

Non-exec directors get to grips with safety at Sellafield

The three new non-executive directors appointed to the board of Sellafield Ltd, recently took part in a 'Nuclear Safety at Sellafield' training seminar, held in conjunction with WANO Paris Centre.

Sir Paul Lever, Lord David Clark and Rear Admiral Tim Chittenden all attended the mentoring session to help them gain a better understanding of their new roles, particularly as the Parent Body Organisation (PBO) competition process gets underway.

The seminar was aimed at expanding the directors' knowledge of Sellafield so that they can provide support and encouragement, as well constructive challenges to the Sellafield Ltd Executive. In addition, the session was also used to help them develop an understanding of the nuclear safety risks that Sellafield manages, their accountabilities and relationships between the NDA, the regulators and the PBO.

Sellafield's Nuclear Safety Leader, Bob Jones, kicked the session off by speaking to the party about 'nuclear safety' and its importance to the Sellafield site, before the director of WANO Paris, Ignacio Araluce, spoke about WANO – in terms of its status as an organisation and its purpose.

Other attendees and speakers at the event, which took place on 8 February, included Sellafield Ltd's Paul Thomas, Andrew Carr, Kate Smith, Dave Mason, Bob Jones, Steve Lightfoot, and from BNFL, director - David Bonser, CEO - Mike Parker, Group Finance Director John Edwards and Group Legal Counsel Sue Quint.

Speaking after the seminar, Bob Jones said: "It was a really good day which allowed us to spell out the challenge that the Sellafield site faces. It was also interesting to hear the non executive directors' views and experience. They are a really good team and their skills blend very well together.

"The new directors have a key role to play as the site moves from its existing management arrangements to a new parent body organisation (PBO). It is really important that during this period we don't take our eye off the ball of nuclear safety."

This session forms the first in a suite of training sessions set up to help coach the new directors in their three year roles. The next session will look at security issues.

BNFL announced the appointment of the three new independent, non-executive directors to the board of Sellafield Ltd back in December 2007.

Cash not cards

The West Cumberland Hospital has benefited from a donation from staff at the High Level Waste Plant at Sellafield.

Workers at the plant, led by Business Support Manager Judith Jones, decided not to send Christmas cards to each other this year – and managed to make a total of £448 to be split between two wards at the hospital.

Judith said; "We first did this in 2006, but only raised half as much.

"The idea came when I was looking at the Christmas cards sitting on people's desks and I just thought it was a real waste of paper, as well as a potential fire hazard, so I thought we'd be better off doing something that would be of benefit to the community.

"We managed to get £200, which wasn't bad going as we were already into the festive season and some people had already brought in cards.

"This year, however, we were able to more than double that figure, we had collectors in all the buildings associated with the HLWP and we rattled our collection tins. I even tried bribing people to put in by giving out sweets to those who donated, not that they needed to be encouraged really.

"Everyone gave in good spirits and we were delighted with the final total, which was split 50/50 between the Special Care Baby Unit and the Children's Ward."

Sellafield Ltd itself scrapped its annual card in favour of donating equipment to the hospital, and over £2,000 worth of equipment was purchased.

Brian checks out of darts championship

Having come agonisingly close to becoming World Darts Champion, Brian 'Pecker' Woods was back at work, albeit briefly, at Neales Waste Management this week.

Brian battled on bravely with flu last week, something that was a major factor as he lost his semi-final against Simon Whitlock at the Lakeside in Surrey.

But he finally succumbed on his return to work on Tuesday, when, after clocking in, the flu that had dogged him all week took over and he had to retreat to his bed, via the doctors.

"I usually enjoy the week at the Lakeside," he said, "But this time I've been in bed between each game, living on flu tablets and trying to get it out of my system.

"I went into work when I got back but was in no fit state.

"The reaction has been amazing since I got back and I can't really get used to it. I was in Morrison's to pick up my prescription and a wee lass was trying to take a picture of me on her phone. I could hear her mam telling her that she shouldn't without permission because I was entitled to privacy!

"I just turned round and asked the kid if she wanted to have her photo taken with me, and she was chuffed to bits."

Pecker won the hearts of the nation as he battled against some of the best darts players on the planet to reach the BDO World Championship semi-finals.

Determined not to let flu get the better of him, he won his first match 3-0 against Paul Hanvidge, and then dumped the heavily fancied Co Stompe out in round two.

In the quarter-final he beat Scott Waites before losing to Whitcock in the semi.



"I'm disappointed, because I had lots of chances at doubles in the match which I didn't take, it was just one of those days."

But far from putting Pecker off, his failed tilt at the title has only whet his appetite for more.

"I need a sponsor now so that I can go to all the big competitions. By getting to the semi final not only have I automatically qualified for next year's world championship, but I have proven to potential sponsors that I can live with the best in the world."

Apprentices' trip to London

Coming soon...Four Sellafield Ltd apprentices are among a group of seven lucky youngsters who have been selected to visit London at the end of January to take VIP a tour around the Houses of Parliament with local MP, Jamie Reed.

The group of four - Amy Ireland (Control Systems Engineer), Amanda Smith (E & I, Thorp), Matthew Prior (Mechanical) and John Kelly (Mechanical) have all been invited by Copeland MP Jamie Reid for their outstanding achievement in the first year of their apprenticeships.

Read all about the visit in the upcoming issues of the Sellafield News.

Event report

A Board of Inquiry has been convened following a road traffic accident on site last week.

Whilst crossing a zebra crossing on a site road, a United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority employee was hit by a private car being driven by a Sellafield Ltd employee. The pedestrian was treated at the site medical department before transfer to West Cumberland Hospital. He sustained a broken wrist and was detained in hospital for greater than 24 hours; this incident is therefore reportable as a Major Injury under RIDDOR, the Reporting of Injuries, Disease and Dangerous Occurrence Regulations.

The accident is Out of Scale on the International Nuclear Event Scale.

VIP visits to Sellafield 9 – 16 January 2007 included:

14/01/08 – 18/01/08 – Japanese Utilities audit

14/01/08 – Global Nuclear Fuel – Japan Ltd

15/01/08 – Mr Robin Pagnamenta, The Times newspaper

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