's job, which he declined on principle. He supports elections, not appointments.
- In 2005 was unlawfully sacked by Rolls Royce for Trade Union activities.
- In 2011 was elected to the National Construction Rank & File committee.
- In 2012 discovered he was on the illegal employers' blacklist.

**Jerry Hicks has twice stood for General Secretary. In 2008 and 2010 he finished runner-up. And in 2010, his 52,527 votes beat two Assistant General Secretaries.**

**BE PART OF THE CAMPAIGN. GET IN TOUCH.**

*If you haven't received a ballot paper, get in contact with Jerry*

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