

TEESSIDE SAFETY GROUP
www.teessidesafetygroup.co.uk

ALAN BUTLER MEMORIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE 2005

Category 2 Best Seminar / Workshop

Teesside Safety Groups (TSG) was formed in 1989 and the present membership totals over 140 companies covering a geographical area of some 50 miles from Teesside.

The membership comprises large and small construction companies, roofing companies, chemical companies, local authorities, colleges of further education, local training companies and suppliers of protective equipment.

The objectives of the TSG are to advance information and education in all aspects of health and safety at work and to promote safe working environments within industry together with the promotion of interest in accident prevention.

The Teesside Safety Group is a non-profit making organisation and any profits are donated to local charities.

TSG holds 10 meetings per annum, which are all addressed by professional speakers drawn from a wide area of the country. Meetings are held at The Marton Hotel & Country Club, commencing at 1.00pm on the last Tuesday of the month.

The meetings are supported by the Health and Safety Executive, whose local inspector regularly attends the meetings and updates members on any changes to existing legislation and informs the meeting of any new legislation or initiatives coming into force.

The Teesside Safety Groups would like to submit their branch event on the subject of a 'Mock Trial' to be considered for the Alan Butler Memorial Award for Excellence Category 2 Best Seminar / Workshop.

The Executive Committee and Group members volunteered to take roles in the mock trial to make the seminar more realistic instead of the usual presentation format. This included the Health and Safety Executive volunteering to play the role of the Prosecutor for the event. The defence Solicitor was played by a representative from a local Solicitors firm.

Mock Trial Seminar / Workshop

Cast

COURT STAFF

1 Usher
2 Court Clerk

CHARACTER

Mr Henry Bellows
Miss Verity Wearing

PLAYED BY:

Mr W Foster
Ms C Pearce

MAGISTRATES

3 Chairman of the Bench
4 Magistrate 1
5 Magistrate 2

Mrs Anne Judge
Mr A Trueman
Mr Terry Fairlee

Ms J Wilson
Mr K Connon
Mr S Terrance

LAWYERS

6 Prosecutor
7 Defence Solicitor

Mr Gerald Manders
Miss Diane Fender

Mr R Hurst (HSE)
Ms A Shepherd

PROSECUTION WITNESSES

8 The Complainant
9 HSE Inspector

Mr Arthur Brain
Mr Ivor Law (HSE)

Mr I Bowman
Mr S Piper

DEFENCE WITNESSES

10 Managing Director
11 Administration Manager
12 Lorry Driver

Mr George Crossley
Miss Victoria Crossley
Mr Harold G V Driver

Mr R Richards
Mrs H Winkworth
Mr B Allison

The British justice system was put under the microscope as part of the Teesside Safety Groups annual general meeting on Tuesday 24th May 2005. The 'court' sitting was at the Marton Hotel and Country Club in Middlesbrough.

Members examined the fictitious case of a worker who allegedly injured himself while driving a fork-lift truck. The man then plays football the same evening and is carried off with a chipped bone in his foot.

His employers are later charged with two offences, one of not reporting the injury and one of failing to carry out a suitable risk assessment. The Magistrates do not believe the injury resulted from the incident, more as a result of the football match.

The Company is cleared of one charge but convicted of the other and is fined £2,000 with £1,000 costs.

"The purpose of the exercise was not to educate in Health and Safety but in Court procedures and to demonstrate the processes by which Courts reach their sometimes unfathomable decisions". The event was directed by Peter Rogerson a JP and Managing Director of Astrocare Ltd and a past Vice Chairman of NH&SGC.

The event was attended by 125 members (3 times more that the average monthly meeting) and was seen as a great success, this was made possible by the preparation that took place in advance of the event. A review and feedback session was arranged for later in the TSG programme.

Scorer Brain Scythed down By Hacking

REFEREE IS A BLIND IDIOT
SAYS WINGFIELD MANAGER

SALTBURN RVRS 2
WINGFIELD UTD 1

Saltburn Rovers struggled into the Second Round of the Teesside Cup thanks to a controversial second half penalty in which first half goalscorer Brain appeared to be tripped in the penalty box by Wingfield United's centre half Justin Hacking. There were fears that Tuesday's match would be called off after heavy rain but over 1500 fans saw a thrilling match in which all goals were scored in the first half. Wingfield started the better with Saltburn's players struggling on a heavy pitch. Watson's goal gave the visitors a well deserved lead after ten minutes but this was quickly followed by a brilliant overhead kick by Brain by a pass by Gitting which put the home side on level terms. Just before the break Brain broke away from his marker and a desperate lunge from Hacking appeared to make contact with him and he fell down in front of the Wingfield keeper.

Barry Gripe scored from the penalty spot what proved to be the decisive goal. With new signing Dameon Platt substituting for Brain, the second half was a torrid affair with Saltburn facing wave after wave of Westfield attacks but they held on for a victory which will see them meeting Middleton Warriors in the Second round. Afterwards Arthur Brain, who was discharged from Redcar Hospital with a chipped bone in his foot said "It was a clear penalty – I was brought down. He took me out – it could have been a lot worse". Wingfield Manager Sam Bollard said "We were robbed. The referee is a blind idiot. Anyone could see there was no contact. The lad just lose his footing". Saltburn Manager Jim Spott was not available for comment.