

Minutes of the Safety Group Fife

Held on Monday 14th April 2008 at

Dunfermline Building Society, Caledonia House, Carnegie Avenue, Dunfermline

Present

Alan Harwood	FMC Technologies
Sally Eddington	ADM Milling Ltd
Peter Ager	Fife Council
Martin Brown	ARCO Ltd
Steve Blyth	Fife Council
David Jones	Velux Company Ltd
Andy Martin	Fife Health & Safety
Tom Heath	Self
John Greenhalgh	Exxonmobil
William Miller	Strath Safety
John Auld	Quaker Oats
David Cant	Carnegie College
Tom Cunningham	Fife Council
John Johnston	FMC Tecnologies
Sheena Johnston	FMC Technologies
Mark Russell	Dunfermline Building Society

Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Andy Fowler, David Birrell and Annette Torley

Chairman's Opening Remarks

Davy Cant chaired the meeting in Andy Fowlers absence. DC welcomed everyone along to the April meeting, he introduced John Greenhalgh from Exxonmobil who was replacing Bob Crewes who had now retired.

DC Introduced the evening speaker, who was Ian Paton from the charity Children 1st, formally the RSPCC. Ian started by explaining that he had two main challenges within his role as the health and safety manager for the charity. The first was ensuring that the charity worked within the limits of the legislation and the second was ensuring that potential civil actions and liabilities were minimised.

He mentioned that the Charity had a duty of care to its members and staff, he talked about the charity also having to work with the Care Commission who regulate them due to the residential and disabled placements that the charity has.

Ian highlighted that most of their funding comes via the Scottish Executive and that they work with and support 22 Local Authorities. The Charity does a lot of project work and provides family conferencing facilities.

Being a charity they are also bequeathed money through trusts and estates, they also get involved in raising funds through various events, although he admitted that they have a risk averse approach to any event which involves water, fire works or bouncy castles.

IP stated that they only do one event where water is present, the Inverness raft race. He did point out that the event is extremely well supervised and supported by the local canoe club, the sub aqua club, the army and St Andrews ambulance.

He commented that over the years they have been approached by individuals who wanted to do unusual events to raise funds for them, one that came to mind was a 70 year old woman who wanted to do a wing walk – NO!

Ian commented that the charity is a business, donations are subject to management costs, 70% Services, 20% Charity and 10% Administration. He admitted that it was difficult to get charities to spend money on health & Safety. He talked about duty of care and that volunteers had to be treated as staff. Full training should be given to all, this was not always possible, booklets and leaflets with general information were provided.

He mentioned that the day where home baking was used to generate money for charities had long gone. Food hygiene certificates have to be produced and appropriate storage used. The only way round this is to shop buy the produce and sell that.

Ian stated that he had worked for charities for about 15 years, they have family friendly policies and encourage their staff to develop themselves. Ian stated that his role is 90% Health & Safety and 10% Insurance, He reports into a senior management team and a board.

Health and safety is an issue that all medium to large charities are having to face up to, smaller charities are tending to ignore the bigger picture, although there is a movement to support and encourage compliance across charities.

Children 1st has 40 separate locations stretching from the Black Isle to Selkirk, it has a head office containing 70 staff. The local authority regulates the charity as well as the fire brigade.

Ian mentioned that they had specific issues surrounding lone workers visiting dangerous areas where drug use was high. He closed by talking about the charity shops and the difficulties that they faced, people used them as dumping ground thinking that the charity shops would welcome anything no matter what condition or standard it is in. They cannot sell second hand electrical goods or children's shoes etc.

DC thanked Ian for what had been an interesting insight into the work of the charity.

Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the 10th March 2008 were approved.

Group Visit

DC mentioned that he was in negotiations to arrange a site visit to the Forth Rail Bridge, further detail will follow.

Web Site Update

John Johnston mentioned his own web site (health and safety for beginners) and his search for prizes for his annual health & safety competition, all donations gladly received.

He mentioned that the group web site had achieved a Google page rank of 3 due to the links to other sites and the number of hits it has had. The HSE site has a Google page rank of 7 so we are doing pretty well.

SCOS Update

MR mentioned that he had attended the recent SCOS AGM and updated the group on the outcomes of the meeting that followed, it is likely that on the back of the recent conference success that the event will take place again in 2009. SCOS was also supporting a number of high performers events across Scotland promoting Business to Business support.

SCOS was planning to launch a health and safety poster campaign for children across Scotland, this would be launched at an event on 20th June 2008 at Stirling Highland Hotel, during a visit by Lord McKenzie (minister for Health & Safety).

MR and Sally Eddington highlighted that the submission date for the Safety Group Fife Awards was fast approaching and encouraged everyone to start preparing their submissions for entry. MR asked that entries were directed to himself in the first instance. Electronic forms would be sent out next week.

The date of the next meeting is 12th May, this will also be the AGM. The speaker for the evening will be Euan Drysdale of Keegan & Pennykid, who will be talking about Risk Management from an insurance perspective.

Mark Russell
Secretary
Safety Group Fife