Meeting of the IIRSM East Midlands Branch

Meeting held on 29.02.2012 at G S Musson & Associates Limited

Unit 3B, Blakenhall Farm Business Centre, Caldwell, Derbyshire DE12 6RU

Present

Gary Musson
Anthony Southwell
Kevin Swift
Phil Wilson
John Johnstone
Paul Hughes

Apologies

Bronwen MacArthur-Williams
Roger Rees
Lizz Fields Pattinson
Terry Porter
Gary Bramley
Iain Mitchell
Dom Barraclough
Nigel Johnson

Welcome

A welcome to the meeting was conducted by G. Musson who also introduced new member
Paul Hughes.

Minutes of the last Branch Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting dated 01.02.2012 were read and signed off as a true and
accurate record.

Correspondence

G Musson explained that all minutes and attendance sheets were sent to IIRSM.

Scope of the Branch – aims and objectives

G Musson started the proceedings by talking about previous ideas raised by members
regarding the aims and objectives of the branch. Previous ideas put forward included
educating small businesses and the raising of health and safety awareness in schools and colleges before the students venture into the workplace. G Musson already has some links with schools and the Staffordshire Partnership and agreed to put a draft together with some suggestions ready for the next meeting. P Wilson agreed with this and said that in his experience some small businesses were not very experienced in health and safety and could possibly benefit with involvement from the group. With regards to students P Wilson has some experience of talking to students and suggested talks on “reality” rather than “law”, he also suggested that it could be useful to get teachers and trainers involved. P Hughes suggested that relevant topics needed to be looked at such as drugs and alcohol, perhaps even aiming the talks at the unemployed to widen the area. It was mentioned that Balfour Beatty has a “Zero Harm” policy in the workplace to highlight safety issues. J Johnstone mentioned that the BSC (British Safety Council) has a Safety in Schools programme which provides the necessary material but not the trainers, which could possibly be provided by the group.

Branch Speaker Liaison (presentation)

Following on from the last meeting J Johnstone has continued in his quest to find alternative venues and speakers for future meetings. Latitude Safety offered to provide a room for up to 30 people at the May AGM at the NEC. This would include a speaker and Behavioural Safety Workshop. It was agreed that the group needed to encourage attendance of both present and new members at the meeting. Other groups/people offering talks/presentations at future meetings were:  
National Health – Q + A workshop  
G Salsbury – Drug testing  
HSEC – Noise in the workplace  
HSEC – ATEX Regulations  
P Hughes also offered to give a presentation on asbestos and use his contacts to bring in speakers on various topics. CPD was one idea suggested. G Musson suggested getting feedback from members by e mail on topics they would like to see on the programme. J Johnstone was confident of getting speakers on any topic and thought it a good idea to move the meetings around to different locations, with perhaps site visits to create more interest. P Hughes also offered alternative venues for meetings to encourage attendance from a wider area. Some options with costs were put forward (see previous minutes) but options were still open regarding school rooms and colleges. It was suggested by G Musson that bi-monthly meetings were held at the base venue with other venues being used in between. It was also discussed whether daytime meetings would be preferred by some members and all agreed that this should be put as an option to the full membership. It was agreed by all that an interim meeting be held during the following week to discuss the AGM (this is now confirmed for Wednesday 7th March 2012 at the Cherry Tree Farm pub, Etwall Road, Willington, Derby DE65 6DX (A38/A50 junction) starting at 7.00pm).

Development of Branch 12 Month Plus Plan

G Musson asked J Johnstone if he would prepare a plan for 2013. J Johnstone agreed to do this. J Johnstone enquired if there was a need for subscription payments. G Musson did not think this was necessary at the moment unless it was for a specific issue/visit.
Any other Business

- G Musson informed the group that BT Conference Calls cost 6p per person per minute. All agreed that this was an expensive option and that other alternatives should be looked at. G Musson to look at other options and P Hughes will speak to the technical members of his workforce.
- It was agreed to continue looking at carrying out community work and to clarify any concerns over liability etc.

The next meeting will take place at 7pm on the 4th April 2012

Meeting closed at 8:50 pm.