SUMMER 2019

CUTTING EDGE

UK GASKET & SEALING ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER OF THE UK GASKET & SEALING ASSOCIATION

New Committee Members

The UK Gasket & Sealing Association's Executive Committee welcomes two new members for the 2019/20 term.

Roger Dent from HITEK Electronic Materials and Andrew Crowther from James Walker were nominated and approved at the UKGSA's recent Annual General Meeting held on 27th June 2019.



ROGER DENT

Born in Wales and schooled in Taunton, Roger started his career as a PCB Assembler for Wofenet, a local electronics company. Shortly after this he started his Electrical Apprenticeship with a local Electrical Contractor and attended Bridgwater College. A move to North Lincolnshire and employment helping to re-wire & convert parts of the old steel works sheds into cold store units followed before joining Thorn Ericsson (subsequently Ericsson) totalling 14 years materials management and process control experience.

Joining HITEK Electronic Materials in 2001 and now in the position of Operations Director, Roger believes that Continuous Improvement and Risk Management are key drivers for growth and success, working closely with partners such as SC21, ADS, NQA, ISO and The Excellence Partnership will ensure HITEK is able to sustain its Quality, Delivery and Cost objectives in line with customer's expectations.



ANDREW CROWTHER

Andrew is an accomplished Product Director with over 20 years' experience within the gasket industry. He's had successful careers with Klinger, ERIKS and currently at James Walker with exposure to global Oil & Gas, Aerospace and Pharmaceutical industries.

Andrew has achieved sealing success within the gasket industry by managing and developing a portfolio of industrial sealing products from the initial concept stage through to manufacturing & supply to some of the world's leading end-user companies. He has a proven track record of identifying new market opportunities, ensuring strong operational and commercial management as well as establishing worldwide satellite manufacturing facilities.

A list of all UKGSA Executive Committee members is available on the Association's website at:
https://ukgsassociation.co.uk/committee/

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New Committee Members • New Testing Facility Opened • New Technology & Products
Charity Dinner • Golf Winners • Director of the Year • New Association Member

UKGSA : A Message from the Chairman



Simon Winfield
Chair, UKGSA
Director, MacLellan Rubber

Welcome to the summer edition of Cutting Edge

In considering a foreword to this issue I was struck that the opportunities and concerns regarding Brexit that we were stoically preparing to face, with true British spirit ahead of the last issue, are still with us.

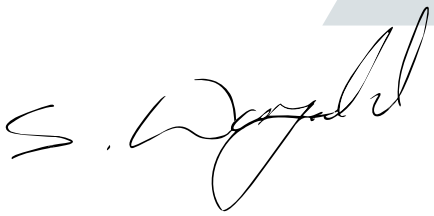
While attempting to avoid any discussion on the subject at our recent Golf Day and Annual Charity Dinner, the frustration amongst many is that just when you thought that our 'let's not make a decision' MP's couldn't make it any worse, they defer the judgement day, seemingly make every effort to obstruct any outcomes, and show their inability to negotiate a consensus amongst themselves let alone the EU! Add to this the threat of global trade war, GDP decline in many EU economies including Germany, EU economies breaching EU financial rules, global car companies closing production…the list goes on, and it is easy to get despondent about how business will overcome the tsunami of negativity.

Yet, despite all of these challenges, I find that members of the UKGSA are investing in new machinery, expanding their workforce, developing new products and fighting in new markets. Our innate ability to find opportunities, develop new business and ideas, keeps coming to the fore and many of our members are reporting significant year-on-year growth.

Despite what the Government is seemingly doing to crush manufacturing in the UK, Europe and the world have a trust in high quality British manufacturing and are embracing it all the more as we fight hard to expand our horizons.

The UKGSA recognises that we are here to shout about what we do best and works to support and promote its members skills and capabilities. Our members strive to improve production standards, offer technical support to each other, promote each other's capabilities, and work together to win business. These things are never easy, but then nothing worthwhile ever is.

As for Brexit, who's betting on us leaving in 2020?!



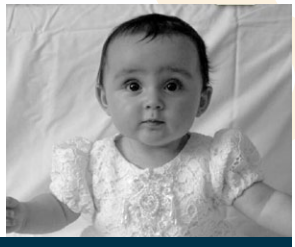
Our Growing Family

Congratulations: to Sam Bradley, sales director at Flexitallic and the UKGSA's Treasurer, who is celebrating after the birth of his first child. Alexander James was born on 28 May weighing 8lb 5oz. Mother & baby are doing well and all are getting used to the sleepless nights!



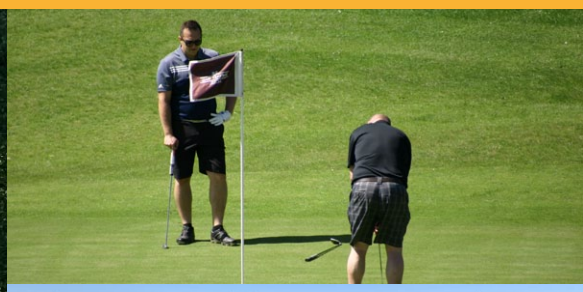
Congratulations: to Alison Ansell, director at Corseal and the UKGSA's committee member who leads our Marketing & Events, who is now the very proud grandmother of beautiful twin girls who were born in November.





The Sun Shines at Shrigley : Annual Golf Day







Following one of the wettest June's on record, the sun shone brightly for the UKGSA's Annual Golf Day

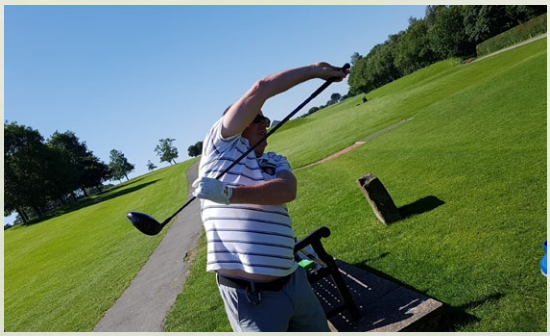
This year's event was held at Shrigley Hall Hotel & Spa near Macclesfield on Thursday 27th June 2019.

24 golfers, making six teams of varying golfing experience, braved the heat to take on the challenging 18 hole par 71 championship course located in the Cheshire countryside.

Tee-ing off from 10am, the golfers played their best games under challenging hot conditions, lunching at the halfway house to rehydrate before the final leg of the course with a cold beer, or two, waiting for them at the Clubhouse.

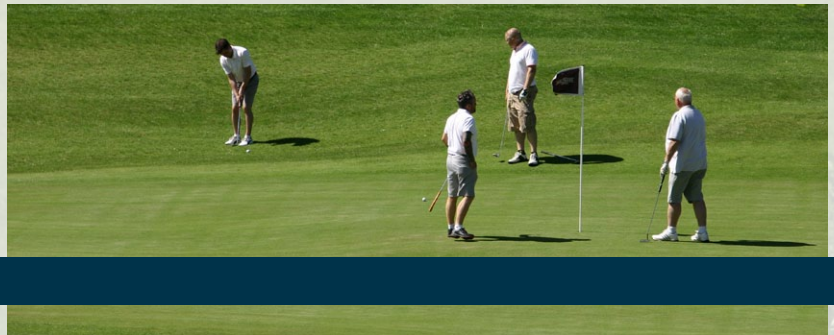
During the day the golfers took part in a Nearest the Pin in 2 challenge on the 2nd hole, Nearest the Pin on the 8th hole, and the Most Accurate Drive (closest to the line) on the 13th hole.











As ever, the golf day provided networking opportunities along the route with breath-taking views of Cheshire.

The Sun Shines at Shrigley : Team Players

Shrigley Hall 2019

TEAM 1:
Andy Corrigan - Munsch, Simon Carless - Munsch,
Gia Whitworth - V-Seal, Neil Coneron - V-Seal

TEAM 2:
Max Rowland - Lamons, Robert Dawson - Wm Johnston,
Andrew Crowther - James Walker, Sandy McEwen - Wm Johnston

TEAM 3:
Mike Bane - V-Seal, Mark Hadfield - Munsch, Russ Adamson - Garlock, Mark Birks - V-Seal

TEAM 4:
Craig Bennett - Kem-tron, Jack Naylor - NES,
Martyn Deaton Rogers - NES, Roger Dent - HITEK

TEAM 5:
Simon Winfield - MacLellan, Mark Kelly - Flemings,
Sam Bradley - Flexitallic, Mark Ambrose - LoneStar

TEAM 6:
Jan Williams, Rod Moat, David Ormerod,
Keith Shepherd - JA Harrison













Charity Dinner : Fundraising





During the evening of the Golf Day, we held a Black Tie Dinner

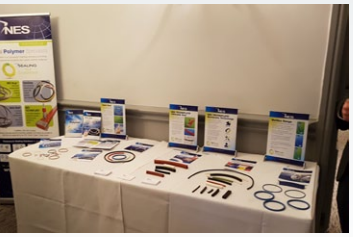
Winners of our golf trophies were announced and money raised for Macmillan Cancer Research. We're delighted to confirm that we raised an amazing £1,265.00.

During pre-dinner drinks a number of members showcased their products and services with exhibition tables; something new for 2019.

Exhibitors included:
Polymer Trade Manufacturing/WC Munsch, SJG International, Flemings Seals and Polymers, NES









The Heads & Tails game, which is a fun way to start our fundraising activities on the night, was won by Dean Barrett who will be enjoying a two night stay at Hotel Anacapri in Falmouth which was donated by MacLellan Rubber.



A selection of raffle prizes were kindly donated by:

- Flemings Seals and Polymers
- Flexitallic
- HITEK Electronic Materials
- Kem-tron Sealing
- MacLellan Rubber
- Shrigley Hall Hotel
- SJG International
- V-Seal
- William Johnston & Company

Charity Dinner : Golf Award Winners

Introducing the Winners of our 2019 Golf Day Trophies

1 **1st Place Best Individual Round, sponsored by Polymer Trade Manufacturing/W C Munsch –**
Mark Hadfield from W C Munsch

2 **Runner Up Individual, sponsored by LoneStar Leeds –**
Keith Shepherd from J A Harrison

3 **1st Place 4 Ball Team, sponsored by J P Polymer –**
Keith Shepherd, David Ormerod, Jan Williams & Rod Moat of J A Harrison

4 **Runners Up Team, sponsored by Jointine Products –**
Mark Hadfield (W C Munsch), Russ Adamson (Garlock), Mark Birks & Mike Bane (V Seal)

5 **Most Accurate Drive, sponsored by James Walker –**
Andy Corrigan

6 **Nearest the Pin –**
Jan Williams from J A Harrison

7 **Nearest the Pin in 2, sponsored by HITEK Electronic Materials –**
Roger Dent from HITEK

8 **Hidden Team, sponsored by J-Flex –**
Gia Whitworth (V-Seal), Mark Ambrose (LoneStar Leeds), Sam Bradley (Flexitallic), Robert Dawson (William Johnston & Company)

9 **Wooden Spoon -**
Jack Naylor from NES


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Charity Dinner : You've Been Framed





Members put themselves in the Frame during the evening

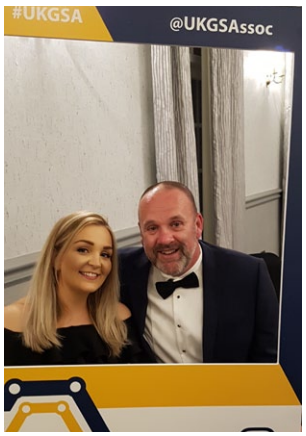
Our Selfie-Frame proved popular during the Charity Dinner with members queuing to snap photos throughout the event - a fun way to capture the evening!













Can You Spot Everyone?

Celts in Kilts - Sandy McEwen & Robert Dawson, J-Flex Ladies & Paul Gregory, The Gang - NES, HITEK & SJG, Mark Birks & Keith Shepherd, Mark Kelly with Simon Winfield & Russ Adamson, Charlotte Powell & Neil Coneron, Simon Carless.

Member News : Welcome & Well Done

Experts in Sealing Solutions Join the Association

FLEMINGS | SEALS & POLYMERS

Trusted Experts of Hydraulic & Pneumatic Seals and Injection Moulding

We're delighted to welcome Flemings Seals and Polymers Limited as the latest company to become a Member of the UKGSA.

Flemings are located in Brighouse in West Yorkshire and have been offering sealing solutions to customers in a variety of industries for over 110 years.

With an extensive plant and a wealth of technical experience, Flemings are well placed to offer cost-effective quality products, including:

- Sealing Solutions specialising in hydraulic and pneumatic seals;
- Injection Moulding of specific items,
- Manufacturers of Hot Cast Polyurethane parts and shapes;
- Machined Components in a range of plastic materials; and
- On-site design and manufacture of Tooling.

Headed up by Mark Kelly, who is already known to many members of the UKGSA, we look forward to formally welcoming Flemings at our next event.

For more information visit:
http://flemings-seals-polymers.com/

Relay for Life

Alison Ansell of Corseal Limited, who is an active member of the UKGSA's Executive Committee, recently took part in Relay for Life Bury St Edmunds to raise money for Cancer Research UK. Unfortunately, cancer affects many people including Alison's own family.

Relay for Life is a team event which took place on Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 July. During the 24 hour long relay, team members took turns to walk laps of a track including in fancy dress and Alison clocked up 39,707 steps (or 24 miles)! They battled a heavy downpour on Saturday afternoon and blistering heat on the Sunday!

In a touching ceremony, 600 candles were lit at 9pm in memory of those lost to cancer and those still fighting. The event, which was their 10th anniversary, raised nearly £30,000 by 12pm on Sunday.

Donations are still being accepted - help Alison and her friends raise money for Cancer Research UK.



CANCER RESEARCH UK

For more information or to donate Click Here

J-Flex Crowned Company of the Year



Earlier this year, J-Flex celebrated after being crowned Company of the Year at the 9th North Notts Business Awards

The prestigious black-tie event celebrates the best of business in the region and comprises of judged and public voting categories to ensure that every eligible firm from any sector can enter and has the opportunity to shine, and for J-Flex it was a night to remember as they scooped the top prize.

Jubilant Sam Kirk, Managing Director of J-Flex, said: "I am delighted and incredibly proud of our achievements over the last 12 months. We launched a new Vision and Plan for the future of the company and it includes entering (and hopefully winning) a number of carefully targeted awards, including this one".

Sam was also quick to praise his colleagues, as well as the owners of the business, adding: "This award recognition would not be possible without the incredible support of our shareholders who trust and believe in us. It also wouldn't be possible without our fantastic team who deserve enormous credit and thanks for their hard-work, professionalism,
dedication and loyalty – all vital traits that have made J-Flex the success it is today".

Although well-established, it's the first time J-Flex has entered the North Notts Business Awards and gives the company further reason to celebrate as part of their 35th year in business.

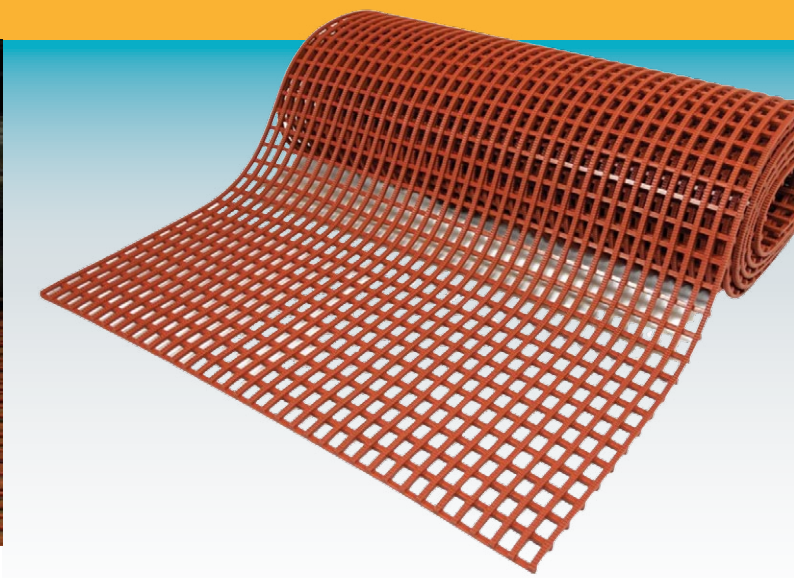
The Winning Team



NORTH NOTTS BUSINESS AWARDS
2019
WINNER
Company of the Year

Elevate AFR Matting Added to Range





MacLellan Rubber has added a new high visibility matting for use in wet environments to their range of matting products

Creating a safe working environment for standing working in a wet environment if essential in any industry. Achieving the same in a Food processing environment where materials need to be anti-microbial and anti-fungal is more challenging.

The matting has to be easy to clean, easy to handle, fight contaminates and resist animal fats. Elevate AFR is a high visibility matting designed specifically to perform in the highly regulated food processing and preparation industries.

Manufactured from a flexible animal fat resistant PVC infused w/anti-microbial and anti-fungal additives so it is resistant to animal fats and oils. Designed with a 2.9cm x 1.9cm widely spaced grid which enables fluids and by-products to fall through while elevating employees above it. Elevate AFR is up to 1/3 the weight of conventional rubber drainage mats so it is easy to install, clean, roll up and move.

For more information visit:
https://maclellanrubber.com/product/elevate-afr-foodsafe-matting

Key Features and Benefits

- Animal fat resistant
- 100% virgin PVC, non-porous and inhibits the growth of bacteria
- Lightweight, easy to install, clean, roll up and move
- High traction surface and quick drain design delivers sure-footed workflow in virtually any condition
- Open grid design and underside allows debris and fluids to flow through
- Compounded to resist a wide spectrum of commonly found oils and fluids
- Passes ASTM G21-09
- Overall thickness 5/8" (16 mm)
- Temperature Range -23 to 49 C
- Coefficient of Friction ASTM F1677 / Dry: COF = .82 / Wet: COF = .72
- Warranty 3 Years

MacLellan rubber

New Testing Facility Opened



James Walker has been in the business of fluid sealing and control since the company's founding in 1882

The company has developed sealing solutions and components in parallel with advances in valve technology and as a result has amassed specialised and unrivalled knowledge of applications across a very broad range of industries. As part of their ongoing commitment to advancement, James Walker has recently unveiled the newest addition to their development and testing portfolio.

A £300,000 dedicated facility for the development and testing of a wide range of polymer sealing materials and products has been installed at the Gourock site. Covering the characterisation of polymer properties and behaviour in environments from -196^{o}C through to 350^{o}C, this new installation allows for a range of custom designed test rigs to investigate the behaviour of individual sealing interfaces in addition to full product testing.

Phase one of the project consists of 2 new high pressure test bays currently running up to 10,000psi fitted out to support running a variety of testing from simple static testing to more complex mechanical and thermal cycling testing. Phase two will see this upgraded to support pressures up to 30,000psi. Furthermore, the existing 50kN Instron tensile test system in

James Walker®

place at the west of Scotland facility has been expanded to incorporate a variety of custom test rigs for product validation and testing in addition to the standard mechanical testing. An on-site chemical compatibility lab for the conditioning of test samples and components in various media and environmental conditions allows the team to develop a better understanding of influences on product performance, not just the effect on mechanical properties.

At the heart of this impressive testing offering is the multidisciplinary technical team, comprising a vast range of experience in chemistry, polymer physics, mechanical engineering, sealing science and valve design to fully support customer requirements – whether that be problem solving skills, in-depth investigation or ongoing development work. The team is currently engaged on several projects including spring energised sealing systems, valve components and new material development and evaluation.

Stuart Dalrymple, Technical Director (Engineered Plastics) commented: "We are excited to be able to widen our in-house testing offering to our customers. The new facilities will allow us to broaden our knowledge and bring new levels of insight into common sealing issues across the valve and oil & gas industries."

Editor's note:
The new facility will be available during our technical visit to James Walker Gourock on 5th September. Visit our website for details.

Raising Funds for Macmillan



Aaron Findlayson, Manager in William Johnston & Company's Inverness branch, is pictured in its reception with the collecting bucket and a letter of thanks from Macmillan.

Want to get involved?

Collection buckets and other Macmillan Cancer Support items can be obtained from Sharon Kendal at:

info@ukgsassociation.co.uk

William Johnston & Company Limited raise funds for Macmillan in Inverness

Customers and visitors to the trade counter of William Johnston & Company's Inverness branch have raised in excess of £250 for Macmillan Cancer Support over the last few months. A donation bucket was placed next to the counter for collection of spare change.

Billy Hardie, the company's Director based in Inverness, said " I would like to thank all our customers and other visitors for their generosity in donating to the UKGSA's nominated charity in this way. It is amazing how small amounts add up and enable everyone to contribute to the important work which Macmillan Cancer Support undertakes. We have started a new collection and hope to fill the bucket over the the next couple of months."

Hopefully other UKGSA member organisations will follow this initiative.

WILLIAM JOHNSTON
& COMPANY LIMITED

FROM 1 MAY 2019 OUR TRADE COUNTER MINIMUM ORDER CHARGE IS £75.00 + VAT

PLEASE ENQUIRE ABOUT OUR CURRENT MANUFACTURING LEAD TIMES FOR THE PRODUCTS YOU REQUIRE

IF YOU REQUIRE GOODS QUICKER THAN OUR STANDARD MANUFACTURING LEAD TIME IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO INTERRUPT PRODUCTION, BUT A SEPARATE MINIMUM CHARGE OF £200 + VAT WILL BE MADE TO DO SO.

J-Flex - True Exhibitionists

A busy year for J-Flex: not just attending, but also exhibiting at key industry events

1. On the 14-16th May they exhibited at the 14th RAILTEX at the NEC, showcasing their updated RailFlex® range of high performance, low toxicity, elastomer materials and components. The RailFlex® range of elastomeric products meets the criteria of EN 45545-2 as well as many others.

Neil Duckmanton, Marketing Manager at J-Flex, said: “Railtex was great for us. The networking was really good and we picked up some very positive leads. We’ll certainly be attending again.”

2. On the 17-19th June at Intersolar in Munich. J-Flex introduced their latest updated range of Vac-Sil® quality membranes - used extensively as vacuum membranes in Solar/ P.V. module lamination. Intersolar Europe is the world’s leading exhibition for the solar industry and its partners and since being founded more than 28 years ago, has become the most important industry platform for manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, service providers and partners of the solar industry.

J-Flex also introduced their range of Vacuum Forming Precision Components, which includes Laminator Vacuum Seals, PTFE/ Glassfabric Belts and Squeegee Edge Profiles. Yet again, it proved to be another busy and positive event.

3. Following on from previous years success, 18-20th September 2019 means another attendance for J-Flex (India) at the Renewable Energy India Expo India to showcase their Vac-Sil® range of solar membranes and precision components.

Over the years, the show has established itself as the must-attend event for the Asia-Pacific region with more than 30,000 industry visitors. The team are looking forward to catch up with existing customers and meeting potential new ones.



Renewable Energy India Expo
A UBM Event
18-20 SEPTEMBER, 2019
India Expo Centre, Greater Noida

New Technology & Product

Mechanical Seal that has No Sealing Face or Springs

Kem-tron Sealing tell us about Tamar Seal – a new technology and product they are introducing to the UK.

This unique technology makes it possible to seal in dry running conditions like powders or very viscous materials with zero leak and is perfect for all types of slurry.

How it works -

There are no traditional hard face materials used in the seal and for a good reason as they are quickly destroyed when they meet the slurries or abrasives. This is why, hard faces are very ineffective in these types of application. Instead the Tamar seal uses multiple layers of technology to protect against leakage but is primarily built around the concept of a positive pressure friction that ensures that no contamination enters the stuffing box.

Booster attached to the side of the seal maintains this pressure and is powered by either plant air, self-powered system or manual pump (screw type) where air is not available. In the Tamar basic design, the pressure on the flexible sealant within the seal assembly is maintained at about 1 Bar (approx 15 PSIG) above stuffing box pressure. Opposed to conventional compression sealing methods (compression packing, manual sealant injection etc,) the patented booster acts as an online continuative compression source. By using the pressure booster, the seal is actually 'maintained' 24/7, where a stock of sealant is to be replaced roughly every 6 months.

For more information visit:
https://www.kemtronuk.com/tamar-seals
https://www.tamar-tech.com/



The Tamar seal is available in various configurations from Split for easy installation and maintenance, Flexible for high runouts, and Bearing Integrated for custom designs. The sealing system means you have 3 to 4 weeks warning before your seal might require maintenance and in most cases, you can repair without even shutting down the equipment.

This kind of flexibility and reliability make the Tamar seal an extremely unique and powerful product in the fight against high maintenance cost and unplanned down time.

Ideal for use with -

Slurries, Agitator, Screw conveyors, Vacuum dryers, Mixers, Rotary valves.

The booster arrangement is given in the figure below:

The pressurising piston provides a consistent and moderate pressue on the flexible sealant. The pressure on the sealant is anywhere between 4x and 7x the pressure in the air chamber depending upon the particular pump application & pressurising device furnished. The required air pressure is calculated on a case-by-case basis.

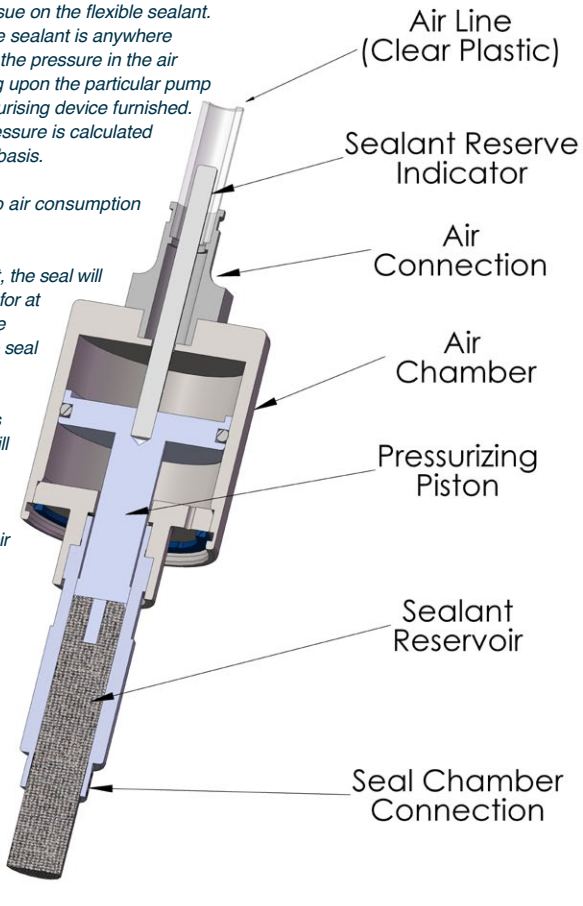
There is virtually no air consumption for this device.

If air pressure is lost, the seal will continue to operate for at least 2 weeks before leakage through the seal will occur.

Once air pressure is restored, the seal will return to normal operation.

The sealant reservoir contains approx. 2in^3 (33cm^3) of sealant which is sufficient for about 6 months of operation in most cases.

If the reservoir needs to be replenished, this can be done while the pump is running and takes about 3 minutes.



HITEK Achieves Gold Healthy Workplace Award

We're proud to announce that we have achieved Gold status in the North Lincolnshire Healthy Workplace Scheme

This was presented to HITEK's Health Champions: Gemma Terry (Marketing Manager) and Louisa Coombs (Digital Marketing Assistant) at the Healthy Workplace Awards held at the Conference Centre at British Steel in May.

The Healthy Workplace scheme has been developed by our local council to recognise businesses that see the significance of a healthy workforce and commit to creating a healthy culture for their employees. The framework has four levels for companies to work towards, these are: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. Each award level consists of core and thematic criteria which the company has to meet to enable them to progress through the awards scheme.

There are many topics that the Public Health team offer advice and guidance on, such as: emotional well-being and minimising stress, musculoskeletal disorders, stopping smoking, weight management, healthier eating, physical activity, alcohol and substance misuse, sexual health, leadership, workplace culture and policy guidance.

We have been a part of the scheme for some years now and value the support we receive from our Health Improvement Specialist (Workplace Health and Health Champion Coordinator) Helen Whitelam from North Lincolnshire Council. Helen has supported HITEK with the submission of evidence; she regularly sends health related resources and information about local and national health campaigns. Most recently she has delivered training to our staff, an Introduction to Mental Health; this was a valuable insight for our staff. We will continue to promote health and well-being at our workplace and strive for a healthier workforce!

Find out more about the Healthy Workplace Scheme:
https://www.northlincs.gov.uk/people-health-and-care/health-and-healthy-lifestyle/workplace-health/









HITEK ELECTRONIC MATERIALS LTD

SJG Invest in New Machinery





It's been a busy few months at SJG International

We've welcomed new personnel, installed new machinery and a first for us, executed a structured programme of work experience for two students from St Augustine's school, Redditch.

As a company, we believe that a programme of continuous investment in new machinery and technologies gives our company a competitive advantage. We take a strategic view with a priorities list on machinery and, over the last few months, we made the decision to buy an additional Laminator machine and also an additional Die/Kiss Cutting Machine.

Laminator Machine:
The laminator machine has been commissioned for full use and the operators are already very positive about how versatile this machine is. The machine is designed to laminate flexible or foam material on one or both sides. Both of which we have strong demand for in our business.

Die / Kiss Cutting Machine:
An additional Die / Kiss Cutting Machine has allowed us to add capacity to fulfil orders for a diverse range of customers including, for example, Medical and Automotive customers.

As a business we take a lot of pride in our factory environment as part of a best practice programme.

Further to us exhibiting at the UKGSA's Charity Golf event at Shrigley Hall, we have benefited from a number of new enquiries - but very much welcome more!

If you have current or future requirements for Gaskets, Rubber Extrusion or Foam, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Lucy Simpson -
E: lucy.simpson@sjginternational.com
T: 01789 763721

Need more details?
Our website www.sjginternational.com gives further detail about our manufacturing capabilities and product ranges.

New Updated RailFlex® Range



J-Flex have recently updated and expanded on the range of products within their RailFlex® EPDM range

RailFlex® is a range of high performance, low toxicity, elastomer materials and components, available for J-Flex.

The RailFlex® range meets the criteria of EN 45545-2 and in some instances have also been tested and approved against the former National Standards DIN 5510-2; NF F 16-101, BS6853, UL 94 V(0) and NFPA 130 Hazard Rating System.

All RailFlex® products have been independently tested and certified by leading fire test laboratories throughout Europe. Conforming to EN 45545-2, full material data sheets and test reports are available upon request.

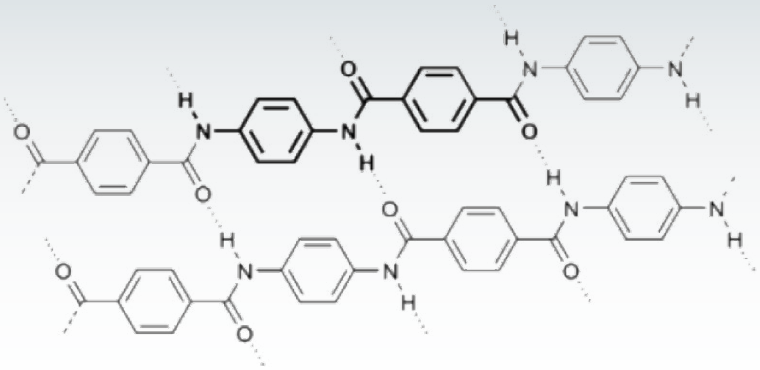
EPDM, Silicone and Neoprene materials have excellent environmental resistance, withstanding O-zone, UV, rain and frost – meaning outdoor applications such as lighting systems and enclosures are kept water and dust tight. RailFlex® materials are resistant to corrosion, moisture, salt, and light fuels.

The range was recently (14-16th May) showcased at the Railtex, which saw over 400 exhibitors who enjoyed a steady footfall and made some quality connections.

Richard Lewthwaite, regional sales Manager at J-Flex, added: “Railtex has been great as far as we are concerned. The networking proved to be fantastic, producing some very positive leads. We’ll certainly be back for the next one.”



Technical Study



Developing a range of Fibre Reinforced Compounds with Improved Processing for Anti-Extrusion Applications

This technical study aims to quantify the reinforcing effect of different loadings and combinations of meta-aramid and para-aramid chopped fibres. By addition of these technical fibres we aim to greatly increase low extension modulus in a variety of rubber materials. These fibre reinforced compounds are predominantly used in the oil and gas industry, particularly anti-extrusion seals.

Background

Aramid fibres are synthetic fibres well known for their strength to weight ratio and heat resistant properties. Aramid fibres gain their strength from the aromatic polyamide molecular chain. The chain forms a highly orientated structure which imparts exceptionally high strength to the material. In a rubber compound it is important to achieve good dispersion of fibres and establish a grain direction in order to optimise reinforcement. Additionally fibre aspect ratio and dip treatment will have an effect on reinforcement.

Procedure

The test compounds were moulded into sheets for physical testing. We measured various properties including tensile stress, modulus @ 5% and 10% and ultimate elongation; which were tested with and against the grain, using both slow (150 mm/min) and fast (500 mm/min) cross head speeds.

Results and Discussion

We began our investigation using meta-aramid fibres. This fibre is very reinforcing, but not to the same extent as a para-aramid fibre. The benefit of this is increased processability of the compound even at high loadings of the fibre.

It became apparent that a balance of fibre content to polymer content must be struck in order to have a compound that is both processable and has the optimum physical properties. The strength gained from a high fibre loading must be balanced with the drop in elongation to break to produce a suitable compound for the application that can be processed relatively well.

Conclusion

This project shows that by utilising a combination of meta-aramid and para-aramid fibre we can achieve a compound with high resistance to extrusion; indicated by high modulus values at low elongation. Fibre loaded compounds remain difficult to process but by reducing compound viscosity improved reinforcement, from fibre orientation in the matrix, is achievable.

Clwyd Compounders can develop a range of bespoke fibre enhanced compounds for many processes and applications. These compounds target applications requiring particular load deflection characteristics at low extensions. By incorporating these aramid fibres into high quality synthetic elastomers we can produce highly chemically resistant and temperature resistant compounds for very demanding high pressure applications. These types of elastomeric compounds will be in greater demand in the future as the oil and gas industry attempts to drill deeper wells in more extreme environments.

To read the full Technical Study and see full details of all of the Test Results download the complete PDF document Here.

Re-accreditation Success

MacLellan Rubber are celebrating being re-accredited to the ISO 9001:2015 quality standard, following a tough audit of updated processes

ISO9001 is an internationally recognised quality management system which is used to demonstrate that companies can consistently provide products and services that meet customer and regulatory requirements.

MacLellan Rubber is renowned for customer service and our team work hard to ensure that the information about our products is technically accurate and fully traceable, that we supply products that will meet our customer's end-user requirements, and we deliver consistently high quality customer service and technical support.

Andrew Onions, director at MacLellan Rubber, said:
"We continue to invest heavily in automating our management system and procedures to eliminate opportunities for error. Our use of technology and ability to monitor and review many of our quality processes on a daily basis was noted as being far in advance of most companies in our service sector."

The auditor specifically commented on the following strengths:
• Our Traceability and ability to provide documents quickly and easily;

• The speed and quality of our report generation enabling us to continuously monitor and improve quality performance.

MacLellan Rubber work with a number of global partners in Europe to offer world class rubber sheeting materials for gasket cutters. These materials are independently tested and certified to ensure compliance and can be supplied with full batch traceability documentation.

To discuss how we can work with you to meet your customer demands contact our sales office on: 01902 307711

MacLellan rubber

Team Support in Silverstone 24 Hour Race



William Johnston & Company Support All Scottish Team in Silverstone 24 Hour Race

The Silverstone 24 hour race, held at the Northamptonshire Grand Prix track on 27/28 April, made history by having the largest racing grid ever seen in UK motorsport with 100 identical Citroen C1s racing round the clock. Teams of 4-6 drivers sharing each of the race prepared, small saloon cars battled from 5.30pm on the Saturday through the night and some challenging weather conditions until the same time on Sunday afternoon.

William Johnston & Company Limited, who supply seals, gaskets and joints to a wide range of industries throughout the UK and overseas including the motor sport sector, were delighted to support a team of four Scottish drivers in the event. After a difficult night-time qualifying the team started the race, along with 99 other identical cars, in 36th position but were up to 23rd after two and a half hours before the first driver change.

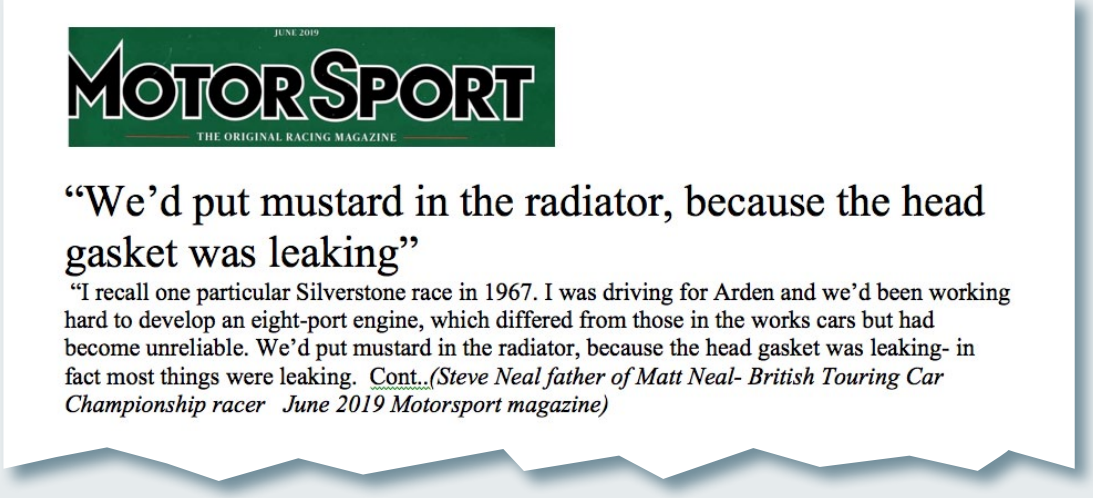
Unfortunately, as darkness descended and rain fell, the second driver left the track without damaging the car but it had to be recovered from one of the gravel traps which surround the perimeter of the circuit where it was stranded. This incurred a three lap penalty and time was lost leaving the car in 77th position with 21 hours of the race remaining.

As the night progressed the drivers endeavoured to keep a steady pace and out of trouble and got back into the top 50 by daybreak. By noon a top 30 finish looked possible and with just over two hours to go the car was in 23rd position, eventually taking the chequered flag in 19th place.

This was a creditable result for the team which had amongst them four Scottish Championship titles and had an age range of 28 - 66 years!

WILLIAM JOHNSTON
& COMPANY LIMITED

Keith Payne Ponders


JUNE 2019

MOTOR SPORT

THE ORIGINAL RACING MAGAZINE

"We'd put mustard in the radiator, because the head gasket was leaking"

"I recall one particular Silverstone race in 1967. I was driving for Arden and we'd been working hard to develop an eight-port engine, which differed from those in the works cars but had become unreliable. We'd put mustard in the radiator, because the head gasket was leaking- in fact most things were leaking. Cont..*(Steve Neal father of Matt Neal- British Touring Car Championship racer June 2019 Motorsport magazine)*

Whilst reading last month's Motorsport magazine I came across an article that claimed mustard was used as a sealant in some early Minis

The article was not specific of what type of mustard that was used, could it be good old Colman's or perhaps a French whole grain or would it have been the horrible brown German mustard only available at a Berni Inn.

Next Issue :-

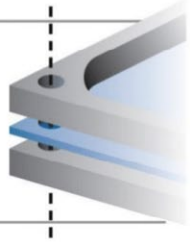
Are rubber bullets to be made from Food Quality FDA approved materials if fired at members of the public?

UK GASKET & SEALING ASSOCIATION



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Tel: 01483 276000 • Fax: 01483 278167
E-mail: sales@keithpayneproducts.com
www.keithpayneproducts.com

Keith Payne Products



SURPLUS STOCK SALE

We have the following surplus stock which we can offer at special prices:

5mm 30ppi Fire Retardant Reticulated Filter Foam - 2000 x 1500

3mm Natural Polyurethane Sheet 70 shore - 3658 x 686

3mm Adhesive Backed Neoprene Sponge Strip x 50mm wide x 10 metres

Director of the Year





J-Flex MD named Director of the Year

Sam Kirk, Managing Director of Retford-based J-Flex was named Young Director of the Year at the IoD East Midlands Director of the Year awards on the 20th June.

More than 150 guests attended the event, held at Winstanley House in Leicestershire, where 46 of the region's most successful, established and emerging directors and business leaders were finalists in the awards.

Sam, 31, said: "I am incredibly humbled and honoured to pick up this accolade.

"While it's incredibly flattering to be singled out, winning awards simply isn't possible without the team of people who continue to make J-Flex a success. My thanks to our dedicated, talented and hard-working team, and thanks also to our shareholders who continue to invest and put their trust in us."

Ron Lynch, IoD East Midlands Regional Director said: "In a fast-paced and challenging business world it is great to see the effectiveness and entrepreneurial qualities of directors in the East Midlands. We have so many great businesses being run by excellent directors."

The award follows on from J-Flex being crowned Company of the Year at the North Notts Business Awards in March, and the second-generation family business will be hoping to celebrate again, when Sam goes forward to the IoD's national finals in London on the 18th October.

I am incredibly humbled and honoured to pick up this accolade.



Food Processing Industry News

Why the Food Processing Industry should require Sealing Suppliers to use Independently Certified EC1935 Certified Materials

The food processing industry is global in scope and subject to a number of international compliance standards, including those for control of supply chain, product processing and packaging. Whilst many of these standards encourage senior management engagement to ensure compliance in process approach and continuous improvement, the opportunity for divergence in the supply chain is often missed, with over reliance on the supplier to meet the relevant quality standards for sealing materials.

Compliance is often accepted on the basis that the product or material has been used before and the product looks right, with certification being completely voluntary. Increasingly, major food processing companies are requiring its suppliers to demonstrate material compliance through third party testing and approval rather than self-certification. These suppliers include manufacturers of sealing products used in the industry's production processes.

From a product design perspective, sealing manufacturers are tasked with ensuring that materials supplied to the food industry are compliant with UK, European, U.S. or appropriate regulations.

The European EC1935:2004 standard sets specific requirements for elastomeric materials, such as Natural, Nitrile, EPDM, Neoprene and Silicone Rubber relating to levels and types of leachable substances released in use. It goes further to define the need to control the supply chain and have complete traceability within it.

This goes beyond most people's understanding of FoodSafe materials where they typically quote FDA compliant constituents of the compound and failing to understand that once combined, new compounds are made that themselves can be harmful if released during contact with food due to in vitro cytotoxicity and biological reactivity.

Control of the Supply Chain

Compliance with EC1935 regulations is best achieved by working with a material supplier who has full control of and responsibility for the entire supply chain, from raw materials to final compound. This necessitates managing the procurement of constituent chemicals and materials directly from producers, auditing suppliers, and monitoring any material modifications that may not meet original specifications.

For sealing manufacturers, this means:

- validation and full traceability of raw materials;
- absence of foreign matter & leachates from chemical compounds;
- independent chemical certification to industry standards;
- an auditable trail and visibility of the supply chain throughout.

For material manufacturers such as MacLellan Rubber, maintaining product consistency in terms of raw material specifications is achieved by implementing the above through independent testing and certification and process control. In assuming responsibility for the quality and consistency of raw materials, MacLellan only deals with ISO-certified suppliers providing further assurance, a sealing product will provide consistent, stable performance.

Confidence in Product Supplied

Meeting the increasing quality demands of the market can be challenging enough for food producers who are extremely focused on ensuring the quality of their ingredients. All of this hard work can be put in jeopardy by using sealing products that are of questionable origin or manufactured using unsuitable raw materials.

ISO registration of suppliers is essential in any supply chain but does not mandate compliance of materials supplied to EC1935 standard. Taking the next step of ensuring the material supplier has control of the supply chain is essential – **MacLellan Rubber offer this.**

Regular independent testing and certification is critical – **MacLellan Rubber offer this.**

Working to the highest, world class production standards for supply of rubber sheet and compound is vital – **MacLellan Rubber offer this.**

Producing sealing materials to these quality levels on a consistent basis means that Food processors and manufacturers can fit and forget gaskets, pipe seals, wear strips, agitator paddles etc, knowing that the risk of contamination from these parts to their product quality is all but eliminated.

Vacuum Forming Consumables



Vacuum Forming Consumables - new improved range from J-Flex

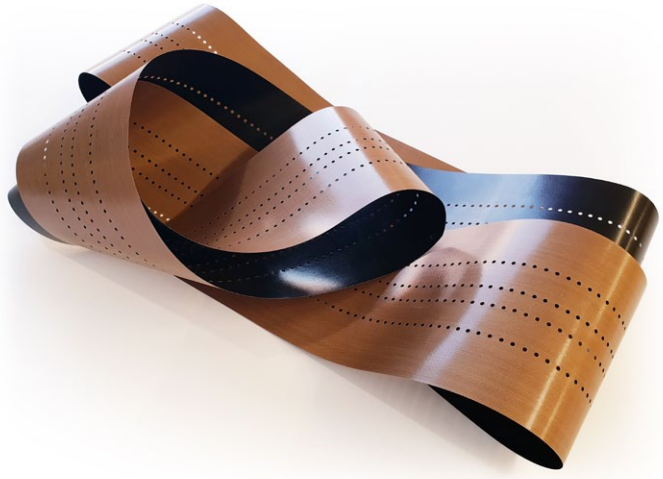
Vacuum Forming Consumables are products used in the process of vacuum forming.

J-Flex VAC-SIL® Quality Membranes have been specifically designed for use as vacuum membranes for Solar/P.V. module lamination, plus the forming or thermo-pressing of vinyl foil veneers on furniture woodwork, composites in aerospace, F1 cars, marine, and other general products.

Co-exhibiting with German partners Synthetica, J-Flex attended Intersolar on the 17-19th June in Munich where they showed off their latest updated range of Vac-Sil® quality membranes - used extensively as vacuum membranes in Solar/P.V. module lamination.

The existing range of Vac-Sil® membranes has now been updated to include the latest member of the family, Vac-Sil® Endurance - which has the highest Life Cycle performance with high temperature resistance, enabling the lowest possible cost per cycle.

J-Flex also introduced their range of Vacuum Forming Precision Components, which includes Laminator Vacuum Seals, PTFE/ Glassfabric Belts and Squeegee Edge Profiles.



The VAC-SIL® range has continued to develop in accordance with industry needs and gained an enviable reputation, especially in the solar industry but is also making waves within the automotive market, where it can be found in various uses on prestige cars, supercars and motorsport, including F1 and WRC.

For more information visit:
https://j-flex.co.uk/products/vac-sil-quality-membranes/



UKGSA : What We Do

What You can Expect from Us and How We can Help You Reach Your Goals

Networking Events – serving our members with activities designed to promote success and growth, through collaboration and best practice. The Association aims to provide a platform for members to network with decision makers and influencers at the highest level and across all sectors of our industry.

Technical Events – industrial and manufacturing tours or presentations to member and non-member sites. These events aim to give insights to advanced manufacturing, best practice and material technical developments that will inspire our membership.

Technical Support – members have access to an unprecedented technical resource in their fellow members who are available to offer support on manufacturing issues, material selection and processing, and design & development.

Representing our Members

Behind the scenes we actively promote our members' activities and views through press releases to national and international trade magazines and general media.

We represent our industry to various technical bodies on international standards and actively look for opportunities to promote our values.

We aim to proactively promote our members' views to government and trade bodies and influence the decisions of those organisations to the benefit of our members.

Marketing Support

We actively use social media (Twitter and LinkedIn) and encourage all of our members to follow and tag us. We also publish member profiles on our website in addition to sharing news stories.

We are extremely active in developing strong media relationships with all of the mainstream manufacturing & engineering publications.

We also send out regular email newsletters to our members and our wider industry contacts with a variety of information as well as member news features.

Procurement Support

Through our affiliation with the British Standards Institute members are able to acquire electronic copies of UK, European and International standards at discounted prices.

Members have access to the Joined Up Thinking Buying Group giving access to hundreds of suppliers, products and services which are being constantly benchmarking to make sure members receive the very best value for money. The service offered by Joined Up Thinking is Free-of-Charge to our members.

Charitable Giving

We aim to support our chosen charity – Macmillan Cancer Support – through fundraising activities undertaken at our events, such as our annual charity dinner, and directly by our members.

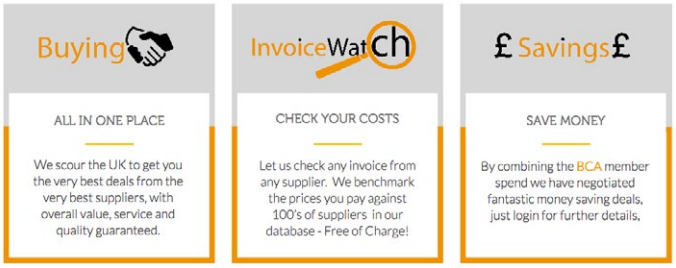
UKGSA : Member Benefits & Diary Dates

Member Benefit: UKGSA Buying Group

Joined Up Thinking have a database of suppliers, products and services and are constantly benchmarking deals to make sure members receive the very best value for money.

The services offered by Joined Up Thinking are **Free of Charge** to our members.

Visit the secure portal at: http://ukgsportal.co.uk and request log in details.



KEEP IN TOUCH

If you would like to sign up to our mailing list, click the link below and complete our online form.

Subscribe to our Mailing List HERE

FOLLOW US

Want to connect with the UKGSA and keep up to date with news and activities?

We've now got a LinkedIn Company page.
Follow us at:
www.linkedin.com/company/uk-gasket-sealing-association/
Or join our closed Join our LinkedIn Group:
www.linkedin.com/groups/4707335

Follow us on Twitter: @UKGSAssoc

Dates for Your Diary

5th September 2019
Advanced Engineering Plastics Visit
James Walker are hosting a tour of their 8,200 sqm advanced engineering plastics site in Gourock, Scotland where they have the capacity to mould, cast and machine components. Their new high pressure unit, which they launched in June, will also be open to the tour.

For those flying to Glasgow we will meet at a hotel at the airport and a mini-bus will transport delegates to Gourock.

Timings:
11:30 Arrive at James Walker; tea/coffee
12:00 Presentation
12:30 Tour of facilities with Q&A
13:45-14:30 Lunch & networking
16:00-17:00 Tour of Clydeside Distillery
19:00 Evening meal & overnight accommodation



Download a booking form at: https://ukgsassociation.co.uk/events/advanced-engineering-plastics-visit/

3rd October 2019
Annual Race Night at Wolverhampton Racecourse (from 4pm)

Ticket includes private suite with balcony opposite winning post, entry to Premier enclosure, four course meal, race cards and drinks. Holiday Inn hotel is situation on site next to the racecourse.

Download the booking form at: https://ukgsassociation.co.uk/events/annual-race-night-3-october-2019/

UKGSA : Members List

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