



Huge 'Yes' vote after difficult wage talks

# Our negotiators achieve a 3 per cent wage rise

The union has successfully negotiated a 3% wage rise across the board for its ceramic industry members working in Federated companies.

Effective from August 1, the one-year pay deal includes an extra day's holiday to be taken in 2012 to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June.

Commenting on the agreement, General Secretary Geoff Bagnall said: "This year's negotiations with the employers proved to be the most difficult we have had to face for many years.

"Although some companies are doing relatively well others are not, and the overall state of the UK economy is very fragile.

"Unity is very much aware that inflation is now higher than for some considerable time, with many working families finding it difficult to make ends meet. We believe that the 3% rise was the very best we could achieve under the current circumstances, which is why we recommended its acceptance to members."

The result of a ballot of our members at Federated companies was:

**For acceptance: 1093**  
**Against acceptance: 189**  
**Majority in favour: 85.25%**

- At its October meeting, the National Executive Committee (NEC) agreed to increase the weekly subscription rate by 10p from the beginning of January.

Geoff Bagnall said: "I would like to point out that despite the rise in the weekly subscription it still remains the lowest charged by any trade union in the TUC. The NEC and your officers are determined to continue to deliver the very best service that we can

for all our members. It is worth noting that we negotiated a 3% pay increase for members at Federated companies earlier this year, at a time when many public sector workers and others in the private sector are facing a continued pay freeze."



**Facing up to the challenges that lie ahead**

General Secretary-elect Harry Hockaday outlines just some of the important issues he plans to tackle when he takes up the union's top job in January.

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Prince Charles enjoys a joke with Bridget Dix after trying his hand at transferring during a visit to Middleport Pottery, Burslem, in October, which has been saved by an investment from the Prince's Regeneration Trust. Full story and more pictures on Page 3.