

WEC news

GROUP

Issue 5



Why our skilled apprentices are on top of the world

Full story page 4



Reflecting a hospital's care

Page 5



Mick's London Triathlon success

Page 8



Going the extra mile for charity

Page 9



Our golf day raises £3,000

Page 10

www.wec-group.com

Message from the board



Managing Director, Steve Hartley

It's been another busy quarter at WEC Group. We have continued down the investment path with the commissioning of a brand new shot blasting plant which will enhance the capabilities of WEC Powder Coating.

We have also invested £2 million in nine new, state-of-the-art machines for WEC Machining to improve the division's lead times and set the ground for further growth. More information on these investments can be found on page 13.

Our new partnership with mtl is already producing some promising results, and we have made the commitment to invest up to £8 million in the near future to secure mtl's long term success.

This will include a new large laser cutting machine, a wet paint line, the opening of a new training school as well as the acquisition of the 300,000 sq. ft. factory in Rotherham which mtl has occupied since 2011.

We're in pole position thanks to our new product

Well done to the team at WEC CCTV for the development of their new innovative product created to meet the increasing demands of its highways customers.

The division has successfully launched its new HSTP Highways Square Trolley Pole onto the market.

Boasting a range of new and improved features, it is the latest innovation in the sector and has endured rigorous in-house testing from the team.

Mike Allison, Sales Manager at WEC CCTV, believes the division's expertise in the field has shone through and the new pole will be a market leader.

He said: "We listened to the demand of our highways customers who we have been dealing with for the past 35 years.

"As CCTV technology and lighting has evolved, so have our poles. We have developed this new product to ensure we keep up with the latest innovations in the CCTV and infrared lighting technologies."

Its main features include a single action camera lowering mechanism to allow a single engineer to service the pole at ground level.

More news about our CCTV division and export success, *See Page 12*



**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 just something you want to shout about.
Email stories to newsletter@wecl.co.uk

MTL engineers a bright future following its partnership deal with WEC Group



MTL Advanced is showing strong signs of recovery five months after our partnership deal that brought the company out of administration.

MTL has now traded profitably in each of the five months

following that deal, and the company has also won back a multi-million pound defence contract which was lost when the company went into administration in February.

A number of jobs have been created in the past four months and a major £8 million programme of investment in new equipment for MTL's Rotherham facility is about to get underway.

This programme will see the installation of a new state-of-the art six metre bed laser cutting machine, as well as an in-house wet painting line as a way of enhancing the services that MTL can deliver.

As part of the programme, we are also acquiring the 300,000 sq. ft. factory in Rotherham which MTL has occupied since 2011.

A new apprenticeship scheme has been created at MTL and it will mirror WEC's award-winning training academy, which was last year ranked in the top three as a UK apprenticeship provider.

Group Commercial Director Wayne Wild said the first five months following the partnership deal had seen strong signs of growth and development at MTL: "We have really hit the ground running, and as a result we have seen some positive and encouraging results.

"MTL is continuing to move forward in the right direction, thanks to the hard work and commitment of all the team there. We have potentially got some very large contracts in the pipeline.

"We are actively promoting the services of MTL at a series of trade shows in September for sectors including defence, recycling and offshore."

He added: "The new apprenticeship scheme will see MTL train and develop young skilled workers in the South Yorkshire area, giving them the tools they need to help us drive the business forward."



MTL: Moving in the right direction

Karl Stewart, sales director of MTL, is excited for the future and the opportunities that now exist for the 300,000 sq ft capacity in Rotherham and its workforce.

He said: "The partnership with WEC Group is already proving to be very strong and has enhanced our capabilities which is a major advantage to all our customers.

"The additional capacity that the deal has brought is proving to be another big positive."

WorldSkills success for WEC apprentices!



Five of our apprentices are celebrating after making it through to the national final of the prestigious 2015 WorldSkills UK Construction Metalwork competition.

First year apprentice, 17-year-old Harry Chadwick stunned everyone after being announced as the winner of the tough regional heat overall as well as scoring second highest in the country, despite being the youngest and least experienced in the competition.

Ryan Smith, Thomas Woodburn, Christopher Taylor and James Ennis also successfully made it through after a gruelling seven hour competition which took place at Burnley College in July.

The prestigious WorldSkills competition in Construction Metalwork is designed to test entrants' skills to the limit.

The talented apprentices competed against 90 entrants from around the UK to make it to the final 10 – with WEC contributing 50 per cent of the national finalists.

They will now battle it out against each other and five more regional champions at the national finals in Birmingham in November.

Glory there could see them represent the UK at the WorldSkills International Final in Abu Dhabi in 2017.

Kris Mercer, our Training and Development Manager, said: "We are very proud of all our apprentices' achievement and it's a tribute to the investment by WEC Group and the hard work put in by the lads themselves."

First year apprentice, Harry Chadwick, 17, winner of the regional heat overall as well as scoring second highest in the country.



To find out more about WEC Training Academy:
www.wec-group.com/wecacademy.html

Reflecting a hospital's community care

Two impressive sculptures fabricated by m-tec have taken pride of place outside the Gartnavel Royal Hospital in Glasgow.

The Sun-Moon sculpture is made up of a 2.5 metre convex diameter circle with two different sides to represent the contrast between the Sun and the Moon.



Inspirational: The hospital's Sun-Moon sculpture

It draws its inspiration from the hospital motto 'Let there be Light Again' and reflects the experiences and journeys, past and present of those using its mental health services.

The blasted stainless steel side features highly polished dished sections to reflect the shape of the

Moon, and the opposite side is made of a highly reflective, polished mirror to represent the Sun.

The second sculpture, Two Hearts, has been completely fabricated from 316 grade Stainless Steel and the 4 metre mirror-polished reflective platform supports the powder coated two hearts figure.

The sculptures reflect the experiences and stories of those using the hospital's mental health services.



Reflective: The new Two Hearts sculpture

Goose Foot furnishes success

This year promises to be the busiest yet for the team at Goose Foot with a growing order book for projects across the country.

Demand for its cutting edge range of street furniture continues to rise. The division, which was set up in 2014, recorded sales of £265,000 in its first year and currently has more than £600k of potential work in the pipeline.

Goose Foot has delivered street furniture to several major projects for local councils, private developers, Tier 1 contractors and leading supermarket chains.



We've made it in the Insider awards

WEC Group won the prestigious Manufacturing Apprenticeship/Training Scheme Award at the National Insider Made in the UK Awards after scooping the regional prize earlier this year.

Winning this category is a fantastic achievement for WEC and our Training Academy as we beat huge multi-billion pound companies such as Nestlé, GE Aviation and Marshall Aerospace to the top spot.

The awards celebrated the success of all the Insider regional winners, rewarding the creative thinking, innovative product development and sheer hard work that all the

finalists demonstrated over the last 12 months.

The judges described our approach to apprenticeships as “visionary”, and WEC was recognised for our dedication to training the future generation and making apprenticeships a core part of the business.

Kris Mercer, our Training and Development Manager, collected the award at the event which took place at St George’s Hall in Liverpool, where hundreds of manufacturing heavyweights celebrated the success of another brilliant year in industry.



WEC Academy Training & Development Manager, Kris Mercer

Fair weather ahead thanks to apprentices

Saint Cuthbert’s Church in Darwen has had a piece of its history restored thanks to our first year apprentices.

After the original weathervane was damaged in a storm, St Cuthbert’s Church Wardens, Chris Rugg and Janet Dean approached WEC Group in a bid to repair this significant part of St Cuthbert’s history.



Top team: WEC Academy apprentices with Kris Mercer and the weathervane

Our apprentices spent four weeks working on the galvanised steel replica using traditional metalwork techniques including forming, MIG welding and oxy acetylene cutting.

They also managed to restore the copper cockerel after they polished it back to its original state.

Matthew Walsh, a first year apprentice at the Academy, lives close to the church and was extremely keen about working on the weathervane.

He took it upon himself to take a leading role in the project and put a lot of time and effort into it.

He said: “I can see St. Cuthbert’s Church from my window, and with it being so close to home it really made me want to get involved with the project.”

A spokesman for the church said: “We are extremely grateful to WEC for its generosity in re-fabricating this historical weathervane at no cost to the church.”

Staff making the most of EBL

Our ground-breaking Employee Benefit Loan Scheme continues to prove a success with staff.

Since we joined forces with Jubilee Tower Credit Union last November, 60 loans with a total value of more than £68,000 have been taken out by WEC Group workers.

This June alone, the EBL scheme lent a total of £10,500 to staff, offering an alternative way to borrow money and the chance to switch current high interest loans and cut debt.

Janice Parker, Chairman of the board of directors at the credit union, is delighted with the way the scheme has developed since its launch in late 2014.

She said: "It is going very well, we've even had people who have paid off their initial loan and have applied successfully for another one, which highlights the fact it is a service that people want to use and find helpful."

It also recently featured on national radio when Wayne Wild explained its benefits to BBC Radio Five Live's 'Wake Up To Money' programme.

"The EBL scheme is really helpful for any kind of employee, regardless of your credit history."



EBL

EMPLOYEE BENEFIT LOANS

Responsible Borrowing
Affordable Repayments

"Replace your credit card bill with a much lower interest option"

for info and to apply visit:
www.employeebenefitloans.co.uk

Case Study



Here's what one WEC Group worker who has used the EBL scheme had to say about it...

"When paying back the loan you don't have to decide whether or not to pay, as it automatically comes from your wage which is very convenient.

"It's a great scheme and good to know you have this support from your employer, if you have any

emergencies it's very re-assuring to know this is available.

"The savings element is a very good idea, as very few people have savings. This scheme changes your savings habits in a good way, it puts you in the mind-set of saving; you almost forget that you are saving up.

Then, when the loan is re-paid you have a reserve of money which is really helpful. "

www.employeebenefitloans.co.uk



Stuart and his boys get on their bikes and show some pedal power

Our Design Engineer Stuart Byrne and his two sons Aaron and Alex completed the Great Manchester Cycle in June, raising around £350 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Although they didn't train for the event, Stuart and the boys fought through the wind and the rain completing the testing 52 mile circuit in just 3 hours 50 minutes.

After losing a close family member to Multiple Sclerosis in 2012, it is a cause that is very close to the family's hearts.

MS is a neurological condition affecting 100,000 people in the UK each year, and Stuart, Aaron and Alex wanted to raise awareness and raise money to help find better treatment.

The Great Manchester Cycle is a mass participation cycling event which takes place over a city-based circuit within Manchester and Trafford.

Stuart would like to thank everyone for their sponsorships and showing their support.



Mick Blackburn at the AJ Bell London Triathlon

Mick's triathlon triumph for charity

Mick Blackburn battled through cramp to complete the AJ Bell London Triathlon in just under three hours and 42 minutes to raise £130 for Derian House Charity.

The event is the largest triathlon in the world and to complete it he had to swim a mile in the Canary Docks, pedal 80km around the capital and complete a 10km run around Canary Wharf.

He said: "I must admit I was glad to finish and can't be too unhappy with my time, as it's the first race I have done in five years and my training wasn't the best, so all in all not a bad day."

Big ride raises more than £16,162 for charity

Our CCTV Project Engineer Craig Emery and Quality Assistant Graham Forrest took part in one of the biggest cycling challenges they have faced to date, helping to raise £16,162 for a group of charities.

Craig and Graham cycled 190 miles with the team in just 11 hours, and despite Craig having a small

accident and falling off his bike 40 miles into the ride, he managed to get back on and push through the remaining 150 miles.

Graham said: "On behalf of Craig Emery and I, we would like to thank everybody who sponsored us or bought raffle tickets for our charity bike ride."

The £16,162 will be split between a number of charities including Great Ormond Street Hospital, Bolton Ear 4 Kidz, Forces Children's Trust and the Gary Parkinson Trust.

A fantastic achievement by all involved!



Striding out: Beckie, left, and Elouise after their run

Running duo in pink and racing for life!

Our Marketing Assistants, Elouise and Beckie ran the Race For Life in June, raising £237 for Cancer Research.

The girls ran the 5K course alongside 1,201 other women who were dressed in pink in 31 minutes. Beckie said: "I'm very proud as I've never run a 5k before. I couldn't have done it without Elouise!"

Elouise is a regular runner and took it upon herself to pace Beckie and keep her motivated the whole way.

The girls would like to say thank you for your donations!

Are you taking part or training for a sporting event? Tell us about it in the next newsletter.
Email stories to: newsletter@wecl.co.uk

Fundraising's off to a tee!

We've got into the swing of charity fundraising after our fourth annual golf day delivered £3,000 for this year's chosen good cause.

A total of £2,670 was raised during the event for Nightsafe, a Blackburn-based charity supporting homeless young people between the ages of 16-24, and to round it up we decided to increase the total amount to £3,000.

Our supplier, Barclays Bank, also kindly agreed to provide us with match funding of up to £1,000, taking the grand total up to £4,000.

The golf day took place at Accrington Golf Club and it attracted 76 players competing for a range of prizes.

It was once again open to all customers, suppliers, staff and commercial associates, and as our



The money was raised from registration fees, raffle ticket sales and extra donations on the evening and the rest from prize auctions that were donated by our suppliers.

Jan Larkin, Chief Executive of Nightsafe, said: "We are delighted to receive the generous donation from all the team at WEC.

"Such a kind donation will make a huge difference to the lives of Nightsafe's young people."



Driving Force: One of the teams that took part

pictures show, there was some hard-fought competition on the fairways and greens.

Goose Foot Divisional Manager Graham Wood scooped the Longest Drive prize winning a trophy and a £50 voucher for Direct Golf UK.

Lee Burns, Sales Engineer at WEC Waterjet, won the stand-up bingo game, taking home a fantastic TomTom GPS watch which was kindly donated.

Nightsafe opened its doors in 1990 and runs four different projects offering a variety of housing options and services.

This includes an emergency night shelter, a supported housing project to promote independent living, a day centre providing facilities such as laundry, storage, showers and meals, and a second supported housing project in Darwen.

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

Golf Day Gallery



Scan here for
more photos

More photos from the day can be found at:
www.flickr.com/wecgroup

Love is in the air!

Congratulations to Steve Rosella, Sales Office Manager in Laser, who got married to Sarah earlier this year.

Steve and Sarah tied the knot on Saturday 11th of July at Astley Bank in Darwen.

The happy couple then jetted off to sunny Mexico where they celebrated their honeymoon for two weeks.

Congratulations to you both and wishing you all the best for the future!



Newly Weds: Steve and Sarah Rosella

In the picture across the world

WEC CCTV continues to go from strength to strength with growing export orders from across the globe.

The division has sealed orders worth up to £500,000 in the Middle East alone. Work has also been won in Canada and, nearer to home, the Republic of Ireland.

WEC will continue to build on its status as a market leader in the CCTV mounting equipment sector, building on more than 35 years of expertise in the industry.

The Middle East contract wins have seen our products shipped to Dubai, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi and the Republic of Yemen.



Our camera poles, towers and columns are being used at ports, airports and air bases, oil refineries, distribution centres and offices across the Gulf region.

John Whittle, our CCTV Export Manager, said: "Our technical skills and innovative approach is a major plus when it comes to winning orders.

"We're finding a growing demand for our know-how across the Middle East with WEC being specified as the preferred column supplier for numerous CCTV projects worldwide.

"The fact we offer support from the design and tender stage until project completion is also helping us secure business."



The team left to right: Maria Miralles-Peraire (Trainee Quality Engineer), Adrian Newton (Quality Manager), Lisa Struggles (Quality Technician), Ray Tyas (Senior Quality Engineer)

Quality team's re-certifications success is a boost for MTL

Well done to the Quality Team at MTL for achieving the ISO 9001:2008 re-certification.

In addition, mtl was recently re-accredited to EN15085.2 for the welding of railway vehicles and components and EN1090.2 Exc Class 2 for building structures/components/details. And it doesn't stop there, as the team also achieved EN1090-2 Exc Class 3!

This is a fantastic achievement for the company as it reinforces mtl's strong operational processes and commitment to continual improvement.

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

New unit's a blast!

Our investment in WEC Powder Coating continues as we take one step closer to becoming a truly one-stop shop.

Following on from the £500,000 we spent on the latest technology to set up the division at the end of last year, we've now invested in a new state-of-the-art shot blasting unit to complement the service.

James Pickles explained: "We have purchased the new blast unit to enhance our powder coating capabilities.

"This now means we can blast everything in-house before the powder coating process."

We have the capability to shot blast components up to four metres long and two metres wide and use the finest abrasives to ensure the perfect finish.

The unit is fully fitted with a blast room, Airblast AB2040 blast pot with Deadman system & water separator as well as a media recovery system.



WEC Powder Coating was created so we could offer a high-end powder coating service to our customers across a wide range of sectors and to allow us to look for new business opportunities on a subcontract basis.

This latest investment is part of that strategy for growth and job creation that we announced at the end of last year.



Investing in the future - Hankook Protec machining centre

Our commitment to invest in all areas of the business continues with more than £2million spent so far this year on new equipment to make WEC Machining even more competitive.

It follows the £3m investment we have already made to relocate the division to its purpose fitted factory in Blackburn – with room for expansion.

£2m investment drives machining forward

This investment included 6 brand new Haas Machining Centres, an Asquith Butler 8M Machining centre, a Hankook Oil Country Lathe and a 7 axis Citizen sliding head lathe.

As the division continues to take on more work, more jobs are being created and new shift patterns are being introduced to enhance productivity and significantly reduce lead times.

We recently created a number of new jobs, appointing a brand new Operations Manager as well as a Quality Engineer, Production Planner and three Manufacturing Project Engineers.

We would like to welcome Stephen Fitzpatrick as the new CEO of the Machining Division.

We are hoping to create a further 20 jobs at Walker Park in the near future, including additional apprentices.

YOUR NEWS...
...YOUR VIEWS

This is your newsletter and we want to know your stories. Send us your big news.

Email stories to:
newsletter@wecl.co.uk

On the road again!

We actively exhibit at a range of trade shows in the UK, Europe and the Middle East throughout the year.

Here is a list of our latest events:

SPE Offshore Europe - Stand 4D103

8th - 11th September 2015 @ Aberdeen Exhibition & Conference Centre

SPE Offshore Europe is one of the world's largest technical conference and exhibitions for the offshore E&P industry.

RWM Exhibition - Stand 5V53

15th - 17th September 2015 @ NEC Birmingham

The Recycling Waste Management Exhibition is Europe's leading event for resource efficiency and waste management, the only event of its kind.

mtl will be exhibiting at stand 5V53 to showcase and discuss our capabilities which enable us to serve the growing needs of the recycling sector.



8-11 SEPT 2015
Offshore Europe ABERDEEN, UK
SPE Offshore Europe
 CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION
Stand 4D103



RWM
 15 - 17 SEPTEMBER 2015
 NEC BIRMINGHAM
Stand 5V53

DSEI - Stand N5-404

15th - 18th September 2015 @ ExCeL London

DSEI attracts a large international community from the defence and security sectors. The last show saw over 32,000 visitors, 156 programmed delegations from 56 countries and over 2,800 global VIPs met with 1,489 exhibitors from 54 countries.

Landscape Show - Stands F69 & F71

22nd - 23rd September 2015 @ Battersea Park, London

LANDSCAPE is the essential trade event attracting garden designers, architects, landscape contractors, local authority landscaping professionals, facilities managers and interior designers from across the UK and beyond.

Goose Foot will be exhibiting at stand F69 to discuss street furniture solutions for urban realm and regeneration projects.

Our architectural metalwork division m-tec can be found next door at stand F71.



15 - 18 September 2015
The World Leading
Defence & Security Event
 ExCeL, London
Stand N5-404



Landscape
 IT'S INDOORS MEETS OUTDOORS
22nd - 23rd Sept 2015
Stands F69 & F71

Wishing Stephen a happy retirement

This July marked the end of Stephen Priestley's 14 years at MTL.

Stephen, one of MTL's Senior Accountants, joined the company in 2001 and is now retiring aged 65.

Stephen plans to spend time with his wife Ruth, his five children and two grandchildren while continuing work in his local church.

He also has plans to travel the world with a trip to China booked for next April.

Stephen wishes to send this message to his colleagues: "It's been great working with you all and thank you for your assistance over the years, and the very best wishes for your futures."

In return, MTL would like to thank Stephen for his time with the company, and wish him a very happy retirement.



China Trip: Stephen's set to travel

It's double delight for AFC Darwen

WEC sponsored football team AFC Darwen is looking for more success on the pitch after a tremendous double-winning season.

Fans at the WEC Anchor Ground are now able to watch North West Counties League Premier Division football following the club's play-off promotion success.

It sealed a notable double for the side, which also lifted the First Division Cup, and is the highest the club has been in the football pyramid.



Our Group Commercial Director Wayne Wild who is also Chairman of the club, says: "We've got to try and build on the momentum that we have got and achieve the best that we can. We're all eager and pushing for more success."

The new season is now fully underway and tickets are available to purchase online or from the club by contacting info@afc-darwen.co.uk or call Club Secretary Sarah Hindle on: 07938 671622.



A.F.C. DARWEN

SEASON TICKETS

ON SALE NOW!



Adult Season Tickets = £70 (saving £35)
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(Season ticket holders get entry to all league home at games, cup games not included)

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Scan here to buy
your season ticket
online



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GETTING TO KNOW...

**WEC Group
Financial Director
ANDREW SEDGLEY**



WEC Financial Director: Andrew Sedgley

When you were a child what did you want to be when you grew up?

Astronaut, which seemed very exciting at the time when we had the Moon landings. Pity I'm not particularly keen on flying now!

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

Spending time with the family which includes road cycling and watching most sports particularly cricket and football. Coaching an U11 cricket side.

Who is your favourite singer?

Paul Simon though I've seen Olly Murs numerous times with my eldest daughter!

What is your favourite film?

I wouldn't say I watch many films – Toy Story.

What makes you smile?

My son teasing his sister and her always falling for the bait.

What's your favourite holiday getaway?

North West Lakes – hills and peace and quiet.

Who is the person you admire the most?

The junior team manager at our cricket club, who has spent 30 years giving his time to a small club due to his passion for the sport.

If you could have a superpower what would it be?

Time travel- I would like to see the world in a thousand years time and see how things have improved or regressed and if Northern Rail can get me to work on time!

What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?

Never give up, because if you keep believing and trying anything can happen.

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

Muhammad Ali - a man of many contradictions.

What's your favourite food?

Apple crumble with thick custard.

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

Cycling up Mont Ventoux after 150km which is 1,912m high and 21km in 40 degrees with not much water and then wondering why I felt sick and had double vision, then eventually falling asleep on the mountain.

What would you say is your greatest achievement to date?

Cycling with Emma up Alpe d'Huez without walking!

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

5750 – the first significant acquisition made by WEC which was done at the height of the financial crisis in 2008.

Keeping the wheels turning!



From left to right: Joe Harrison, David Frankland, Andrew Howarth, Geoffrey Clark, Mathew Marsden, Sam Senior and Jamie Hall

Meet the maintenance team that works hard behind the scenes every day to keep WEC's wheels of industry turning!

They look after all our buildings and machines, making sure breakdowns are kept to a minimum and repairs are carried out quickly and efficiently.

The unsung heroes of the operation are led by HSQE manager Andy Howarth. He says: "We have a good, experienced multi-disciplined team working in the background of daily life at WEC."

They include manager Jamie Hall; longest-serving team member David Frankland; Geoffrey Clark; Joe Harrison; Mathew Marsden and the youngster member Sam Senior, who is months off becoming a fully qualified electrician.

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Send your big news to:
newsletter@wecl.co.uk