

# EAST MIDLANDS REGION

## LINCOLNSHIRE AREA ACTIVISTS

Bentley Hotel, Lincoln  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2010



### COMMITTEE

**Attendees:** Delegates:

Adrian Axtell (Regional Secretary)  
Dave Roome (Regional Officer)  
Andy Shaw (Regional Industrial Officer)  
Steve Syson (Regional Officer)  
M Devine, S Hewson, P Hayward, C Grimshaw, P Sykes, F Major,  
A Todd, M Taylor

1 **Welcome**

Andy Shaw (Regional Industrial Officer) and Dave Roome (Regional Officer) welcomed and thanked the delegates for their attendance to the Committee Meeting.

2 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from, Dawn Nelson, Neil Johnson, Steve Hibbert, Dave De Lacey, D Crisp and M Wood.

3 **Previous Minutes**

The previous minutes were taken page by page and adopted as a true record.

4 **Matters Arising**

- The Area Activist Committee Motion was passed at the Policy Conference.
- Jimmy Ndjai has been elected to the Equalities Committee.

5 **Regional Industrial Reports**

Written reports from the Officers, Andy Shaw, Dave Roome and Steve Syson were supplemented verbally.

6

**Delegates Industrial Reports**

Siemens –: Chris Grimshaw reported that the voluntary redundancies announced in January are virtually over making 80 redundant as opposed to the original 150, although some haven't left yet and one or two are not going until early next year.

Pay discussions are underway although the company are claiming that there is not a lot on offer.

The bonus scheme negotiated in January of this year is potentially worth

## **EAST MIDLANDS REGION**

1.5% per skilled worker.

There are a further 140 proposed redundancies due to take place in October 2011.

British Sugar:- Floyd Major reported that the company were bucking the trend by taking people on and an extra shift has been introduced. There has also been a reduction in the working week from 42hrs to 37hrs. Two apprentices have also been taken on. Floyd also reported that they are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 2 year pay deal which was settled at 4.2%.

Centrebus:- Alwyn Todd reported that they are expanding the company and that the union membership is well organised. Depots currently negotiate independently on pay but the agenda is to join collectively as a National Bargaining Unit.

Hospitals NHS:- Martin Taylor reported on plans to close the switchboards at both Grantham and Boston with the possibility of outsourcing the switchboard operations. A 2.25% increase on pay was agreed for 2010, although following the budget a pay freeze was now indicated for the next 2 years.

Cummins (Stamford):- Phil Sykes reported that the company are working on several strategies to reduce costs on site as the site is currently losing money due to material costs and overheads plus having lost major contracts with China. Production orders are on the increase although material supply is a real issue as companies can't supply due to recession.

Team Leaders are slowly being introduced due to concerns of accountability and also an Appraisal System has been set up which the union have been a part of.

There are now 155 Temps on site, 50% of which are union members. With negotiations coming up they will be looking to secure permanent status.

Dynex:- Mick Devine reported that the 3% pay rise over 14 month period would only be backdated to March and not January as per agreement.

Bourne Composite Branch:- Pete Hayward reported that Bourne Bakkavor are holding a Fun Day on 11<sup>th</sup> July which was being supported by Unite.

### **7 Policy Conference**

The East Midlands delegation to the Policy Conference (31<sup>st</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> June) was 40, with the quality of delegates being second to none. They lead the way on setting the Agenda for Unite Policies. Many motions were composited therefore much debate was taken away

## **EAST MIDLANDS REGION**

- 8 ***Young Members Conference***

The East Midlands is the last area to be set up, and the Committee number has been set at 20 which we are hopeful of filling. Unable to nominate from the Committee, agreement has been gained to nominate from the Branch Structure. Data suggests that there are circa 7-8000 young members within this Region.

- 9 ***Regional Secretary's Report***

Adrian Axtell gave a verbal report on a number of issues including the following:-

The AMPS Sector has been disbanded due to difficulties in this sector over the allocation of seats.

This year's Health & Safety Conference will take place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October in Nottingham.

The new Nottingham Office is due to open on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2010.

The Chainmakers Festival takes place on 18<sup>th</sup> September at the Black Country Living Museum and is in its Centenary year. The Regional Committee are sponsoring this event and have allocated £3k of funding.

The appointment of Dave Jeffery as Education Officer for East and West Midlands has taken place.

Delegates have been invited to the Political Seminar at Durham taking place on 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> July.

General Secretary Elections:- The nomination process opens in July/August with the Election planned for October/November.

Executive Council Elections are due to take place in the middle of the General Secretary Election. The East Midlands has been allocated 2 seats, 1 of which must be a woman.

All Minutes are to be published on the Regional Website.

- 10 ***Any other Business***

Branch Administration:-

Concerns have been raised over the time frame for the processing of Branch Returns.

Bakkavor Bourne requested earlier this year to become an independent workplace branch and want to know the current position.

## **EAST MIDLANDS REGION**

### **11 *Closure of Meeting***

There being no other business, the meeting closed.