

BLUEPRINT

The Official Newsletter of Langdon Group Ltd

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LANGDONS AWARDED P+G CONTRACT FOR BLACKBURN FACTORY

Last December, Gerber Foods Soft Drinks purchased the drinks factory at Blackburn from MD Foods and are currently converting the site to dedicated Sunny Delight production for P&G. When all four lines are fully operational the factory is expected to produce at least 4000 pallets per week.

The logistics contract to manage the new chill store at Blackburn and undertake deliveries throughout Scotland and the North of England went out to competitive tender but P&G have decided to stay with Langdons. This excellent news means that we retain National deliveries of Sunny Delight and strengthens still further our partnership with Procter & Gamble.

Paul Street has been promoted to manage the Blackburn operation which should start despatching product direct to the trade in early June.

Rob Swindells

“AN IMPRESSIVE AND ORDERLY ORGANISATION”

These were the words Heinz Wahl, Procter and Gamble Quality Assurance Auditor, used in March to describe Langdons.

Langdon's target in the audit was to achieve a rating of 85%, indeed we considered it so important, it was made number 1 in our list of 6 Company Goals. We are extremely pleased to advise that we have in fact attained a score of 86%.

The quality system now in place at Langdons is identical to that used by P&G themselves and operates under strict criteria. To attain this score by a non-P&G organisation is a great

Gert Ritter, Procter & Gamble European Beverages Director, expressed special thanks and congratulations to Langdons stating “An impressive result”. He was especially impressed in view of the rapid growth of Langdons which is directly affiliated to the growing sales of ‘Sunny Delight’.

achievement.

The culmination of over a years hard work and dedication, this score is a credit to us all and as Manfred Bardy, P&G Logistics Manager said, “underlines again the extreme flexibility and high commitment of all Langdons people.”

Quality Assurance is a continuous process and our quality systems will be rolled out to Bridgwater and Blackburn where we hope to score 50% in the pre-assessment audits to be held there in the early summer.



Bridgwater Store Construction Update

We are delighted to advise that the project is running on schedule and is due for completion on the 31st May.

The steel structure is now fully clad with insulation in the main chamber 80% complete. 20 dock levellers are in position with delivery of the dock pads expected the first week of May. The new 1000 Kva electrical supply is fully connected and the main refrigeration plant has been installed; the welds have been tested with the use of X-Rays and pressure testing. Racking of the picking area has already commenced and the offices and amenities are erected, dry-lined and are merely awaiting decoration.

Externally, 80% of the yard has been laid and excavation of the drive-through wash and fuel facilities is taking place ready to receive the equipment. The gatehouse plinth will soon be laid pending the arrival of the pre-fabricated gatehouse and traffic barriers.



PAUL STREET (pictured above) will soon be relocating to Blackburn to become Depot Manager.

Employed by Langdons for 7 years, Paul has been promoted from the Traffic Office.

Paul has a great deal of experience and this new position will allow him to take a more rounded managerial role within the company.

When asked about this change in his career path, Paul stated that he saw it as "a great challenge and was looking forward to it".

He sees his role as building the Blackburn operation, giving the company a successful established base in the North of England for deliveries primarily to Scotland and the North.

Paul will be moving to Preston with his family in June and although we will be sad to see him leave the offices here in Taunton, we wish him every success in his new role.



Gerber tried but not enough !

Sunday 28th March saw the second annual Rugby Match between Gerber and Langdons. Tension and morale was running high; last year Langdons triumphed and the shield was proudly displayed all year in Mike Donoghue's office. So this year we felt we had to try and prove a point (or two).

Tactics were high priority. The Langdons team ran onto the pitch sporting a new strip specifically designed to intimidate the opposition and then proceeded with our version of the haka which resembled the actions for driving a truck.

Scott Walker, Man of the Match, won every line out. How remarkable you may think, but as this picture shows, he was 3 feet taller than the tallest Gerber player. (I did say tactics were important !) But, like many of our team, he hadn't played since last year's match and Langdons' lads certainly did us proud.

There was a great deal of action on the pitch and Langdons set up a good lead early on, virtually controlling the match from the off. Several Gerber players retired with injuries during the game and eventually Langdons were victorious with a final score of 23-5.



All good rugby matches retire to the bar and this was no exception. The bar was a hive of activity with players being presented with trophies and several yards of ale !

An extremely proud Mike Donoghue accepted the shield which again takes pride of place in his office.

To commemorate the excellent win, we have decided to run a simple competition with a bottle of champagne for the winner. All you have to do is mark a 'X' on the above photograph of the line-out, indicating the position of the ball. Cut out the photograph and attach it to a piece of paper together with your name and department details and then forward it to Clare Langley. The winner will be whoever places the X closest to the ball. Closing date for entries is 21st June.

Valentine's Day is, by tradition, a day of love and romance. Not that unusual, you may think, but when it comes to romance at Langdons we're more used to falling in love with trucks than the opposite sex.

But this year, love at Langdons well and truly blossomed for five members of staff.

The three happy couples who were engaged on Valentine's Day are Mark Peach (Assistant Equipment Controller) to Clair Godfrey (Receptionist), Darren Jeffery (Owner Driver) to Caroline Deane (Chillnet Admin.) and Rachel Case (Traffic Admin.) to a non-Langdons employee, Richard Baker.

For the couples who met whilst working here at Langdons, perhaps the adage of mixing business with pleasure is possible after all !

We wish them all every happiness for the future and send Caroline our warmest wishes for a speedy recovery after her recent illness.

THE STORY OF LANGDONS

We are engaged at present in bringing up to date the story of Langdons which was the subject of a booklet in 1956. As Langdons and Taunton Cider worked together for some years, we are including their history also.

If any of you have relevant old photographs, please let Clare Langley see them. They will be returned to you whether or not we use them.