

<b>MINUTES</b>  <b>MEETING:</b> North East –NFEC Spring 2011 Regional Seminar		
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**DATE:** Friday 15 April 2011  
**TIME:** 11.00am – 3.00pm  
**LOCATION:** CF67/68 (Darlington College)

**PRESENT:**

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| S. Richardson (D.C)              | A. Hewison (C&G)        |
| L. Norman (D.C)                  | P. Brown (SWDT)         |
| J. Lockey (NFEC)                 | G. Laycock (EAL)        |
| B. Millington (NFEC)             | D. Solanki (D. Technix) |
| I. Gaskill (New College, Durham) | M. Bevan (SMC)          |
| K. Bennett (Lakes College)       | T. Quarmby (EMCO)       |
| M. Burton (Tynemet College)      | D. Atwell (L J Create)  |
| C. Luhrs (Carlisle College)      | B. Jahanbani (Festo)    |
| A. Weston (Uni of Bradford)      | E. Leng (Semta)         |
| S. McGuinness (S/land College)   | P. Hore (Semta)         |
| L. Childs (D.C)                  | P. Wood (M'brough Coll) |
| G. Potts (D.C)                   | S. Green (Siemens)      |
| E. Adam (D.C)                    | P. Fairless (minutes)   |

**APOLOGIES:**

- South Tyneside College  
Newcastle College  
Hartlepool College  
D. Marley

	<b>Speaker/s</b>
<p><b>1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JL welcomed everyone and thanked all for attending, some of who had travelled long distances to attend.</li> <li>NFEC are looking for volunteers to assist for the north east region, to include tasks such as co-ordinating and chairing regional meetings.</li> <li>Apologies, as above, with special best wishes to Dave Marley for a speedy recovery following on from him being unwell.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.</li> <li>BM gave a summary about NFEC, about linking up with other companies and how 50% was networking with other companies around the country and that all seminars are linked to strategic planning. He has prepared a document summarising NFEC which he will have distributed to everyone.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. SEMTA DEVELOPMENTS/SKILLS ACADEMY UPDATE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Due to a recent restructure of SEMTA, the government has given them a target of 2500 employers to include micro and national companies. There are 14000 qualifications including EAL</li> </ul>	<p>JL &amp; BM</p> <p>JL/All Delegates</p> <p>EL &amp; PH</p>

qualifications and new apprenticeships. SEMTA are looking at bids for development funds to work with employers to provide funding for new qualifications. L2 qualifications are saturated in the north east but other organisations will benefit from this.

- All apprentices to be taken on within the next 7 years and their aim is to get the level higher. For example Nissan have a 5 year apprenticeship scheme.
- Regional Council to set clearer guidelines for what is required. SEMTA do not just represent automotive but also engineering, aerospace, marine, electrical.
- There are opportunities to prepare apprentices for PEO, need to develop the programme and encourage major companies to take on more apprentices. The guided learning hours for PEO are being reduced from 520 to 214 but the content is the same.

#### **4. AWARDING ORGANISATIONS AND SECTOR SKILLS COUNCILS UPDATES**

##### **a) Summit Skills**

- C&G qualification as lea into E.I
- Building services access L1 jump too big to AA, access L2 step forward
- Licensing award rejected for electrical based on absence of fatal accidents
- Stronger feel that a more specific qualification was the best option (2330)

BM

##### **b) EAL**

GL advised there are new QCF qualifications to be launched and are available to view on the website and recommended everyone to sign up for the E-Bulletin to keep up to date with new developments.

- New engineering qualifications
- NQF qualifications extended until 31.12.11
- New L1 Access to Building Services which include plumbing and electrical, fully delivered in colleges and progression to L3
- All new qualifications supplied with support materials, supplied as a package
- All centres are risk rated and identified through an audit trail.
- Smarter Touch launch, next date is 15 June at Leeds

GL

For more information, or to sign up for E-Bulletin anyone is welcome to contact Geoff direct at [glaycock@eal.org.uk](mailto:glaycock@eal.org.uk)

##### **c) C&G**

- PEO handbooks.
- Electro technical and plumbing text books
- Vocational/educational business
- Building Services need updating because of funding
- Windpower - green revolution, producing a document to update qualifications

AH

<p><b>d) Edexcel</b>  There was no representative from Edexcel but BM gave a brief overview.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing a 1 stop shop</li> <li>- Functional skills, interesting data on results</li> <li>- Foundation degrees and the possibility of replacing with HNC/HND qualifications</li> <li>- BTEC developing their own degree to move up from the HNC/HND</li> <li>- Opportunities for FE to expand due to forthcoming costs of university courses.</li> </ul>	<p>BM</p>
<p><b>e) STEM</b>  The national HE STEM programme ends between Jan-July 2012. The funding is divided up amongst professional bodies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programme looking at core skills and up-skilling for those entering engineering.</li> <li>- Employability and graduate skills need to collaborate to share good practice.</li> <li>- Further call for funding which colleges can be involved in, a paper was distributed.</li> </ul> <p>Further information can be accessed on the National HE STEM website; anyone interested can contact Anne Weston.</p>	<p>AW</p>
<p><b>5. THE WOLF REPORT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Department of Education recommendation 23 of Wolf Report</li> <li>- If sufficient support, qualifications can be re-instated on ofqual</li> <li>- Michael Grove's letter e-mailed April 2011 confirmed 2330 would be funded under section 96.</li> <li>- Source of the problem was lack of representation</li> <li>- 2357 major problems on range statements</li> <li>- Cannot achieve working for most SME's therefore simulation acceptable.</li> </ul> <p>BM advised he found 17 recommendations of which would impinge on NFEC operation, and he would get a copy forwarded to everyone. He has been trying to get someone from government to come and talk about the report, probably nearer November time.</p>	<p>BM/All Delegates</p>
<p><b>6. RENEWABLES AND DEVELOPMENTS</b></p> <p>SG gave presentation on wind power, informed everyone about the Training School in Newcastle set up by Siemens and said there was a huge challenge ahead in order to meet the training needs of wind turbines because of the rapid growth of the industry. He also talked about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industry resource challenges, including expansion off-shore, qualification framework, correct mix of skills, career development</li> <li>• Roles required from technicians (including service technicians) to project managers to service coordinators to trainers to support staff like finance and administration.</li> </ul>	<p>SG</p>

- Supply chain – offshore and onshore support, with a growth matching the oil and gas industry 30-40 years ago.

The wind turbine industry would be looking at colleges to provide highly qualified people. Between October 2009 and December 2010 Siemens Apprentice Scheme trained 400 personnel in various safety and technical training interventions.

SG concluded his presentation by summarising the following:

- £80 million investment in Humberside due 2015
- Supporting agencies must set targets and deadlines to ensure this happens
- Successful resourcing is critical to the future of renewable in the UK.

Discussions after SG presentation included:

- Colleges need to map the curriculum correctly. Carnegie College are in their 1<sup>st</sup> year of a pilot scheme
- Need to raise awareness of the importance of renewable energy to students
- Good core engineering skills needed in colleges
- The need for construction skills also.

## **7. PLENARY SESSION**

- NFEC conference 26/27 May 2011 at the Holiday Inn, Coventry.
- NFEC Agenda items for next seminar in November to include guided hours for the new PEO, 2330 plumbing qualifications, other renewable energy, for example solar power.
- Any companies interested in joining NFEC with their own training establishments would be welcome as would any other colleges and training providers.
- JL thanked again all for attending, the exhibitors and Darlington College for hosting the seminar.

## **8. ENGINEERING AT DARLINGTON COLLEGE FOLLOWED BY TOUR OF FACILITIES**

SR said he has concerns about PEO progression and what can be offered based on 214 learning hours?  
Also how long 2330 would last?

SR invited all who were interested for a tour around the college's engineering workshops.

## **9. DATE/PLACE OF NEXT SEMINAR**

The next seminar is Friday 4 November 2011 and will be held at New College, Durham – Ian Gaskill to confirm final details.

BM/JL

SR