

EAST MIDLANDS REGION

REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND ELECONTRONICS SECTOR COMMITTEE

Thursday 10th June 2010



Attendees: Paul Welsh (Chair)
Tom Sawyer (Regional Officer)
Nigel Powell
Phil Sykes
Mick Devine

Welcome & Introduction

Chair opened the meeting by welcoming Mick Devine to the committee. Mick is a new delegate who has moved onto this committee from APSS.

1 Apologies for Absence:

None

2 Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Approved

3 Matters Arising:

Brush Electrical Machine industrial action ballot is not required as the company offered 2.75% one year deal – members accepted.

Noted the results of the General Election.

Unites Policy/Rules conference. Nigel Powel sent his apologies for the Policy conference due to the illness of his father.
Paul Welsh attended the Rules conference on 4th June and reported on the result of the vote on the restructured executive council which was a close result of around 124/92

4 Regional Industrial Report: Tom Sawyer

For the companies I deal with 2010 is one where there are very different situation. Example would be Caterpillar that has gone from one extreme to the other, that is the problems of the recession and a huge drop in orders to a rapid increase in orders and how to ensure those orders are met. Aerospace companies are still having a difficult time and Toyota has emerged from the recession with some 700 more employees than they need for their order book. Toyota is planning to resolve this imbalance

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with a voluntary release scheme, this will shortly be announced.

5 Delegates Industrial Reports:

Dynex Semiconductors: situated in Lincoln and is owned by a Chinese company. It has around 280 employees on site. There has been significant involvement and there has been a 3% 14 month pay deal. Union membership is around 80 with some 6 reps. Semiconductors manufactured for the power industry drive mechanisms, power transmissions. Customers include Brush Traction, Bombardier. The cost of precious metal is a problem.

Cummins: The company is trying to reduce costs and have a double digit return in sales. The union is expecting proposals from the company in regards to reduction in costs/overheads.

Staffs outside the collective bargaining unit (BU) have had their contacts changed in regards to overtime payments and the introduction of merit awards. This had different consequences as not all the staff worked overtime. Tried to support individual members within the group – a meeting off site was held. As outside the BU it was difficult to influence the situation. 75% have signed the amended contracts.

Orders are slowing down, lead time are an issue as copper/steel prices and the supply chain for the company.

Company is introducing Learn Leader position.

Brush Electrical Machines: Industrial relations at the company is extremely poor, the company does not communicate with the union and have introduced Brush Employee Forum with non union reps. There are a high level of disciplinary, suspensions and grievances.

6 Establishing Regional Industrial Strategy:

The focus here is on the companies in the committee.

Cummins: Agency workers are actively recruited and the change to contracts for staff means that this area will also be targeted

Dynex: An organising project at the company is to be set up with support of their Regional Officer; specific training for the reps on site is to be provided.

Brush Electrical Machines: preparations for the industrial action ballot will be issued to map the workplace, this is to note that membership levels are very high.

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7 Equality Committee Vacancies:

Noted

8 Regional Industrial Committee:

This issue was discussed but no candidate could be identified. i.e. at Cummins there are 350 employees but only 7 are under 27 years old.

9 Any Other Business:

None

10 Date of Next Meeting:

To be confirmed