

Minutes of Safety Group Fife Meeting

Held 14th December 2009 at

**Dunfermline Building Society, Caledonia House
Carnegie Avenue, Dunfermline.**

Present

Colin Sparling	Carnegie College
Andy Martin	Fife H&S Consultants
John Johnston	FMC Technologies
William Millar	Strath Safety
Ian Norton	North British Distillery
Linda Bell	Business Medical
David Jones	Velux Co Ltd
Mark Russell	Dunfermline B. S.
Peter Ager	Fife Council
Tom Canning	Babcock Marine
Mick Graham	Babcock Marine
David Cant	Carnegie College

Apologies

Apologies were received from Annemarie Smith, Dorothy Smith, Alan Harwood and Sheena Johnston.

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting dated 9th November 2009 were approved.

Chairman's Opening Remarks

David Cant opened the meeting and apologised that the programmed speaker had not managed to attend. DC thanked Tom Canning from Babcock Marine for standing in at short notice to present to the Group.

DC also thanked Peter Ager for standing in as Chair at the November meeting. DC welcomed Mick Graham from Babcock Marine as a new member to the Group.

DC also highlighted that it was pleasing to see that we had a pop up banner advertising the Group at last.

Presentation

Tom Canning opened by introducing himself and explaining how the "Remember Charlie" concept came from. He mentioned that MD for Babcock had driven a "Safety Revolution" through the business, looking at who creates hazards? And why do we have accidents?

TC talked about the various safety awards that the business had won over the years, but highlighted that unless you change the safety culture and get the employees to accept responsibility and understand the “ripple effect” – take a chance – suffer the consequences!

The “Remember Charlie” DVD was shown – the DVD shows a presentation given by an employee for a petroleum company, he had worked for the company for 20 years and knew his job inside out. He presents a set of circumstances where the ripple effect bites back.

He talks about his attitude to wearing PPE, the short cuts that he took on processes, his priority was to get the job done over the safety processes and procedures and ultimately the consequences he paid as a result.

He talked about the burns he suffered and the reconstructive surgery he had to go through to get to where he was today. He talked about the impact the accident had on his family immediately following the accident and through his recovery.

All in all it was quite a moving story that gave a real life experience of what can go wrong and how it ultimately effects not only the victim but their family.

TC concluded his presentation and a general discussion followed, a couple of Group members mentioned that they had heard similar presentations from other individuals who had been affected by work related accidents. One was a worker for Coca Cola who had been blinded, his safety glasses were round his neck at the time.

Another example was a worker who had a steel plate fall on him while cutting it, he hadn't strapped the plate up. It fell on him and damaged his leg.

TC also mentioned that Babcock Marine insisted that apprentices wore high visibility hard hats to highlight their potential lack of experience.

AOB

MR highlighted that Safety Groups UK, through SCOS were looking to generate some local involvement in a couple of events that were planned for 2010.

Firstly, it was planned to hold a “Moving Goods Safely” seminar in Scotland in April/May 2010, SCOS are looking for individuals with the relevant experience to get involved and help organise, plan and run the event, this event will be run in conjunction with the HSE.

Secondly, the “Health and Safety 10” exhibition will take place in Ingleston in September 2010, this event has run successfully at a couple of venues down South. Again, SCOS are looking for volunteers to help man the SGUK/SCOS/ Fife Chamber of Safety Stand and to help out with running the event.

Anyone interesting in helping should pass their details to Mark Russell in the first instance.

MR mentioned that IOSH had contacted the Group about their Conference in March 2010, they were looking to advertise the conference via the Group, after a general discussion it was agreed that this was acceptable.

Finances

Colin Sparling highlighted the Groups finances, a number of individuals have not paid there subs for the current session, he mentioned that he was in the process of changing the Group account with the bank, this will provide more flexibility on finances.

Sharing Best Practice

Colin Sparling highlighted the sharing best practice section and encouraged everyone to share systems and procedures so that others could learn.

DC mentioned that he has seen a new scaffold system which was simple to use, he said that he would try and find out more details on it.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 11th January, speaker for the evening will be Mr Stephen Rennie of the Energy Saving Trust, he will be discussing Green Transport and Travel Plans.

Mark Russell
Secretary
Safety Group Fife.