

# WEC news

**GROUP**

**Issue 11**



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# Message from the board...



Steve Hartley, Managing Director

It has been an extremely busy few months across all divisions of WEC Group and we are increasingly confident that the company is on track to have yet another record year.

We would like to congratulate the various teams who have been involved in securing a series of large contracts in the Aerospace, Rail, Nuclear, Automotive, and Security industries to name but a few (more on this on page 3-7).

Our Export sales remain strong which is a testament of the current strength of British Manufacturing on the Global stage.

Bridging the skills gap and bringing up the next generation of engineers remains our main challenge and we are extremely proud to announce that we have created over 30 new apprentice positions across all divisions to join our ranks in September with vacancies still to fill (as below).

The sale of the business earlier this year has put us in a much stronger position to tackle the challenges of the current economic climate and we are very much looking forward to approaching the next quarter with a renewed drive and increased competitive advantage.

## APPRENTICESHIPS STILL AVAILABLE AT WEC GROUP

**WEC Group Ltd** are currently recruiting additional apprentices to join our workforce for **immediate start**:

### Darwen:

- 5x Welder/Fabricator
- 1x CNC Machinist

### Rotherham:

- 5x Production Engineering Operative (Laser/Press)
- 4x Welder/Fabricator

### Liverpool:

- 2x Welder/Fabricator
- 4x Laser/Press Operative

### Leeds:

- 1x Welder/Fabricator

## SPREAD THE WORD!

To apply or get more information contact:  
[recruitment@wecl.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@wecl.co.uk)  
 #GetInGoFar #EarnWhileYouLearn



# WEC Group wins two major contracts with Rolls-Royce

Working in partnership with a Canadian company based in Ottawa, WEC Group has won a major contract for a new test bed facility for Rolls-Royce. Located at their Derby site in the UK, the facility is scheduled to be fully operational by 2020.



The test bed site will cover an approximate total area of 1.65 acres, making it the largest of its kind in the world.

Equipment for the site will include state-of-the-art systems and technology capable of testing the largest engines such as those which power the Airbus A350 and Boeing 787 Dreamliner. Next generation engines such as the UltraFan



Images courtesy of Rolls-Royce PLC



expected in 2025 will also be amongst the capabilities of the facility.

The large contract will involve the manufacture, transport and installation of large fabrications for the whole length of the test bed and will be completed by 2019.

Glyn Jones, Engineering Sales Manager at WEC Group said: "We are very excited to be a part of this ground-breaking project.

"Our focus and commitment to quality and innovation makes us a great partner in this contract. Thanks to our extensive range of technology and floor space, we are able to fabricate large structures such as this to ISO 9001:2015 standards with quality control plans."



Test Bed Fabrications Previously Manufactured by WEC Group

The Group have also begun another high profile project with Rolls-Royce to build an assembly racking system, again, in Derby.

This contract sees WEC Group become a Tier 1 accredited supplier for Rolls-Royce for the first time, having previously manufactured parts into Rolls-Royce through third parties for over 10 years. The complex being built by Rolls-Royce at their Raynesway plant is due for completion in March 2019 and will be used to assemble the reactors for the next generation of submarines.

Glyn would like to thank Mihaela Mladin, Group Quality Manager for her assistance during the audit process for both of these projects.

Congratulations also to the Quality team who has assisted us in landing the sought-after Tier 1 supplier accreditation.

# MTL Advanced Secures New Multi-million Pound Rolling Stock Contracts



**MTL continues to make their mark in the Rolling Stock industry following the win of further multi-million pound Rail contracts to supply the carriages' Intermediate Ends aluminium fabrications for the East Anglia and London Overground lines.**

This comes on the back of a recent contract extension awarded to MTL for the Crossrail line which we have been supplying since July last year on the back of our EN 15085 and Bombardier Transportation SEAP accreditations.

As part of the East Anglia contract, MTL will supply intermediate ends for 665 new Bombardier Avenra vehicles. These new trains are expected to be delivered between January 2019 and September 2020. Meanwhile, MTL have also secured another large order to manufacture parts for the London Overground maintenance contract for the iconic Electrostar vehicles which should now run until 2030.

On the back of those new and ongoing contracts, MTL have recently invested in a second wet painting booth with an increased capacity of 20mx6mx5m.

MTL's General Manager, Karl Stewart, said: "Over the past 18 months, we have identified the Rolling Stock industry as a market with strong growth potential for MTL and the whole team has collaboratively worked really hard to forge a long-standing partnership with Bombardier. We are now bearing the fruits of this labour by securing strategic and long term contracts that will boost MTL's order book for the next few years."

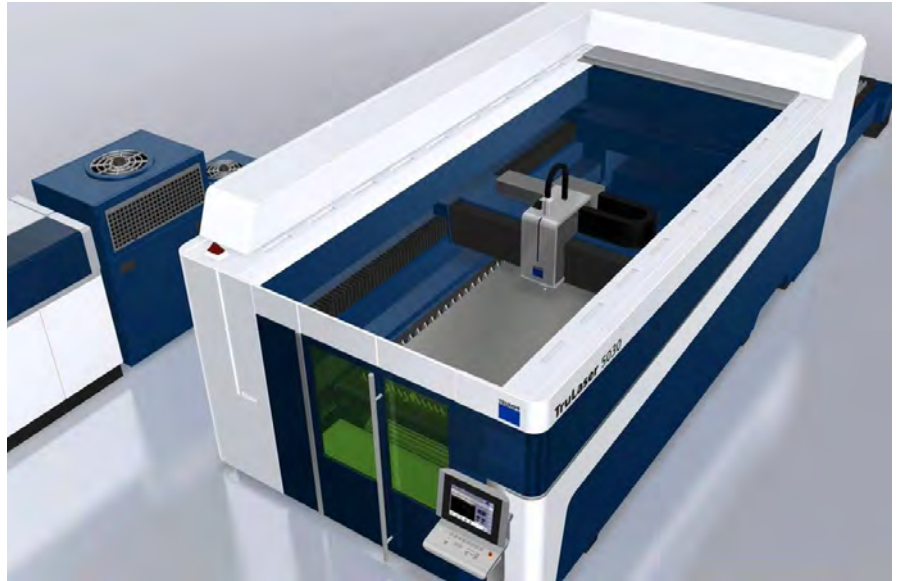


# MTL Invests Further to Fuel Up Growth

Following the win of a series of new contracts, MTL Advanced have invested in a brand new, state-of-the-art 8kw Trumpf 5040 Fibre laser machine.

With installation planned for August, the new 4m x 2m machine will be the second fiber laser installed at the site this year and is ideal for high speed cutting of thin gauge materials which will enable MTL Advanced to remain competitive on large volume production contracts and sustain their growth.

This exciting new addition is the latest part of WEC Group and MTL's strategy of continuous investment in cutting edge technology.



## MTL's Movers & Shakers

It's been a busy few months at MTL, and there have been a few new key appointments and promotions. We would like to wish all the best to everyone involved!

### Charles Boswell – Quality, Health, Safety & Environment Manager

Charles is an experienced QHSE Manager with experience in manufacturing in a variety of sectors including Defence.

### Adam Williams – Continuous Improvement Manager

Adam is an ex-employee who has rejoined the business after having worked at a large multi-national building products manufacturer where he made a significant commercial impact on the business through lean initiatives

**Karl Stewart** was promoted to **General Manager**, with overall responsibility for all aspects of the business.

**Howard Kellett** was promoted to **Finance Manager**, with responsibility over Finance & HR.

**Richard Mackie** was promoted to **Head of Programmes & Engineering**, overseeing the Projects/Contracts, Nesting/Scheduling, and Engineering/Design teams.

**Jamie Sharp** was promoted to **Business Manager**, overseeing DNA Metalwork, IT, Job Costing, & Continuous Improvement.

**Michael Ellmore** was promoted to **Head of Sales (MTL)**, overseeing the Business Development and Estimating Teams.



# Double Deckers for Sherburn Metalwork

Sherburn Metalwork has won another contract for Optare's buses as part of a new initiative by Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan. The Mayor wishes to create the largest electric double-decker bus fleet in Europe.

Sherburn Metalwork will be fabricating the full chassis and body frame along with the power pack cradles for the Electric Vehicle (EV) batteries. All the components will be cut at Laser Engineering and WECJet, and delivered across to Sherburn-in-Elmet where the structures will be fabricated and pre-treated ready for dispatch.

These buses are amongst the first double decker EV's to be sold and Optare is leading the field for EV double decker buses by utilising the latest EV battery technology to get the required range for service routes.

Initial orders have now been confirmed for 31 for the London area and 4 for Reading. The target sales figure for next year is 150 double decker units.

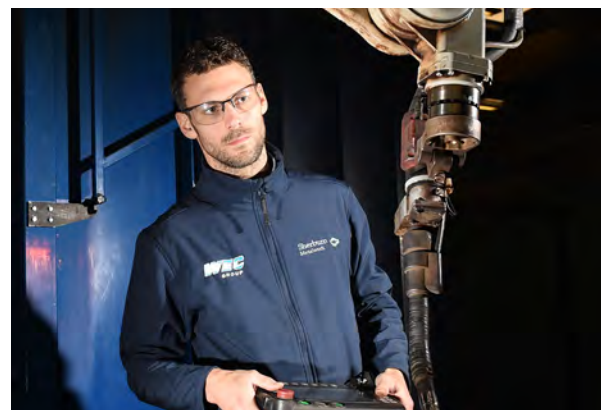
Sherburn was involved with the initial design and development process for the prototype vehicles and heavily involved with the design for manufacture. This was completed with a lot of help from the programming team at Laser Engineering who had to isolate all of the components from the main assembly model in order to create all the part files for manufacturing.

Sherburn has designed and fabricated a full set of production fixtures in house and now will be able to put these to use over the coming year to fulfil the double decker orders as well as the current schedule for Solo and Metrocity orders.



## New General Manager for Sherburn Metalwork

We would like to congratulate Richard Dowling who was recently appointed as General Manager of Sherburn Metalwork. Richard joined Sherburn Metalwork in November 2011 after spending 7 years as a Welding Production Supervisor at Optare Plc which made him the perfect match to take on this role. All the best in the new role!



# ISO9001:2015 Across the Group

We are delighted to announce that all divisions & subsidiaries of WEC group have successfully been upgraded to the latest version of the ISO 9001 Quality Management Standard (ISO 9001:2015) following a recent audit by BSI.

ISO 9001 is the world's most widely recognised quality management standard which enables companies to meet and surpass the needs and expectations of their customers.

The latest ISO 9001:2015 quality standard has a major focus on risk-based thinking. It promotes the need to address risks and opportunities associated with the Quality Management System throughout the business, in order to drive continuous improvement and minimise nonconformance.

The many benefits of the new version include greater emphasis on leadership engagement, and addressing supply chain management more effectively.

Achieving this level of certification demonstrates our commitment towards continuous improvement of our products and services, as well as our internal processes, as all our procedures have been carefully designed and quality-tested according to international standards.



## m-tec Fabricates “Rising Person” Sculpture

A big well done to our m-tec Architectural division and Special Projects teams who have recently produced yet another striking sculpture for a corporate client in Ireland.

m-tec recently won an architectural metalwork contract with The Outlook Creative Group for Medtronic who wanted to create a large (2.5m diameter) steel sculpture based on their corporate icon to stand outside their Customer Innovation Centre in Galway.

The design is a physical representation of Medtronic's iconic 'rising person' symbol.

The sculpture took our Special Projects team 8 weeks to fabricate from 2205 Duplex Stainless Steel before completing the structure with a bead blasted finish.

The sculpture will be installed and unveiled in August.



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# WEC CCTV Take a Trip up the Tower

**Our CCTV division has recently installed four CCTV brackets in the Lancashire seaside town of Blackpool.**

The first of four galvanised steel camera brackets was installed onto the famous Blackpool Tower on 22 May 2018.

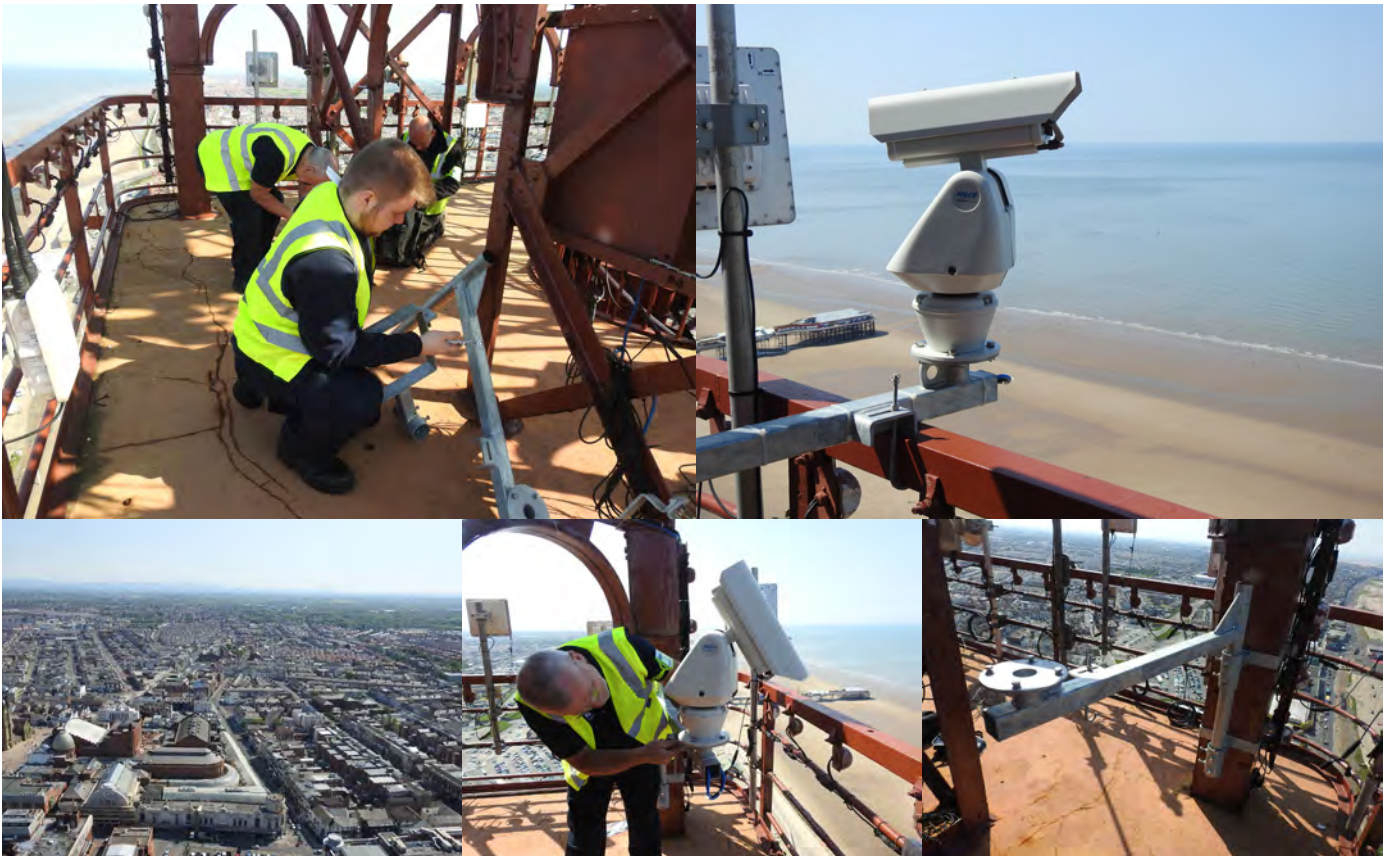
Blackpool Tower stands at 518 feet tall and was opened in 1894. On a clear day, the Tower can be seen from as far away as Wales and the Lake District!

Our very own apprentice Josh Keen designed the 4 bespoke swing arm brackets for the 360 degree cameras to be added to each corner of one of the highest points of the Tower.

A dedicated installation team arrived at the Tower on 22 May and ascended the Tower to reach the location for the brackets, a vantage point higher than that which is accessible by the general public.

Upon successful review by the local council, the project will be completed in collaboration with the Blackpool Council CCTV Team, TNP and overseen by Mick Horsley.

Once mounted onto our brackets, the four cameras will operate a security feed from each corner of the Tower to cover each direction. In turn, these cameras will be able to give a birds-eye view of the whole town.





# Art in Manufacturing

Working in partnership with artist David Murphy, seven of our talented apprentices crafted seven sapling-like trees from steel which were unveiled at the National Festival of Making in Blackburn on May 12 and 13.

The National Festival of Making held its second annual event on the weekend of May 12 and 13. It saw the town of Blackburn host collaborative exhibitions work from artists, manufacturers, designers and many more.

The festival attracted double the amount of visitors as last year, with 60,000 visitors and the event is expected to generate an economy boost of over £1 million for Blackburn.

Seven of our first year apprentices from Darwen: Elliott Bates, Jordan Bolland, Robert Caldwell, Matthew Caswell, George Hawkey, Ibrahim Mansuro and Declan Mercer created our contribution to the festival alongside the artist David Murphy.

David is originally from Newcastle, studied at the prestigious Glasgow School of Art and is a former Artist in Residence at Yorkshire Sculpture Park. His previous exhibits have stretched around the globe from the UK to Italy and Egypt.

On working with our apprentices, David said: “ I felt that working with the apprentices was very much in keeping with the spirit of the festival to celebrate share and demystify the manufacturing process as much as the art making process”.

The creation made with the skilful collaboration of both David and our apprentices is designed to artistically emulate the journey of our apprentices or ‘saplings’ as they grow their career here with us to join the larger world of manufacturing and engineering.

The sculpture was crafted using processes including flame cutting, drilling, folding and welding and was very proudly displayed at the town centre’s Prism Gallery until May 25.



THE NATIONAL  
FESTIVAL OF MAKING



# Jason Hits 25 year Milestone at WEC Group

Congratulations to Jason Chadwick from our Special Projects division, who hit the 25 year milestone at WEC Group on 09/08/2018.

Jason 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, Jason!

## All Aboard at WEC Machining

Our WEC Machining division have recently completed work on the chassis of a steam train

The train is part of the Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway Preservation Society which covers a 16 mile journey through beautiful Mid Wales countryside.

The railway was originally built in 1903 to link farming communities with the market town of Welshpool. After 1931 the railway only carried freight traffic and was finally closed in 1956. However, in 1963, a group of enthusiasts rallied round and began to progressively re-open the line and begin restoration.

WEC Machining was contracted to machine 8 apertures to re-establish their squareness to the central line of the train chassis. This was a crucial part of the restoration as the apertures were locating points for the locomotive wheel axle boxes.



The steam train chassis was machined using our Asquith Butler Large Machining Centre

A big well done to everyone involved.

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# On the Road Again!

The Group hit the road to exhibit at even more trade shows across Europe.

## SUBCON



**5-7 June at NEC, Birmingham, UK**

The Group once again exhibited at the event to showcase our range of subcontract manufacturing services, including profiling, CNC machining, welding/fabrication, sheet metalwork and finishing.

Since exhibiting at the show in 2017, we have invested £4.5 million in 2 fibre laser cutting machines for our Rotherham and Knowsley-based divisions, a third sliding head lathe for WEC Machining as well as additional manufacturing floorspace.

Now in its 42nd year, this year's show saw 4,500 visitors and 400 exhibitors, making it their largest show to date!



## 2018 EUROSATORY

**11-15 June, Paris, France**

MTL Advanced took their specialist armour team across to Paris to discuss our unique solutions for vehicle and infrastructure protection.

The team had a great week at the show and now have a busy few months ahead with plenty of live armour processing requirements.

The biennial international Land, Air, Defence and Security exhibition took place at the Villepinte Parc De Expositions and had over 1,800 visitors from 63 countries.



## DVD2018



## COMING SOON!

**19-20 September Millbrook Proving Ground, UK**

DVD is a key event for all those involved in UK Land Forces equipment and support.

MTL Advanced will have a stand at the event to discuss our range of services for the industry, including armoured vehicle fabrication and assembly, Design for Manufacture and the processing of armoured steel.

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# WEC Charity Golf Day 2018

## OLIVER'S NEUROBLASTOMA APPEAL

£4,070 of our grand total was raised through registration fees, sponsorship, auctions, raffles, bingo and generous donations on the evening.

A further £2,000 has been very kindly added to our total in match funding by our sponsors, Barclays.

There was some very stiff competition amongst our 64 players as they took to the fairways at Accrington Golf Club and thankfully the rain just about held off for the day.

A great day was had by all and we are very proud to have raised such a great amount for a very worthy cause. To read more about Oliver and donate: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/oliversneuroblastomaappeal>

A huge thank you to all of our valued customers, sponsors, suppliers and staff for helping us to raise a massive  
**£6,070!**

Sponsored and supported by:



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TRUMPF





**WINNERS - TEAM 1  
JIM MORRIS, ANDY ROBINSON, COLIN DREWERY  
AND CHRIS WYKES**

**CHRIS WYKES - LONGEST DRIVE**



**JIM MORRIS - NEAREST PIN**



**2ND - TEAM 17**



**3RD - TEAM 11**



**JOINT 4TH- TEAM 9**



**JOINT 4TH - TEAM 13**



# One step closer to Squad UK!



**Congratulations to our Welding/  
Fabrication apprentice, Tyler Atkinson.**

18-year-old Tyler, a third year Training Academy apprentice, won a silver medal at the 2017 WorldSkills UK event and is now one of just two final apprentices competing to proudly represent Squad UK at WorldSkills Kazan 2019.

WorldSkills Kazan will take place in August 2019 and will bring together participants from more than 1300 young professionals from 70 countries, competing in over 50 skills.

The WEC Group Apprentice of the Year 2016 and Welding Excellence Award winner has already undergone bootcamp training and attended multiple masterclasses at both Loughborough University and Dudley College.



Tyler is due to compete in the 6 day team selection process to secure his place in Squad UK on 4 March 2019.

Kris Mercer, our Training & Development Manager said: "We are extremely proud of Tyler for getting so far into the competition. He has a natural talent for metalwork and this is a fantastic opportunity for him, as it is sure to boost his career prospects as well as his confidence."

We would like to take this chance to wish Tyler the very best of luck!

We are all already very proud of everything he has achieved and hope that he enjoys flying the flag for WEC Group (and hopefully the UK!).

# Another win for Christina

Well done once again to our Welding/  
Fabrication apprentice, Christina Bubb.

After being shortlisted for the North Midlands & South Yorkshire Apprentice Awards, Christina managed to beat all of the competition in order to take home the award as the Rotherham Apprentice of the Year!

This award comes after Christina's previous success being named MTL Advanced Apprentice of the Year 2017 and Intermediate Rotherham Apprentice of the Year 2017.

Congratulations Christina from everyone at WEC Group.



## Awarding excellence across the Group

### WELDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

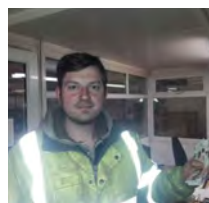
We would like to congratulate all the recent winners of our welding excellence award which is based on an individual's outstanding commitment and workmanship, as well as recognising their consistently high-quality work.



**Dec 2017**  
Jonny Holding



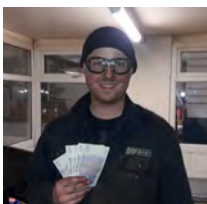
**Jan 2018**  
Carl Tonge



**Feb 2018**  
Wayne Neve



**Mar 2018**  
John Scoular



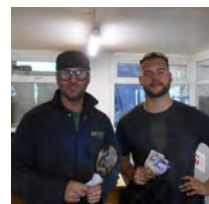
**Apr 2018**  
Jonny Holding



**May 2018**  
Tom Woodburn



**Jun 2018**  
Matt Walsh



**Jul 2018**  
Craig Gardner &  
Tom Woodburn

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## Award Winning Apprentices in Go-kart Race



**Our talented apprentices faced of in an exhilarating race to the finish line.**

After their success at our annual Apprentice of the Year Awards 2017, the apprentices won a trip to the 3 Sisters Circuit in Wigan.

The circuit is the North West's most challenging outdoor race track and go karting circuit.

Ultimately, the top podium position went to Jonathan Holding, closely followed by Kris Mercer our Training & Development Manager and James Seddon.



## Inspiring New Engineers

We recently had visits from local schools and colleges to our Blackburn and Darwen sites.

Pleckgate High School students came to look around our state-of-the-art facilities on 21 March as a way of learning more about the metal manufacturing industry.

Blackburn College Engineering students came to visit our site on 19 April.

We hope that we inspired some budding engineers and that our visitors enjoyed their first-hand experience of the workplace.



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## WEC Apprentices Take Part in New Space Project



**Our first year apprentices have fabricated the 1.25m diameter internal structure to locate and carry the rocket boosters for a new 12 metre research space rocket.**

The rocket is scheduled to be flown only once on launch day in the summer of 2019 and the duration of the flight will be approximately four minutes.

This comes less than a year after our apprentices' successful launch of the 8m Starchaser Skybolt 2 Rocket in Northumberland.

As with the previous rocket, the purpose of this new test flight is to engage young people to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subject areas as well as conduct some research for local universities.

An array of electronic instruments and a bespoke parachute recovery system will be also tested on this flight for use in future manned rockets. This includes a Launch Escape System with a crash test dummy!

## WEC Group Shortlisted as Regional Finalist of the National Apprenticeship Awards

Following review by the regional judging panel, we are very pleased to announce that WEC Group have been shortlisted as a finalist for the North West region.

The Regional Apprenticeship Awards Ceremony will take place on Wednesday 19 September.



PROUD TO BE A  
REGIONAL FINALIST

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP AWARDS 2018

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# Orphanage Cup Finalists 2018

## WEC Group faced The Senator Group in the final of the Orphanage Cup.

After winning our qualifying matches, we fought our way to the grand final to face our toughest opponents yet, The Senator Group.

The final took place on 18 May at Ewood Park in Blackburn and a reception was held later at Jack's Kitchen. Unfortunately, despite being awarded a late penalty, we were not able to defeat The Senator Group on the night but a great evening was still had by all and there was a fantastic turnout.

Congratulations to all of our players for their fantastic effort throughout the tournament: Steven Berko, Neil

Robinson, Phil Hosey, Matt Alston, Damien Clough, Glenn Ainsworth, Nathan Cross, Liam Bullen, Tom Hoyland, Josh Wickers, Danny Taylor, Liam Bagley, Reon Bagley, Kiel Lonsdale, Lewis Donnely, Conor Fisher, Craig Emery and Team Manager Shaun Warbuton.

And a huge thank you to the 200+ WEC staff, families and friends who came to show their support.

Together we helped raise £1500 for Child Action North West.



See more photos at: [www.flickr.com/photos/wecgroup](http://www.flickr.com/photos/wecgroup)

# Over to you

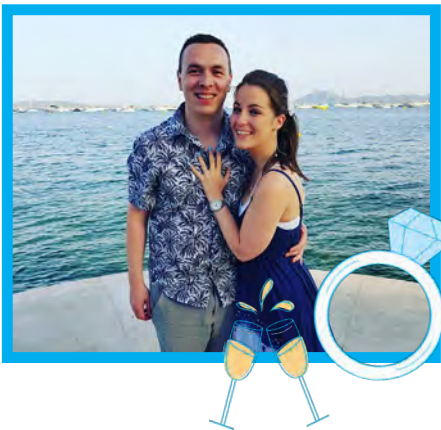


## She Said Yes!

Congratulations to Jack Holden from WEC CCTV's division on his engagement!

Jack proposed to his fiancée Laura while on holiday at her favourite holiday destination Puerto Pollensa, Mallorca and she said YES!

Puerto Pollensa is very special place to Laura as she's been going for some 25 years. The couple plan to get married there in 2020

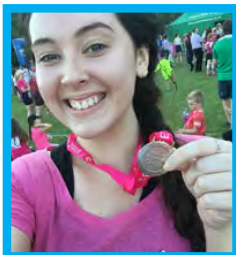


## Race for Life

Rebecca Betteridge from our Marketing Team ran 5K for Cancer Research UK.

This year's Race for Life event took place on 27 June at Witton Park in Blackburn and saw over 1,000 keen runners take part to raise money for the great cause.

Congratulations to everyone involved. Rebecca wishes to thank everyone for their kind donations. Rebecca raised a total of £229.00!!



## Happy 40th Birthday!

A massive Happy Birthday to John Whittle from our CCTV department.



We hope that you had a wonderful day and enjoyed your trip to Las Vegas!

## Congratulations to Ian and Lin!

Our very own Ian Steggles, who works at Riverside, and his bride Lin tied the knot on Friday 13 April 2018

Their special day took place at Whitehall Hotel in Darwen with close family and friends. The newlyweds then enjoyed a seaside trip to St. Annes and have further plans to visit Zante in September to celebrate their honeymoon.

Congratulations from everyone at WEC!



## Knock Out for Cancer



Paul Reilly from MTL Advanced took part in a huge UWCB Event at Bramall Lane in Sheffield on 14 July.

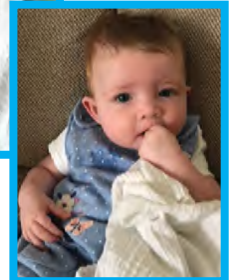
The event was in support of Cancer Research UK and with over 130,00 fundraisers just like Paul, they have already raised over £13.2 million!

Well done to Paul from all of us and thank you to everyone who has already donated.

## It's a Girl!!

On the 17 March, Dean Riley from our Laser Division and Laura Jennison from Accounts welcomed a beautiful little girl to the world named Thea Grace Riley.

WEC Group would like to say a huge congratulations to Dean and Laura.



Email your stories and photos to [info@wecl.co.uk](mailto:info@wecl.co.uk) to be a part of our next issue

## Getting to Know...



### John Whittle

Export Sales & Technical  
Manager

**WEC**

**CCTV**

#### *How long have you worked at WEC?*

I have worked for WEC for 15 years.

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

I watched a lot of casualty and futuristic programmes as a kid. I wanted to either work in a hospital or be part of the A

Team. Now I am a registered First Aider and working for WEC Group, both are an acceptable compromise.

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

Playing Rugby. I play for Blackburn Rugby Club and should have retired years ago. I still have a run out once a week but it's more of a trot now!

#### *What is your favourite film?*

A Bruce Willis film from the early 90s called The Last Boy Scout

#### *What makes you smile?*

Lots of things, really. I like socialising with friends and family and when karma happens!

#### *What's your favourite holiday getaway?*

Las Vegas is my favourite. I travelled back there earlier this summer.

#### *Who do you admire the most?*

My parents, they both worked extremely hard to provide for me and my sister. Now they are retired, they live life to the fullest. This is an ethos which me and my sister adhere to.

#### *What super power would you have?*

That's easy. I would choose the power to heal people's illnesses or injuries. That would be awesome!

#### *What's your favourite food?*

Seafood is my favourite. I often eat fish for lunch, much to my colleagues' disapproval.

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

Having been on a number of rugby tours there's been a few crazy things, however what goes on tour stays on tour. We will keep it at that.

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

I would meet with Richard Branson.

#### *Who is your favourite singer?*

Robbie Williams. I've seen him a couple of times and he always puts on a great show.

#### *What is your greatest achievement to date?*

Learning to snowboard with my son, Brad. No matter where he and his friends go in the coming years, his first boarding trip was with me and we learned to snowboard together.

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

Life's a journey, not a destination.

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

There's been a few! Attending exhibitions, meeting customers and being able to put names to faces. Oh and when the building flooded after a river burst its banks. We never closed and managed to deal with all enquiries/orders without interruption for weeks while we were throwing office furniture and equipment out of the windows. That's the true WEC Group spirit!