

## GROUP

### Issue 9



www.wec-group.com

Staff Pedaling Away for Charity Page 16

## Message from the board.



Steve Hartley, Managing Director

2017 is shaping up to be another fantastic year at WEC Group as we have won a range of exciting new contracts and reached a fresh milestone by passing the 850 staff mark.

In-line with our staff growth, we have recruited almost 40 apprentices across the company, paving the way for our future success by harnessing the talent of young people.

The board would like to thank all the dedicated staff who are working on the prestigious Aerospace contract in Germany which is almost 80% complete.

Our employees who are travelling to Germany regularly, and those who are based here in the UK, are working tirelessly to ensure the contract is completed on time and to the highest standards. (more on page 8)

We would also like to say well done to all those involved in winning the multi-million pounds contract for a rail industry OEM, involving the manufacture of a range of components to be used as part of the major UK Crossrail project. This opens up new opportunities for the Group as we continue to make our mark in the rail industry.

### WEC Expands Operations <sup>1</sup> Shot Blasting at to Scotland!



As we aim to improve working relationships with our growing customer base across the UK, we opened a brand new office in Glasgow in March with a full time Business Development Executive.

Cheryl Irvine is now running the office in Motherwell to improve locality with existing customers, as well as opening the door to new opportunities in Scotland.

The new Glasgow and Stafford offices are just the starting point of our expansion across the UK and already have great potential for growing the Group's manufacturing divisions further.

# Sherburn Metalwork



We have invested in a brand new state-ofthe-art shot blasting facility at Sherburn Metalwork to cater for the division's ongoing expansion.

Complementing our existing wet painting facility, the £200,000 Wheelabrator air blast room has the capability shot blast components up to 15m long x 6m wide x 4m high, which is ideal for large scale components.

To complement the Group's existing shot blasting technology in Darwen and Rotherham, the new machine at Sherburn Metalwork will enable the company to pursue new business opportunities in a range of other industries whilst improving lead times for customers.

### www.wec-group.com

# 5750 is expanding!



# 5750 Components is moving to a larger facility as a way of growing it's laser cutting and fabrication operations.

The new 33,000 sq. ft. building is located at the Knowsley Business Park, just over 500 yards away from the old one, but boasts more shop floor space and larger offices to make room for further growth.

In addition to the new factory, the £3m investment also includes a state-of-the-art 4 x 2m laser cutting machine which will enable 5750 to cut larger sheets of metal and maximise productivity across the entire parts spectrum.

The 8KW 5040 Trumpf TruLaser comes fully fitted with an automated LiftMaster and is now the fastest laser cutting machine within the Group, offering high speed nitrogen cutting on a large range of materials.

Two new additional press brakes have been installed to complement the new machinery line up, and additional welding bays will be created.

Further investment is also on the horizon as the company is now considering the commissioning a third tube laser cutting machine at the new facility to mirror WEC Laser's flagship operation in Darwen.

# **Manufacturer of the Year Award Winners!**



We are extremely proud to have won the Manufacturer of the Year Award (Over 25m) at this year's Insider Made in the North West Awards.

Up against companies such as James Cropper and Milliken, WEC Group was recognised for making an outstanding contribution to the manufacturing sector as a whole, with a turnover of over £25m.

Kris Mercer collected the award at the ceremony in Bolton where more than 200 of the region's manufacturing heavyweights celebrated the success of another brilliant year in industry.

## **Staff flying through Germany Aerospace contract**



Well done to the engineering team who are 80% through the almost £7m contract to manufacture platforms for an Airbus assembly factory in Germany.

Our dedicated engineers who are working days and nights have manufactured 42 different platforms, all of which are used during various stages of the plane build.

Shaun Quinn is responsible for the entire project and has been working alongside staff from many different departments across the Group in order to get the project to where it is today. It has been a huge team effort and the project would not have been such a success without the continuous commitment and determination from everyone involved.

There are now 16 engineers who have travelled to Hamburg to erect the steelwork and five different painters working on the contract in order to keep up with the workload.

Well done all and keep up the great work!

# Making more tracks in the Rail Industry!

Well done to all those involved in securing various contracts worth over £9m for a rail industry OEM as part of the major UK Crossrail Project.

The contracts include mostly laser cutting, aluminium fabrication to EN 15085-2 and assembly, and will be a group effort from MTL Advanced, WEC Group and HTA Group.

As these divisions are all now accredited to EN 15085-2 for welding on rail vehicles, it will enable us to tender for more work in the industry in the future.



Keep up to date with our company news by following us on: Twitter (@wecgroupItd) or Facebook (fb.com/wecgroupItd)

# Goose Foot enhancing our public areas

The Goose Foot Street Furniture team have been busy manufacturing a range of bespoke street furniture products for UK regeneration projects over the past few months.

The Casey Group approached our street furniture division with designs created by Urban Vision Partnership to manufacture a series of fingerposts, signage and information hubs for Tyldesley Loopline in Salford.

In addition to this project, Goose Foot have manufactured six bespoke outdoor benches which were designed by BBM Sustainable Design Architects for the new Onslow Park and Ride shelter in Guildford.

The installations have now been completed and Goose Foot have received great feedback from the clients about the quality of the products.



Since becoming a member of the RIBA CPD Providers Network, Gary Henderson has successfully delivered a number of seminars to landscape/architectural practices, opening up new opportunities!





### Chris achieves Level 5 Quality Management Diploma



Well done to Chris Murphy who has achieved Level 5 Diploma in Quality Management and is now a DipQ.

Chris has worked at HTA Group for eight years and is committed to improving the quality and progress of the company.

Congratulations on your achievement!

### **Improvements to Quality**

WEC Group's quality system continues to improve year-on-year by achieving various prestigious industry certifications and shifting the focus on to the quality of the products we manufacture.

Our quality teams are committed to ensuring all work is manufactured to the new ISO 9001:2015 and AS 9100:2016 standards, promoting a proactive employee culture and raising standards throughout the Group.

The company's commitment to improving quality is opening up many new opportunities in a range of industries.



# **MTL in the community**

## **Rotherham Hospice**

MTL Advanced is now an official Corporate Partner of Rotherham Hospice, supporting the fantastic care they give to patients in Rotherham and the surrounding area.

MTLA will support the ongoing fundraising for the Tree of Life at the Hospice by supplying laser cut stainless steel leaves and bark pieces with etched messages.

These will be attached to the unique sculpture for relatives to remember their loved ones.

### Sponsoring Rotherham Titans



MTLA is proud to be an official Corporate Sponsor for the Rotherham Titans Rugby club! Rotherham Hospice dways carting &





## **Yorkshire Society**

Jamie Sharp, Managing Director at DNA Metalwork, arranged for MTL to manufacture and donate a 3mm stainless steel demonstration plaque for the Yorkshire Society.

Keith Madeley (Mr Yorkshire) of the Yorkshire Society was presented with the plaque in July and he was extremely grateful.

As a result, MTL is now a Corporate Member of the society for a year.



# www.mtladv.com

# **Apprentices in the community**

### Mill Hill FC Memorial Stand

WEC apprentices have manufactured a new spectator stand for Mill Hill St Peters Football Club in memory of their late first team manager, Kieran Keigher.

34-year-old Kieran sadly passed away in April 2016 following a short battle with cancer. Our apprentices used their new skills to manufacture The Kieran Keigher stand, which has been extended from 9 metres to 18 metres to allow more people to use it.

The stand has been donated by WEC Group and will be used in Kieran's memory for many years to come.

### **Charity Centenary Gate**

Our first year welding/fabrication apprentices have manufactured a centenary gate for Lightbown Cottages on Owlet Hall Road, Darwen.

The gate has been fabricated, welded and installed by apprentices as a way of enhancing the approach to the cottages, and donated by WEC Group to The Lightbown Cottage Home Trust charity.

The trust provide accommodation for elderly people who demonstrate a need, either financially or by quality of life, which is not being addressed elsewhere.

### **Ready for lift off!**

Well done to our welding/fabrication apprentices Marley Rogerson and Elliot Bates who manufactured a rocket launch pad made from 150 x 6 RSHS for Skybolt 2.

Our Training Academy apprentices have been heavily involved in the manufacture of major parts for the Starchaser Industries rocket, over the past year, and is set to launch on 11 September in Northumberland.

Well done to Kris Mercer and all the apprentices involved!









### **Christina crowned Rotherham's Apprentice of the Year 2017!**

Congratulations to Christina Bubb, a welding/fabrication apprentice at MTL Advanced, for winning the Intermediate Rotherham Apprentice of the Year Award.



After a number of false starts and re-evaluating her career choices, Christina scooped the title based on her natural talent, no-nonsense attitude and competitiveness.

She is now an advocate for females who are looking for a career in the mostly male dominated manufacturing industry, highlighting that women can be just as successful. Tom Smith, also a welding/fabrication apprentice at MTL Advanced, received Highly Commended at the event which was held at the AESSEAL New York Stadium on Wednesday 28 June.

The two apprentices were shortlisted in the final 16 out of 170 entries from young people across the borough, which is a testament to their hard work and the quality of training they receive.



### **Inspiring young engineers at National Festival of Making**

WEC Group got hands on at Blackburn's first ever National Festival of Making on 6 & 7 May as we continue to inspire young engineers.

The free two day festival took place in the town centre with music, markets, street food, art and making experiences for everyone.

Kris Mercer gave over 1000 people the chance to weld with a Lincoln Electric Welding Simulator as a way of introducing people to skilled welding, as well as letting them have a go at WEC puzzle balls which were cut in-house using our tube laser machines.

Starchaser Industries also brought a space rocket, similar to the Skybolt 2 rocket our apprentices worked on, which was on display throughout the weekend and got a great reaction.



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### Stars of the show at Burnley College Awards



Well done to our CNC Machining Apprentice, Matthew Moore, for winning the Burnley College Engineer Apprentice of the Year Award 2017.

He won the award based on his attitude to work, overall grades and outstanding performance throughout his apprenticeship.

To demonstrate Matt's quality workmanship, he has also won WEC Group's Machining Excellence award twice in a row at our annual Apprentice of the Year Awards.

We are also delighted to have won the Company of the Year Award which was a welcome surprise on the night!

### Phil scoops City & Guilds Engineering Award 2017!

Congratulations to our fourth year

Training Academy apprentice, Phil Hosey, who won the prestigious City & Guilds Engineering Award for Welding and Fabrication.



Phil scooped the title at the Training 2000 Apprenticeship Awards held at the Dunkenhalgh Hotel on Friday 12 May.

He won the award based on his outstanding exam results, student behaviour, attitude to work and overall skill level.

This is the second year in a row our apprentices have won this award!

### National Apprenticeship Awards Finalists



We're delighted to announce that we will be defending our title at the National Apprenticeship Awards 2017 as we are once again finalists in the North West - Liverpool City Region, Cumbria and Lancashire category!

We would also like to say a huge well done to our fourth year apprentice Jonathan Holding who is a finalist at this year's awards – well done!



### **Inspiring and Achieving!**

Good luck to our apprentice, Tom Woodburn, who is an Apprentice of the Year Award finalist in the Themis Inspire and Achieve Awards 2017.

We're also delighted to be shortlisted in the Skills and Training Provider Award (Large) Category!



# WEC CHARITY GOLF DAY 2017 Fundraising down to a tee for Moo Bears!

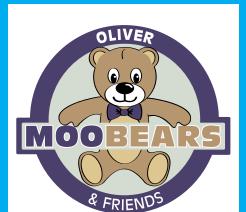


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Thank you to all our sponsors, suppliers, valued customers and staff for helping us raise £3890 for Moo Bears at our sixth annual charity golf day.

The money was raised from registration fees, sponsorships, auctions, raffles and generous donations on the evening.

There was some hard-fought competition among the 72 players on the Accrington Golf Club fairways, despite the heavy downpours which made an appearance half way through.



A great day was had by all!















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**The winners:** Team 14 - Nigel Yates, Frank Tunstall, Nigel Fairhurst & Jonny Reynolds



Second place: Team 12 - Bryan Bentley, Chris Smith, Paul Castle & Mark Ashton



Third place: Team 7 - David Brass, Jason Power, Rick Milne & Mike Ellmore





### With tributes to Richard

We are extremely sad to hear about the loss of our close company friend, Richard Boden.

Richard worked at Street Crane and built long standing working relationships and friendships with our staff for many years.

He was a regular player and past winner at our annual Charity Golf Day and helped us to raise money for a range of charities over the years.

Sending condolences to his closest friends and family.

Rest in Peace Richard.

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### Mark bags First Class Honours Degree in Engineering!

Well done to Mark Georg, a Lead Manufacturing Engineer, who recently achieved a 1st Class Bachelor of Science (honours) degree in Mechanical Engineering for HTA.

Keep up the great work!



### Richard hits 25 year milestone at WEC



Congratulations to Richard Horsfield, from our Purchasing department, who hit his 25 year milestone at WEC Group on 10 March.

Richard is one of our longest standing employees and we would like to thank him for his continuous dedication, commitment and hard work over the years.

During his time at WEC, he has played an integral part in our success and growth by remaining a loyal and diligent staff member.

Congratulations and all the best Richard!

### Wedding bells ring for Paul and Joanne!

Congratulations to HTA Group Driver, Paul Nelson, and his wife Joanne who got married in 2016.

Their special day took place at Brandon Hall Hotel & Spa in Coventry where the newlyweds had a traditional lion dance ceremony – a form of dance in Chinese culture and other Asian countries.

All the best!



### Craig's the Go Karting Champion!

Our Apprentice of the Year awards winners and WorldSkills UK 2016 finalists went go karting in May as one of their prizes.

Craig Masterton was the winner of the Ultimate Grand Prix event and a great day was had by all!



Are you celebrating something special you would like to share? Email your stories to: newsletter@wecl.co.uk

### SKILLED WELDERS WANTED

We're recruiting temporary and permanent Skilled Welders to join our busy & expanding teams in all divisions across the Group.

#### Apply online at www.wec-group.com



# Best wishes for your retirement!

We would like to wish Frank Griffin and Alan Edmondson a happy retirement.

Frank, a labourer at Sherburn Metalwork retired in March after 15 years of service (5 with WEC Group). He has an immense piece part knowledge of the structures and was presented with a watch as a retirement gift.

April marked the end of Alan's employment at WEC Machining after 24 years of service. He retired after originally working as a CNC Miller at Nutter Aircrafts before WEC Machining Ltd.

Thank you both for your commitment, dedication and hard work during your time at WEC Group and we wish you all the best for your retirement!





Frank Griffin

Alan Edmondson

## Refer a friend bonus increase earn up to £1000



We are currently looking to fill a number of job vacancies at our sites across the UK and have increased the value of the Refer a Friend bonus to up to £1000!

If you refer a friend who gets the job, you will receive a  $\pounds 250$  bonus when they celebrate 3 months at the company. When your friend has been employed for 12 months, you will then receive a further  $\pounds 750$  bonus\*.

If you know anyone who is looking for a job and is suited to one of our roles, they can download an application form or apply online on the WEC Group website.

Please remember they must mention you during the application process to ensure you receive your bonus!

\*Subject to general payroll deductions.

WEC Group have taken on 129 new starters in the first half of the year. 32 of which where recommended by WEC employees!"





**Orphanage Cup Finalists** Congratulations to the WEC Group football team for getting through to the final of this year's Orphanage Cup at Ewood Park.

Unfortunately we didn't beat Blackburn with Darwen Council Leisure, but a great night was still had by all and there was a fantastic turn out.

Thank you to the 200+ WEC staff, families and friends who came to show their support.

All proceeds have gone to Child Action North West, who were using the money to help children and young people affected by the Manchester terror attack to receive trauma counselling.



Feel free to lets us know of any fundraising or events you are taking part in. Email your stories to: newsletter@wecl.co.uk



### Ground to Tower Walk raises £779 for Kidscan

Thank you to all staff, friends and family who took part in the Ground to Tower Charity Walk on 24 June and raised £779 for Kidscan.

The group of over 40 walkers tackled 5 miles and over 800ft of ascent to Darwen tower on the blustery Saturday morning.

Well done to all that took part and thank you all for your generous donations and sponsors.





If you have any ideas for our next sponsored event, or taking part in something, Please send your ideas or stories to: newsletter@wecl.co.uk

## **100 Mile Charity Cycle Challenge**



Paul Wilson

Well done to Paul Wilson and Andrew Sedgley who completed the tough 100 mile Ribble Valley Ride on 11 June to raise money for our charity of the year.

Cycling through the Ribble Valley, Paul and Andy clocked a whopping 104 miles in just over eight hours, and climbed a total of 8015ft.

Thanks to all your generous donations, you helped Team WEC to raise £88 for Moo Bears.



Andrew Sedgley (Right) & Son

## **Stuart Byrne and sons raise £500 for MS Society**





Congratulations to Stuart Byrne and his two sons for completing the mammoth Coast to Coast cycling challenge on Saturday 24 June.

Setting off at 5.30am and crossing the finish line 12 hours later, the trio covered 155 miles with 4500m of climbing.

They cycled through the mountainous Western Lake District, through the Yorkshire Dales, across the flat Vale of York and finally the Northern Valleys of the North York Moors before finishing by the sea in Whitby.

Together, they have raised over £500 for the MS Society and would like to say a big thanks to everyone who has sponsored.



### YOUR NEWS... ...YOUR VIEWS

This is your newsletter and we want to know your stories. Send us your big news whether it's a birth, an engagement or a marriage, a sporting success or simply something you want to shout about. Email stories to **newsletter@wecl.co.uk**  Follow our company news and staff stories on Facebook and Twitter!

facebook.com/wecgroupltd



@wecgroupltd

## **Graham's Triathlon Triumph**

Well done to Graham Forrest, who works at WEC Laser's Quality Assurance department, for completing the Abersoch Triathlon in just over 3 hours during the soaring June heatwave.

Graham took on the Olympic distance challenge on the hottest day of the year alongside his friend Brian to raise money for Kidscan, with a total of £357 raised overall.

The triathlon was made up of a 1.5km swim, a 40km bike ride followed by a 10km run which Graham finished in 3:10:20. He said his "three hours of exertion is nothing in comparison to the pain that others suffer".

Graham would like to say thank you to all those who kindly donated.

### Mihaela's artwork showcased at Blackburn Cathedral

Mihaela Mladin's striking artwork wowed Cathedral visitors over Easter as a range of her paintings were displayed for a month.

After being inspired before Easter by a story about Jesus, Mother Mary and the apostles as humans in the ancient times, our Quality Manager decided to paint their faces and eyes based on how she imagined them to look.



The 20 acrylic paintings took two weeks to complete and were accepted and displayed in the Cathedral Crypt for the public to enjoy.

As an avid painter, Mihaela is planning to create more stunning pieces around Christmas time.

# WEC Charity of the Year 2017



If you are taking part in any fundraising events during 2017 and would like to support our Charity of the Year, please contact Marketing for more information!

If you have any ideas for our next sponsored event, or taking part in something, Please send your ideas or stories to: newsletter@wecl.co.uk

## **Team WEC win Ron Hill 10K Corporate Team Prize!**



## Congratulations to Team WEC who took part in the Ron Hill 10K in March and brought home the corporate team prize for the second year in a row!

Lee Whiteley, Stacey Begley, Paul Wilson, Chris Bootes and Elouise Pemberton have raised a fantastic sum of £664 for Kidscan - a charity supporting ground breaking research for childhood cancer. Team WEC would like to express their gratitude for all your kind donations.



### Chris and Will carry 22 kilos for charity

Well done to Chris Doherty and William Barr who helped to raise over £5,500 for East Lancashire Hospice after taking on the Blackpool Half Marathon. As a former soldier in the Parachute Regiment, WEC CCTV's Hiab Driver Chris and Welding Inspector, Co-ordinator and Examiner William Barr marched the half marathon on 23 April alongside other veterans whilst carrying 22 kilo backpacks, completing it in 3 hours and 52 minutes.

Thank you to all who donated!

If you have any ideas for our next sponsored event, or taking part in something, Please send your ideas or stories to: newsletter@wecl.co.uk

### Baking up a treat for Red Nose Day!

Well done to MTL staff who held a bake sale on 24 March in respect of Red Nose Day, raising a fantastic total of £122.80.

Staff brought in some delicious homemade treats including a classic chocolate cake and millionaire's shortbread, a surprise cake with skittles in the middle and even an unusual bacon and maple syrup cake!



### Charity Easter egg collection at HTA

HTA took part in a charitable Easter Egg collection for HCPT, a charity which takes disabled and disadvantaged children aged 8-18 to Lourdes in the South of France.

Every year, volunteers take over 1,000 young people on the life changing trip where they enjoy beaches and mountains as well as parties and restaurants which they may not experience otherwise.

All the staff at HTA are proud to support such a worthy event!

### John donates competition prize to Charity!

John Whittle, our CCTV Export Manager, won Lancashire Business Life's 'Where in the World' May competition and donated his prize to a charity golf day in aid of Pseudo Obstruction Research Trust

• (P.O.R.T).

John received a call from the Lancashire Chamber of Commerce advising he had won a luxury case of wine on the same day his close friend was looking for auction/gifts for the charity event held at Accrington Golf Club.



The wine was sold at the event for  $\pounds 660$  with over  $\pounds 5000$  raised on the night.

P.O.R.T has been set up to research Chronic Intestinal Pseudo-obstruction and to support families living with it.

It is a cause close the John's heart as his friends son, Charlie, was born with the extremely rare condition which prevents his body from properly digesting food, meaning he is fed directly through a tube.

Charlie, who is from Darwen, is one of only around 120 children in the UK who suffer from the condition and 1,000 people worldwide.



Feel free to lets us know of any fundraising or events you are taking part in.

Email your stories to: newsletter@wecl.co.uk

## 20 GETTING TO KNOW...

# LEE BURNS

WECJet General Manager

*How long have you worked at WEC?* 12 years

#### As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

Mechanic - I once changed my wheel on my slopping drive and nearly lost my legs... "This is not for me, I'll try engineering!"

### What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

DIY/Golf/Couple of pints, and most importantly chilling with the family

#### Who is your favourite singer?

I like a lot of music but it has to have a good beat to it, Paloma Faith has an outstanding voice. I was known to throw a few shapes back in the day, but it's now more of a steady foot tap

#### What is your favourite film?

No real favourite - I like action, adventure and fantasy. I will confess when the Mrs goes to bed I watch How Its Made and Mighty Engineering programmes (sad!!)

#### What makes you smile?

Good banter and seeing others smile - got to be happy and it's free!



Lee Burns

What's your favourite holiday getaway? New Zealand (Amazing!!)

#### Who do you admire the most?

My partner Caroline. She is the most kind hearted, caring and strong willed person I have ever met. And obviously Steve, Wayne and Gareth in that order

#### What super power would you have?

Telepathy, I would love to know what makes some people tick

### Best piece of advice you've ever received?

Treat people how you would expect them to treat you (My Dad)

#### If you could meet someone living or dead, who would it be?

Bruce Lee, Unbelievable man! A good book to read is Bruce Lee Fighting Spirit by Bruce Thomas, full insight into his whole life not just the martial arts

### What's your favourite food?

Crisps, all kinds! Love 'em. Oh and chocolate and double raspberry magnum, just try one !!

### What's the craziest thing you've ever done?

So many stories!! I'll go with a light hearted one... I won a dad dancing competition at a Haven site 3 years ago after a few shandys. I won some flip flops (it was breakdancing and God it hurt for days after!)

## What is your greatest achievement to date?

As all parents will say, having a child is out of this world so it's got to be having our daughter Gabriella. She's our little star, most of the time anyway as we all know!

### What's the highlight of your time at WEC Group?

My first day. Times were hard, Mr Hartley came towards me on the shop floor and said "morning lad do you know your shoe is dropping to bits?", I replied "yes Mr Hartley I'm going to treat myself with my first pay packet." At this point he reached into his pocket and pulled out a big wad of cash, my eyes lit up with joy! He then proceeded to take the elastic band off and said "e r lad, put that round it for now". My other highlight at WEC is being given the opportunity to be part of the management structure at Wecjet and being part of the ongoing WEC growth.

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