

## **EAST MIDLANDS REGION**

# **REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND ELECTRONICS SECTOR COMMITTEE**



**Held on 20<sup>th</sup> January at 8.30 am**

**Attendees:** Tom Sawyer (Regional Officer)  
Paul Welsh (Chair), Nigel Powell, Phil Sykes.

### **Welcome & Introduction**

Chair Welcomed everyone to the meeting

#### **1 Apologies for Absence:**

None

#### **2 Minutes of the Last Meeting:**

Agreed

#### **3 Matters Arising:**

Vacant positions on the committee, letters were sent out inviting representatives from those companies in the vacant committees to request that they come forward to fill the positions, there were no reply's received.

National Sector Conference: Some representatives experienced problems due to receipt of late note of the conference. However the conference its self was well run and the changes to the structure of the sector is a real improvement.

#### **4 Regional Industrial Report:**

2009 was a very difficult year with a large number of redundancies. The recession is still having an impact. That is for companies that were affected early in the recession and have been able to get through the year and companies that are described as 'late cycle' are now being affected i.e. Aerospace, electrical generating companies have seen redundancies, orders being cancelled, stocks run down and orders delayed.

I believe that 2010 will be, again, a difficult year, with companies stabilising but at a much lower level of production than before the

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recession.

### **5 Delegates Industrial Reports**

#### Brush Electrical Machines:

2009 was a difficult year, over the year some 150 left the company, combination of leavers, retirement and redundancies. There is some indication that orders are starting to come back.

There has been no pay rise for 2009 though discussions are on going for 2009/10, there is little overtime and the night shift has been taken off after 30 years.

#### Brush Transformers (on the same site):

There are some concerns at Transformers because of the attitude of the company towards members and the union. 2009 also seen salaries frozen.

#### Cummins, Stafford:

By year end (2009) all agency workers had left, 270 all union members. 43 left in a voluntary redundancy programme, the company Lodged a HR1 for 60 employees, there were 66 volunteers and all were accepted. However the company went on to run an assessment of employees and a further 7 employees were made compulsory redundant, their dismissals are being assessed to establish whether or not a claim for unfair dismissal can be submitted. In total 380 people have gone with a 1.7million loss in business.

2010, early indications show an upturn in orders. The company want to bring in 50 agency workers. Current agreement on Contract Labour allows for overtime for permanent employees of 4.5 hours per week. The company wants this agreement suspended for 6 months with employees who work extra hours working 5 hours at a time. Awaiting, the outcome of a vote on the proposal the company have stated that they will give 90 days notice to terminate the contract if no agreement is reached.

The union facility time is under question with attempts to have the convenor moved from full time to part time.

### **6 Establishing Regional Industrial Strategy (to include General Election Preparations):**

#### General Election:

Unite representatives at Brush and Cummins will work to make contact with local Labour MP to seek a meeting.

Unite's Political Units strategy of workplace representatives acting in the workplace to encourage members to vote Labour.

This considered a good strategy but representatives would need support

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and recourses to ensure approaches to members was carried out in an effective way that did not have negative consequences for the union.

### Recruitment and Organisation:

Initially this issue will be addressed by the company's on the committee ensuring that their own union structures are as healthy as they can be.

#### **7 Equality Committee Vacancies:**

#### **8 Regional Industrial Committee Dates 2010**

Next meeting to be arranged by the end of March

#### **9 Any Other Business:**

None