

Welcome to the latest Union newsletter



Welcome to Issue 5 of NewsLink. As I write, the weather has turned for the worse with North Staffordshire seeing its first snow of the season. The short-term economic outlook is looking similarly bleak and, having seen the November MU brief, Britannia and its competitors are facing tough trading conditions.

So should staff have long faces? No, definitely not! Those who are a bit longer in the tooth will remember tough times in the past and also the fact that the superb spirit, that exists at all levels, has always shone through. I am confident that with sensible financial management across the board Britannia can continue to strengthen its foundations. It may sound like a contradiction of the last sentence but, for staff to be motivated, it is imperative that the principle of a fair reward continues to prevail.

Many thanks for the superb feedback from our Issue 4, "Pay Special", and to everyone out there, especially our loyal members, on behalf of BSU, have a fantastic Christmas and New Year!

Adrian Northcott -
Chairman

Group IT - Acceptable use policy

Did you know that in the last three months there have been approximately 90 individuals making email breaches that were severe enough to involve a report to their line manager? That's in addition to the 120 breaches that required a warning without line manager involvement!!

All of the above were for email profanity; this can be anything from a symbol in place of a letter to abbreviations to the actual full word.

BSU has seen an increase in formal action being taken for breach of the policy which can, and has, led to dismissal depending on the severity of the misuse. Remember, this policy is in place to protect you and the Society from a number of issues that could arise from failing to follow it. It not only covers email and internet use but also covers printers, faxes, telephone use, laptops and remote access.

Here's a list of the main things to remember when using any IT facilities while at work:

- 1) Remember to lock your screen whenever you leave your desk, even if it's just for a minute;
- 2) Only use the internet, email and phone facilities for

personal use during your lunch break or outside of your normal working hours, your usage is monitored;

3) Don't try to access sites that you know are not acceptable - those yellow screens are recorded;

4) Don't try to download anything to your desktop without permission;

5) You must obtain consent from your Line Manager to take Britannia data home with you;

6) Don't use Britnet to advertise any of your own, or anyone else's, commercial ventures;

7) Don't send or circulate any materials that contain opinions or remarks about other people or organisations.

Remember, it is your responsibility to ensure you abide by this policy at all times and that you have a duty to report any breaches; failure to do so is, in itself, a disciplinary offence.

Research just published has shown that 1,700 workers in the UK have been dismissed from their positions as a direct result of internet/email abuse. Don't become an addition to the statistics...

(L. Emberton)

George Belfield

Many members with longer service records will remember, with affection, George Belfield, who sadly died in November.

George retired in 1993 after working for Britannia for 38 years, reaching the position of Deputy General Manager, an executive role. More significantly for BSU, George was our very first General Secretary in 1972 and was instrumental in our formation.

His hardworking, honest and compassionate ethos will be remembered as well as his fantastic sense of humour. A true gentleman who will be sadly missed by all who knew him.



We want your feedback...

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