

Ever wondered how sophisticated Britannia's systems are?

Mindful of an increase in disciplinary cases brought about through improper use of email and internet at work, we interviewed colleagues in Information Security who were pleased to enlighten us:

Amazing Fact - In October 2006 alone, Information Security identified and reported to managers that 10 employees had breached the IT Policy either through sending e-mails or web access, and for January to October a total of 179 were identified and reported.

They report anything from swear or profound words used within e-mails, to obscene pictures, just to give you a few examples.

The mail sweeper (special software) also identifies if letters within words are replaced by an "*" or other alternative replacement for example:-

B3w@r3 w3 c@n tr@ck it

The mail sweeper would be able to pick up the reading of these words.

To safeguard yourself, please ensure you read and adhere to all policies. They are there to protect both you and the Society.

Talking of 'Space'

You will by now have heard about or seen the changes that the Leek CSC sites are about to undergo as part of Project SPACE. The project has been set up to drive through these changes to improve the working environment, these will include:

- o A glass atrium roof over the quadrangle at Newton House;
- o An extended café area to provide 30% more seating;
- o Improved break out and catering facilities at Britannia House;
- o More desks within Britannia House to accommodate future head count increases;
- o Solutions to current car park issues.

BSU thinks it is great that Britannia is taking steps to develop the Leek CSC environment. We aim to work with the project to ensure that changes affecting you, and your views and thoughts, are conveyed in a timely manner.

Day in the life of a Branch Union Representative

Rose Loxton



I am an Area Mortgage Advisor and have to juggle my job with being on hand as a branch Union Rep at any time of the day.

My daily duties in the branch run on average 9-5pm but if I have a Union case on the go I may be on the phone at home after work offering advice to members.

So what does a normal working day look like? If there is such a thing, I could go to work but by 11.00am receive a call from a member needing advice. I may be able to answer their query there and then or I may need to do a little research.

This research can get very involved and can result in protracted telephone conversations with the Union specialists and legal advisors as well as the member.

Other days, I could get a call from a colleague to advise me that a date has

been set for a disciplinary or grievance hearing which requires me to organise my diary with sufficient notice so as not to disrupt customer appointments.

Quite a difficult task when you are trying to accommodate possibly 5 different individuals let alone the distance you could be required to travel!

A disciplinary or grievance case can take anything from an hour up to a couple of days to prepare for and present, and can involve a variety of emotions for the member whilst the Union Representative has to stay as focused as possible on the facts of the case. I am often asked why I undertake the role of a Union Rep as most people identify it as a thankless job with no financial reward.

Strictly speaking that is true, but for me it provides rewards in the job satisfaction of helping someone and knowing I'm part of the Union.

Sudoku competition - champagne for the winner

		9						
					1			7
	3	2			7	4	1	
2	1			7		9		
	9	6				3	2	
		4		2			7	5
	2	1	7			5	4	
9			8					
						2		

Sudoku Competition (only entries from members), quality bottle of champagne to the winner. When you have solved the puzzle just send us the shaded areas to the email address below.



Email your entry to: staff.union@britannia.co.uk

Published courtesy of www.dailysudoku.co.uk

State of the Union address

No, nothing to do with our friends across "the pond", instead this relates to the strength of BSU. We are delighted to announce we have passed the 3000th member milestone.

Those of you with good memories will remember that we passed the 2000th mark several times as redundancy exercises in the 1990's caused membership to rise and fall! Not only have we gained more members, largely as a result of our success in attracting Britannia Bristol

staff, but we've increased our penetration from 68% in April 2005 to 77% as I write.

Recent figures from the Department of Trade and Industry show that union membership penetration in the UK is less than 30% on average!!!!

At a time when many trade unions are considering mergers, to benefit from economies of scale and as a reaction to falling numbers, you'll be pleased to know that BSU has no such plans.