

AUTUMN 2023



UKGSA Raises £3,630 for Macmillan

The UK Gasket & Sealing Association (UKGSA) has raised an impressive £3,630 for Macmillan Cancer Support, a leading charity that provides vital support to individuals and families affected by cancer. This year's efforts brings the total we've raised for the charity since we started fundraising to £14,280.

(Find out more on page 2)

THIS ISSUE:

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UKGSA Raises £3,630 for Macmillan



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Fundraising activities at our 30th anniversary dinner in September included an interactive Heads & Tails game to win a weekend away in Falmouth, followed by a raffle with an array of prizes donated by members. The evening closed with an auction of a 4 ball golf voucher and accommodation at the award-winning Trump International Golf Links course in Aberdeen, donated by Flexitallic.

“We are thrilled to have achieved this significant milestone in our efforts to support the crucial work of Macmillan Cancer Support,” stated Steven Ratcliffe, committee member of the UKGSA and director of Moontown Ltd. “The dedication and generosity exhibited by our members and colleagues reflect our commitment to making a positive impact beyond our industry. We are proud to contribute to the incredible work that Macmillan Cancer Support does in providing holistic care and support to those affected by cancer.”

The funds raised will directly contribute to Macmillan Cancer Support’s ongoing initiatives, including providing

essential medical, emotional, and financial support to individuals with cancer, as well as their families.

Stacey Rhodes, Senior Relationship Fundraising Manager at Macmillan Cancer said: “This contribution serves as a testament to the UKGSA’s dedication to charitable giving and their proactive efforts to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need. I’d like to say a huge thank you to everyone at the UKGSA for their continued support.”

Gavin Lyles, member of the UKGSA committee and Managing Director at Monarch Gaskets & Seals Ltd said: “We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who participated in and supported our fundraising activities at our anniversary dinner. It is heartening to witness the collective impact that we can make when we come together for a greater cause.”

For more information visit
<https://www.macmillan.org.uk>

Chairman's report



Simon Winfield
Chair, UKGSA
Director, MacLellan Rubber

Welcome to the autumn edition of Cutting Edge. In this issue we are pleased to welcome several new association members, new committee members, provide updates on exciting member developments and report on the amazing fundraising at our Annual Golf Day and Charity Dinner.

It has been a busy period for members and the committee, with members focused on improving energy efficiency, winning awards for their achievements, attending trade shows with new products and new horizons, and continuing to invest in people, plant and machinery.

I have made this point repeatedly over the years and make no apologies for repeating myself, UKGSA Members aim to provide exceptional quality and service and achieve this through continual investment in people and equipment. The Association is proud to promote the strengths of its membership and champion these attributes.

The Executive Committee has been updating the Rules of the Association, a mammoth task undertaken by Sandy McEwen, updating policies, and promoting members through partnerships at trade events. We welcome Gavin

Lyles (Monarch Gaskets) and Stephen Ratcliffe (Moontown Ltd) to the Executive Committee, and I am pleased to say they are already making a positive impact on our future plans for the association.

I also wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended our Annual Golf Day and Charity Dinner, it was an amazing event organised by Alison Ansell (Corseal Limited) and Sharon Kendal (UKGSA Secretariat). We raised a record amount for MacMillan Cancer thanks to the generosity of the attendees, sponsors, and donators of prizes. It's impossible to name everyone but our heartfelt thanks go out to you all.

So, the winter months are here, Christmas is only weeks away, and I have been enjoying my annual taste-testing mince pies from all of the shops – Tesco Crumble Top finest are current leaders. I hope you all have a wonderful break, and the New Year brings as much joy and happiness as you can cope with.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Winfield', written in a cursive style.

New Members

In this issue, we welcome the following new members of the UKGSA:



Revolution Digital

UK reseller of ARISTO cutting systems offering a range of solutions for the cutting of gaskets.



CW Seals Ltd

Leading manufacturer of bespoke components, selling tailor-made products across a wide range of sectors



Zünd UK Ltd

The UK arm of Switzerland's Zund, an independent family owned manufacturer specialising in multi-functional digital cutting system solutions.



FPS Valves & Sealing Ltd

Offering a wide range of valves, actuators, gaskets and sealing solutions for Oil & Gas, Chemical, Pharmaceutical, Petrochemical and Process industries.



Hempel Special Metals UK

An international distributor of high-performance materials including titanium, nickel alloys, aerospace steels, special steels and exotic alloys.

AGM Votes in New Committee Members

The UK Gasket & Sealing Association (UKGSA) is pleased to announce two new appointments to our executive committee.

The new officers are:

Steven Ratcliffe of Moontown Ltd

Gavin Lyles of Monarch Gaskets & Sealing Ltd

Simon Winfield, Chairman of the UKGSA, said: "We are thrilled to welcome Steven and Gavin to our executive committee. Their experience and knowledge of the industry and their track record in leadership will further strengthen our team, helping us to continue to grow the association and represent the interests of our members."



Steven Ratcliffe
Moontown Ltd



Gavin Lyles
Monarch Gaskets & Sealing Ltd

Thank You to Retiring Committee Members

Two of our long standing committee members retired from the executive committee last year. Keith Payne, who owned Keith Payne Products Ltd, and Simon

Carless, director of W C Munsch/PTM, were hard working supporters of the UKGSA and involved in the organisation of our Golf Days.



Keith Payne was recently presented with a Royal Scott Crystal decanter, glasses and bottles of Grand Plessis Grande Reserve Medoc wine.



During our annual charity dinner, Simon Carless was presented with a Glencairn Whisky Decanter, glasses and a bottle of Old Pulteney malt whisky.

Advertise your Membership



1st October is the start of our membership and financial year and renewal invoices have been sent to all existing members. Membership certificates will be sent when invoices are paid.



We also have a 'Members of' logo which you can use on your website, email signatures and materials. A copy can be requested from info@ukgsassociation.co.uk

We're delighted to announce that this year we will be issuing all Members with a metal plaque which you can proudly display in your office/ facilities. We look forward to seeing your photos on social media!

The wall-mounted plaque has been designed and manufactured by our new Committee Members, Moontown and Monarch Gaskets & Sealing, who are generously supplying the plaques at cost. The team have worked collaboratively and put a lot of work into producing the plaque, utilising their in-house design and manufacturing skills.

From Apprentices to Directors

Congratulations to our new directors



Southbourne Rubber Ltd's (SBR's) ethos is to nurture our staff, work with our strengths and encourage development and progression through the company.

As such, we are delighted to announce the recent promotion of Rob Cuffe, Libby Freemantle and Tim Maslen to Sales Director, Operations Director and Company Director respectively.

Both Rob and Libby joined SBR as apprentices in 2017 and 2018 respectively. During this time they have proven themselves to be hardworking, commercially aware and important assets to the company as they continue to move towards their future goals. Combined with Tim's life and business experience, the three of them will prove a strong, resilient management team.

Over the past few years SBR has been nominated for, and won, various awards for our apprenticeship schemes, the latest one being SME Employer of the Year at The Portsmouth News and Chichester Observer Series Apprenticeship Awards. These evenings are a wonderful

way to recognise the success of hardworking apprentices and the organisations that mentor them.

We have also been accepted into The 5% Club, a growing movement dedicated to supporting organisations committed to providing 'Earn & Learn' opportunities to their workforce. By joining such associations we benefit from both the experience of fellow members and other experts in their field.

SBR will continue to invest in our workforce, and the business as a whole, to ensure a secure future for years to come.

Revolution Digital Shines at the Advanced Engineering Show



Revolution Digital, a leading provider of innovative printing and cutting solutions, successfully showcased their expertise at the Advanced Engineering Show, held at the NEC arena in Birmingham on November 1st and 2nd. The company's Managing Director, Jan Edgecombe, was on hand to engage with attendees and showcase their latest technologies.

Visitors to Revolution Digital's stand (Booth H190) had the opportunity to meet Jan and learn about the company's impressive range of offerings, including the Roland DG, LEF2 and MG series printers. These state-of-the-art printers garnered significant attention for their exceptional quality and advanced features. Revolution Digital also highlighted their collaboration with ARISTO Cutting Solutions GmbH, the leading German manufacturer of large-format, computer-controlled flatbed cutters, further enhancing their comprehensive portfolio.

Jan expressed his enthusiasm for the event, saying: "We are thrilled to have been a part of the Advanced Engineering Show and to have had the opportunity to connect with industry professionals and enthusiasts. Our cutting-edge printing and cutting solutions are designed to meet the evolving needs of our clients, and events like this allow us to showcase our capabilities and forge valuable partnerships."

Revolution Digital extends its gratitude to Advanced Engineering UK for organising an exceptional show that provided the perfect platform for networking and knowledge exchange. The company also recognised the invaluable contributions of Matthew Reid-Jones and Kai Perry from Roland DG, who played a pivotal role in ensuring the smooth operation of the event.

In addition to the showcased products, visitors at the Revolution Digital stand had the chance to interact with both Jan and Dean Hardy-White, the company's dedicated Marketing & Design Executive. Jan, known for his approachable demeanour, welcomed visitors to discuss a wide range of topics related to digital printing, cutting solutions, and more.

"We met some amazing people and look forward to seeing them again," said Jan. "I want to thank our team, the event organisers, and everyone who visited our booth for making this experience truly memorable."

For more information about Revolution Digital and their innovative printing and cutting solutions, please visit www.revolution-digital.co.uk

SJG's Rubber and Silicone Extrusion Division



Over the last couple of weeks we have been involved in a number of showcase events at schools and colleges to introduce the company, talk to students about exploring the options of an Apprenticeship with SJG and also work experience.

With the work we have done, we thought it would be a good opportunity with the Cutting Edge editorial to give an overview of the products and processes offered by SJG to members old and new, and we will feature these in consecutive editorials.

The core divisions of the business are: Rubber and Silicone extrusion, Foam fabrication and conversion, gasket manufacture, and production of vacuum rings.

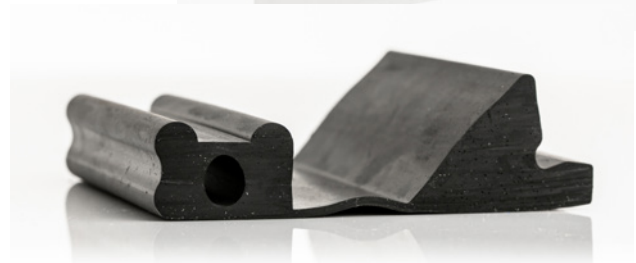
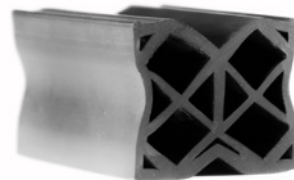
For this edition we will review Rubber and Silicone Extrusion.

Over many years SJG have produced rubber and silicone extrusions. In more recent years the degree of complexity of the type and style of extrusion we are able to offer has further advanced.

We are able to offer a wide range of polymers such as EPDM, Neoprene, and Nitrile, and combining polymers to obtain a dual hardness profile. With the continuous development of our design team and tool room facility the complexity of what we can achieve has wide scope.

As an additional process once the extrusion has been produced, SJG have a full conversion facility to be able to add for example, printing for identification purpose, cut lengths, taping, splice jointing, and many more.

Please get in touch to discuss your requirements
sales@sjginternational.com



James Walker takes 2023 BPF Energy Award



With over 500 member companies, the BPF represents over 80% of the UK plastics industry by turnover. In support of all energy initiatives undertaken by the plastics industry, BPF Energy makes an award each year to acknowledge energy efficiency improvement within the Plastics Sector Climate Change Agreement.

The award is assessed on the improvement over the year and is calculated by taking the incremental energy consumed against incremental production achieved. This year James Walker Group's Cockermouth manufacturing facility in Cumbria came top of the rankings of some 522 sites and received the 2023 BPF Energy Award at the Association's 90th Gala Dinner event at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London.

The award was received on behalf of the James Walker Group by David Jackson, Group Finance Director, accompanied by colleagues from the Cockermouth site; Ed Surman, Site Director; Andrew Slone, Health, Safety & Environment Manager; Laura Thompson, Senior SHE

Advisor; Mark Ashbridge, Test Room Manager and Emma Bell, Operational Excellence Analyst - James Walker & Co Ltd

On receiving the award, Site Director Ed Surman commented; 'The progress we have made comes from a raft of initiatives across our site. Increasing our gas pipeline capacity has enabled us to use gas boilers for heating and steam generation plus the replacement of older equipment with new efficient electric options has made a significant impact on our CO2 footprint. Adding to that have been a number of process improvements including waste and reject reduction that have improved our rate of energy consumption per kg of product produced. Finally we have smaller, although no less important, initiatives such as switching to led lighting, the replacement of double glazing to prevent heat loss and an education programme that encourages and enables our employees to make energy savings whenever they are onsite by even the simplest of actions such as switching off lights and equipment when not in use.'

Adding to Ed's comments, David Jackson said; 'To receive this award in recognition of our efforts has been a fantastic surprise and I am sure it will spur us on to achieve further reductions in our CO2 footprint through further initiatives such as our recently completed installation of a new transformer and 432 kWp solar power system. As part of the James Walker Group, our site at Cockermouth is just one of many manufacturing plants and offices around the globe but in all locations one of our key goals is to reduce our environmental impact in any way we can. Receiving this recognition from the BPF will undoubtedly help push all of us on to greater achievements in sustainability and climate action.'

MacLellan adds New Anti-Fatigue Products to Range

As an established supplier of Anti-Fatigue matting and Industrial Safety mats for several decades, MacLellan's is pleased to announce the launch of two new Site Safety matting products aimed at the industrial sector, with exceptional anti-fatigue benefits for the standing worker.

Complimenting an already extensive range of Anti-Fatigue and Industrial Safety matting products, these new products offer exceptional performance and an enhanced working environment.

Solid Top Anti Fatigue Matting



This Synthetic Rubber Mat is designed to be easily connectable through hidden inbuilt plugs and can be supplied with removable high visibility male and female locking ramped edges. The material is Oil and Grease resistant and will absorb heavy impact and wear.

Ideal for use as an industrial mat in packaging and work areas or on larger floors such as a gym where it will protect the floor being damaged from dropping heavy objects.

Supplied in 910mm x 910mm sheets at 17mm thick, the mat is easy to lay and uplift and move or replace as required.

Cushioned Checker Plate Anti Fatigue Matting



Cushioned Anti-Fatigue Matting is a dual layer mat with a Vinyl top surface and PVC foam backing that is heat bonded in situ. The hard wearing top surface ensures an extended working life under normal conditions and use, and can be cleaned with a brush or mop as appropriate.

The foam base layer provides fatigue relief for standing workers and is ideal for assembly lines, packing stations or lone work areas.

This matting is loose lay and can be easily moved or replaced. Available in two widths – 900mm and 1200mm – both as 18Mtr rolls, the material is easily shipped on pallets.

A busy year for Monarch



2023 has been an exciting year for Monarch Gaskets & Seals Ltd. In the last six months alone we have moved premises, taken on a new directors, employed more staff and invested in new machinery!

We moved from our original location in the Wakefield where we had been for five years, to larger premises at Junction 41, Wakefield Industrial Estate, Wakefield. This move has given us extra space to invest in our third waterjet machine which has a 100HP pump, twin heads and a cutting area of 4500mmx2500mm bed. This allows us to waterjet profile cut in both 'water only' and 'abrasive' mode from simple rubbers and corks to exotic materials.

We have strengthened our team by welcoming Adam Lewis as a Director who joined us from Gee Graphite before their liquidation. We are also joined by Ian Desbottes in a Non Executive Director role. We are pleased to have been able to support former employees of Gee Graphite by employing Jonny Ellis as Production Manager, Garry Hirst as Procurement/Stock Control Manager, David Palmer as Engineering Manager and Joanne Hirst as Logistics Manager. This now makes our team 10 strong in number!

An increase in our sales turnover from £400k to £750k pa, has allowed us to grow and add more products to our portfolio, including the Monarch Energised Springs. This

will support continued planned growth for 2024. We'd like to specifically thank all our existing and new customers for their support who have helped to make this growth achievable.

It's been a busy 2023 and we'll be looking forward to the Christmas break, but we are more than excited with our plans for 2024. We look forward to the challenge of sustaining our growth so we can take Monarch to the next planned level.



Visit to Paper Gasket Manufacturer



One of the UK's leading manufacturers and distributors of paper gasket products who celebrates 25 years of family ownership this year, hosted a visit by Members of the UKGSA on a very wet 20 September.

Terry Coffey, who joined Jointine Products (Lincoln) Ltd in 1953 aged 16 years, shared highlights from their history which began with paper coating in linseed to create a hard gasket, addition of glue glycerine and silicone products, and production of thermally sensitive paper used in fax machines. At one time they were producing 35,000 tonnes per annum of NCR, but with the decline of the market the company closed its Lincoln facilities and moved to Cardiff which then closed three years later. Terry bought the company and moved it back to its home in Lincoln.

They now employ 17 staff and operate a 24/5 production facility to cope with demand, manufacturing and distributing a variety of high quality paper gasket materials in roll format and exporting more than 95% of their products to more than 50 countries worldwide. They can produce to a thinness of 0.15mm up to a thickness of 0.80mm (and thicker materials can be created by

laminating). Products they manufacture include Flexoid, Sizoid, Cranflex and Firefly.

During recent years they've worked throughout Covid, dealt with repercussions of Brexit, and the war in Ukraine which has affected raw material supply. Paper and cardboard is in short supply so they are having to order in bulk.

In terms of the future, they are investigating creating products from 100% recyclable raw materials and using materials that include collagen and plant based glycerine.

Following the presentation and lunch, Jane Smith (MD) and Terry Coffey gave a tour of their production facility from raw material to finished product. Their production process is fascinating to see and we'd urge any member who has not visited Jointine to pop in and visit them.



2023 Golf Day and Charity Dinner



This year Belton Woods Hotel in Lincolnshire hosted the annual UKGSA Golf Day which saw 30 golfers take part and 60 guests join us for dinner in the evening.

The sun shone for most of the day, despite torrential rain the day before, providing ideal weather for a day's golf which was organised by new committee member with responsibility for the Golf Day, James Salt of The Seal Extrusion Company.

The teams enjoyed the challenges of the 18 hole course which tested their golfing skills. Feedback about the course and the hotel has been positive so it may be a venue we return to in the future.



Guess Who!

Can you guess who was spotted in the bushes during our golf day? A few balls were lost and they had to go hunting in the thicket and almost fell into the pond! The correct answer will be published in the next issue!



Golf Teams



Team 1: Nick Salt, James Salt, Mike Bulford



Team 5: Sam Bradley, Andy Corrigan, Simon Carless, Greg Ansell,



Team 2: Jane Smith, Bob Marsh, Terry Coffey, Ellis Grange



Team 6: Simon Winfield, Richard McKnight, Ashley Wailes, Neil Coneron,



Team 3: Russ Pimblett, Andy Tyson, Chris Turner



Team 7: Darren Pearson, Andy Dunn, Paul Baker



Team 4: Ollie Scanlon, Mark Birks, Mike Bane, Mark Ambrose



Team 8: Mark Kelly, Ken Stroud, Sandy McEwen, Chris Lusted

Golf Trophy Winners



1st Place Best Individual Round (sponsored by Moontown) –
Nick Salt (The Seal Extrusion Company)



Most Accurate Drive (sponsored by LoneStar Leeds) – Andy Corrigan



Runner Up Best Individual Round (sponsored by FSP) – Sam Bradley (Flexitallic)



Nearest the Pin in 2 (sponsored by Jointine Products Lincoln Ltd) –
Paul Baker (RGH Rubber)



Runners Up 4 Ball Team (sponsored by V-Seal) – Greg Ansell (Corseal),
Andy Corrigan, Simon Carless, Sam Bradley (Flexitallic)



Hidden Team (sponsored by Flexitallic) – Richard McKnight, Jane Smith (Jointine
Products Lincoln Ltd), Neil Coneron (V-Seal), Ollie Scanlon (LoneStar Leeds)



1st Place 4 Ball Team (sponsored by MacLellan Rubber) – James Salt and Nick Salt (The Seal
Extrusion Company), Mike Bulford (SJG International) and ghost player Ashley Wailes (FSP)



Wooden Spoon (sponsored by Jointine Products) – Mark Birks (V-Seal)

Charity Dinner



The evening dinner raises money for our nominated charity, Macmillan Cancer Support, and provided an opportunity for Members and guests to dust off their Black Tie attire to celebrate our 30th anniversary in style!

We were delighted to be joined by some of our founding members. Richard McKnight, formerly of William Johnston & Company, and Ken Stroud, formerly of British Gaskets, and their partners were VIP guests at our anniversary dinner. They enjoyed catching up with old colleagues, meeting new members, and seeing the association grow from strength to strength.

As a memento of our 30th, we took a celebratory group photo of all attendees which has been sent to attendees as a keepsake of the night.

The dining room was decorated by Alison Ansell of Corseal who tied in with our 30th anniversary by continuing the black and gold theme for table centrepieces and chair sashes. Many thanks to Alison for giving up her time to decorate the room on the day.

Our compere for the evening, Sandy McEwen of William Johnston & Company, commenced the night with a game

of Heads & Tails. This is a fun ice breaker where everyone puts £10 into a sealed envelope and chooses 'heads' or 'tails' by placing their hands on their head or 'tail'. The compere tosses a coin and whoever didn't select the winning side of the coin sits down. After a nail-biting finale, the winner of the two night stay at AnnaCapri guest house in Falmouth was Hempel Special Metals who kindly donated the prize as an auction later in the evening.

Thank you to Lily Weichardt of Direct Gaskets and Charlotte Power of V-Seal (with support from Sam Bradley of Flexitallic who used our new card payment machine) who sold raffle tickets during dinner, giving attendees the chance to win a range of prizes donated by Members.

Flexitallic's donated auction prize of a round of golf and accommodation at the Trump International course in Aberdeen was fiercely fought over and won (again!) by Mark Kelly of FSP. The Falmouth hotel prize was auctioned and bought by Alan Tyson of DLR Elastomer.

In total, the event raised an incredible £3,630 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Complementary wine with dinner was kindly sponsored by Wardjet.

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Charity Dinner



**Save the date - our 2024
Golf Day and Dinner
will be at Telford Hotel
& Golf in Shropshire
on Thursday 12th
September 2024.**

DEMINAS UK

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Our innovative product range includes a variety of graphite sheets, catering to diverse industry needs. At DEMINAS, we take pride in offering high-quality sealing solutions, including tanged, flat foil reinforced, and pure graphite sheets, available in a range of sizes to accommodate various specifications.

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Discover our extensive sealing solutions at www.deminasseal.com

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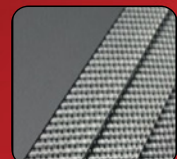
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J A Harrison re-establishes supply of graphite gaskets



J A Harrison has taken action to continue the UK-based supply of graphite gaskets and sealing systems for use in key industrial sectors. Following the collapse of Gee Graphite Ltd, J A Harrison has acquired much of the specialist company's stock and machinery.

Due to their non-reactive properties and high temperature resistance, graphite gaskets and packings are widely used in the power, nuclear and chemical sectors, particularly in valve seals.

Overcoming the need to source supplies from overseas, most of Gee Graphite's stock is now available through J A Harrison's sales department.

Manufacturing capability has been established from early summer 2023. Machines were commissioned at J A Harrison's Alliance site in South Wales, which will be able to produce high-purity graphite sheets.

"Graphite gaskets have critical applications. Quality is key and we're pleased to be able to resume the supply to OEMs and direct to industrial companies. We look forward

to supporting them," said Jan Williams, J A Harrison's business development director.



HITEK and the Engineering Design Show



HITEK have exhibited at the Engineering Design Show (EDS) since 2016 and what a show this year was!

Held at the CBS Arena in Coventry on 9th & 10th October, it's a key exhibition for HITEK, attracting some of the best mechanical, electronics and embedded design engineers the UK has to offer.

Roger Dent, Operations Director at HITEK said:
"This really is a great exhibition for us, the quality of conversations we have on stand are fantastic. We are already looking forward to next year."

It will return at the CBS arena on 9th & 10th October 2024 – you can register your interest here - <https://www.engineeringdesignshow.co.uk/>

HITEK will also be exhibiting for the first time at the [Manufacturing & Engineering Northeast \(MENE\)](#) show in Newcastle Upon Tyne, 30 November 2023. You can see them on Stand 49.



Case Study: Heaven Dowsett & Co Ltd's Integration of AXYZ Tailored Router Solutions



Established in Birmingham in 1908, Heaven Dowsett & Co. Ltd has proudly upheld its position as the foremost supplier of plastics and electrical insulations to various industries from rail to construction. This enduring prominence has been maintained through their unwavering commitment to providing efficient and tailored services that cater to the unique needs of their valued customers.

Over more than a century of operation, they have witnessed numerous advancements in materials and manufacturing technologies. To remain at the forefront of their field, Heaven Dowsett has consistently invested in training and the latest CNC equipment, allowing them to adapt seamlessly to industry changes. In doing so they successfully integrated AXYZ Tailored Router Solutions routers into its operations. This case study explores the journey of Heaven Dowsett, detailing their adoption of AXYZ machines, the impact on their productivity, efficiency, cost savings, quality improvements, employee perceptions and future plans for automation.

Adoption of AXYZ Tailored Router Solutions

Heaven Dowsett & Co. Ltd has been utilising AXYZ machines for over 10 years, they currently have two machines in their arsenal, including the AXYZ 6010 7G ATC and the AXYZ INFINITE 4008 7G ATC. The INFINITE router is the newer model, a highly configurable CNC machine that is suitable for one-off, small batch production as well as high volume and high productivity applications, including point of purchase, sign making, woodworking, plastic fabrication, engineering plastic machining and so much more.

The decision to adopt this technology was prompted by their desire to enhance production capabilities and expand their range of machinable designs and recognise the need for advanced routing technology to meet the evolving demands of their clients. "These routers have become an integral part of Heaven Dowsett's advancement in CNC machining and of our production capabilities and offer many advantages," said Mark Hamilton, Managing Director

Heaven Dowsett operates across various core markets, including rail, automotive, electrical and construction. Their product range is diverse, spanning a wide spectrum of components and parts demanded by these industries. The AXYZ machines at Heaven Dowsett handle a multitude of tasks and processes. They utilise the machines for cutting, shaping and machining various materials including laminated materials, acrylic, polyethylene and polycarbonate for the electrical insulation industry with precision, often achieving tolerances as tight as +/- 0.15/0.2mm.

Impact on Productivity and Efficiency

"The integration of AXYZ machines has significantly improved Heaven Dowsett's productivity and efficiency," said Mark.

These machines allow them to produce goods ranging in size from small components to large pieces such as their range of screening measuring up to 2 meters by 3 meters. Automation features, such as tool changers and material handling systems, have significantly reduced setup times increased overall production efficiency and have led to cost savings and faster project turnaround times.

This increased production capacity has streamlined workflow and optimised their production output, reducing lead times and enhancing overall efficiency, versatility and design capabilities making them capable of processing a wide range of materials, including wood, plastics, metals and composites thereby adding to Heaven Dowsett ability to increase their industry portfolio.

AXYZ routers provide unmatched precision and accuracy, ensuring that Heaven Dowsett consistently delivers components with tight tolerances, meeting the most stringent industry specifications.

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Case Study: Heaven Dowsett & Co Ltd's Integration of AXYZ Tailored Router Solutions

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Initial Challenges and Overcoming Them

One of the initial challenges faced during the integration of AXYZ machines was the company's lack of prior experience with CNC routers. Employees needed to learn how to operate the machines and understand their capabilities effectively. Additionally, cutting a diverse range of materials required learning optimal settings and techniques for each material. However, with the invaluable support and advice from AXYZ, they overcame these challenges and fine-tuned their processes for improved productivity and efficiency, quickly becoming proficient in the use of the machines.

Enhanced Cost Savings and Increased Profitability

The use of AXYZ machines has resulted in cost savings for Heaven Dowsett. These machines have expanded the range of machinable designs they can produce and have increased the production rate of some of their regular parts. These cost savings have contributed to improved profitability. The ability to produce high-quality products with precision, consistency and speed using AXYZ machines has raised production standards, resulting in superior products.

Improved Employee Perceptions and Job Satisfaction

The introduction of automation in the workflow at Heaven Dowsett has been well-received by employees. The machines have not only improved their job satisfaction by providing opportunities to work on innovative projects but have also enhanced their skill sets and expanded their roles, rather than leading to a reduction in the workforce.

Precision Cutting Services Increased

"The AXYZ routers allow us to offer our extensive range of stock products to be delivered in precise cut-to-size panels or billets, eliminating the need to invest in entire material units. This service is especially valuable for machinists and small-scale users, offering a strategic pricing edge over competitors. With our efficient processes, you can typically access materials on the next business day and in some cases, even on the same day. This ensures that you're well-prepared for those occasional urgent situations that inevitably arise," explained Mark.

Dependable Maintenance and Support

To ensure the smooth operation of AXYZ machines, Heaven Dowsett benefits from the reliable support structure provided by AXYZ and invests in annual service

plans offered by AXYZ, with in-house engineers handling minor issues. Regular maintenance and support from the manufacturer keep the machines running efficiently minimising downtime.

Future Plans for Automation with AXYZ

Heaven Dowsett has recently purchased a new AXYZ machine, "which indicates our commitment to further integrating automation into our processes and reflects our determination to stay at the forefront of manufacturing innovation," said Mark. They plan to continue leveraging this technology to enhance their capabilities and expand their market reach.

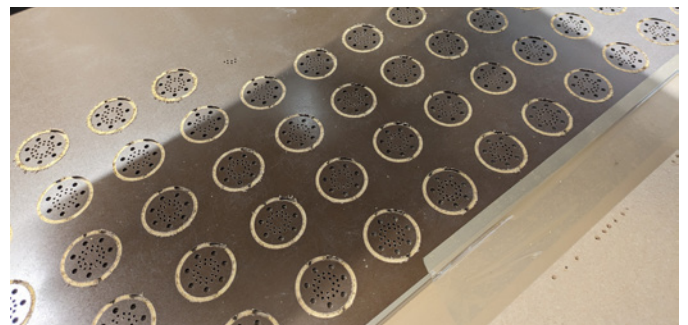
Heaven Dowsett's journey with AXYZ routers exemplifies how a forward-thinking company can successfully adopt automation technology to improve productivity, product quality and employee satisfaction. With a strong focus on continuous improvement and expanding their automation capabilities, Heaven Dowsett is well-positioned for future growth in their diverse markets.

For more information on AXYZ Tailored Router Solutions range of machines:

<https://www.axyz.com>

enquiries@axyz.com

Tel: 01952 291600



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Certified Chemours distributor since 2017

The Chemours (formally DuPont) Viton is a well established brand name within the rubber industry that we have all come to know and stand by for its exacting high quality standards and superior performance in the most demanding applications.

As a certified distributor of the Viton range since 2017, MacLellan rubber have become one of the UK's market leaders in supply and distribution. Offering next day delivery on standard rolls with a thickness range from 0.5mm through to 10mm thick.

In order to meet the specific needs of all of our customer base, all of the Viton thickness bands are available to buy from us by the linear mtr (without cost penalty)

Over the past several years (post covid) we have seen demand building for this product range and have reacted to market needs by increasing our stocks across the board, in order to stay ahead of the curve, however as always to ensure your supply needs are met we would advise that your supplies are secured with us early.

Viton grades are available from us with a Hardness as standard at 70 deg. Shore A, however the range includes material from 55 to 90° Shore A.



We are also able to offer Food Quality grades and in addition to the standard Black colour, Brown and White have also been introduced to the range (by special order). We can also add an insertion to your material manufactured to order and supply complete with certification according to UL94-V0 fire resistance.

For further details contact our sales team today by email us at Sales@maclellanrubber.com

The MacLellan Team

MacLellan rubber limited
Unit 16 Planetary Road Industrial Estate,
Planetary Road
WV13 3XA



+44 (0) 1902 307711
sales@maclellanrubber.com
www.maclellanrubber.com

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Sheeting Product Rebrand

There appears to be some confusion in the market regarding what is classed as an Economy and Standard Grade Rubber. As a result, J P Polymer Sheetings have decided to rebrand their Standard Commercial Products to reflect the quality of the product, for example 20% Polymer content and 5 MPA Tensile etc.

As from 19/07/23, all standard product codes will now be called Premium Grade instead of Standard Grade.

Economy grades are still available under the Economy brand.

Both products offer outstanding quality and performance at very competitive prices

Please contact J P Polymer Sheetings' Sales Team if you have any queries regarding this change.



News In Brief

Southbourne Rubber has recertified for AS9100, the international quality management system standard for the aerospace industry.

Silicone Engineering is joining the team at Rogers Corporation to exhibit at FOAM Expo Europe, 4-7 December. Visit them in Booth 741.

Some of the James Walker manufacturing team are taking part in Movember to raise money for Prostate Cancer and Men's Mental Health. You can follow their progress at: <https://lnkd.in/e6vWChJN>

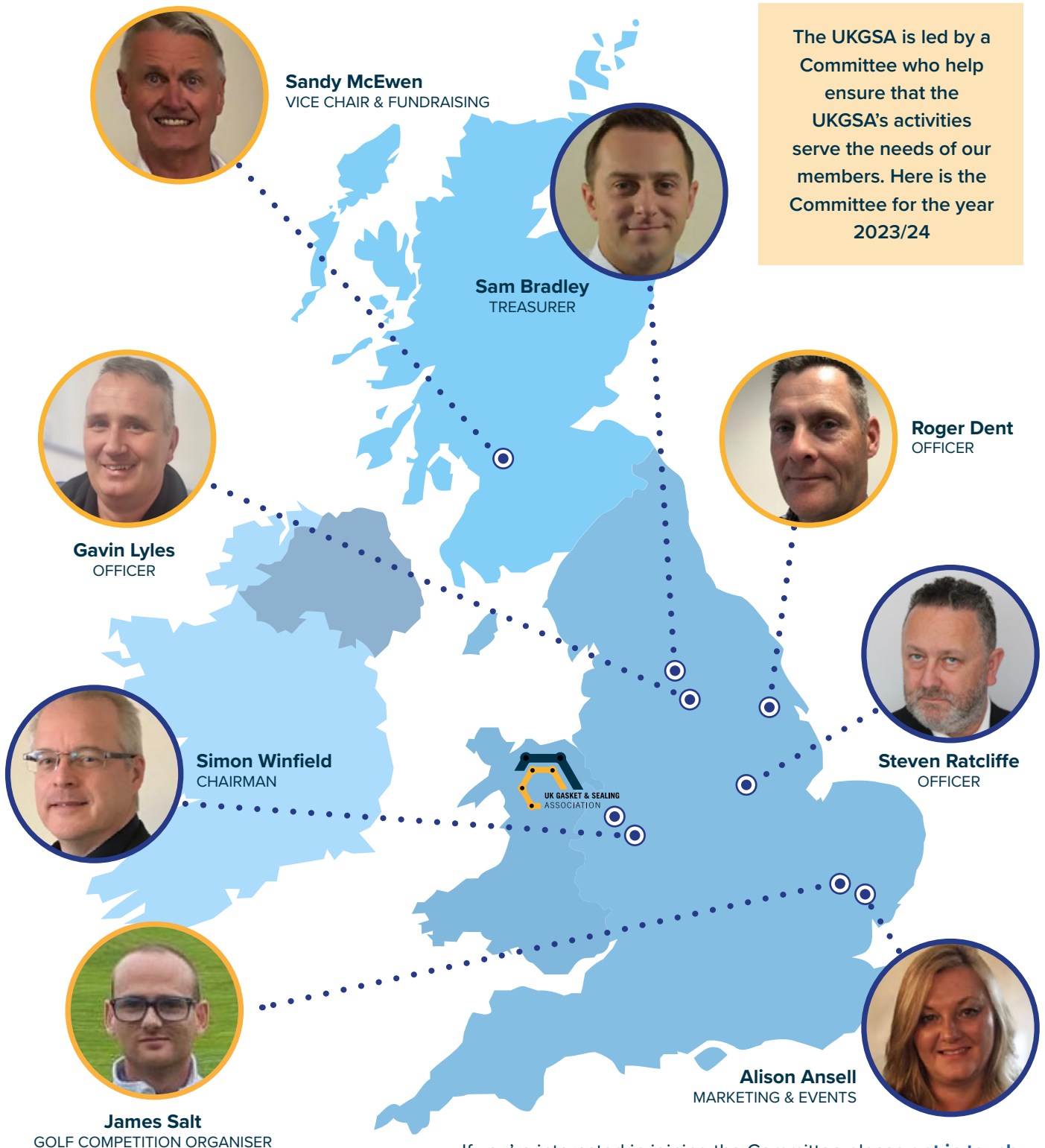
Kewell Converters will also be at FOAM Expo Europe on Stand 838.

Zünd UK was the headline award sponsor at the Composites UK industry awards which took place on 1 November at the National Motorcycle Museum. They also exhibited at the Advanced Engineering UK show.

Happy birthday Greg! Greg Ansell of Corseal celebrated a milestone birthday this month.

Meet Your Committee

The UKGSA is led by a Committee who help ensure that the UKGSA's activities serve the needs of our members. Here is the Committee for the year 2023/24



If you're interested in joining the Committee please [get in touch](#).

What We Do



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 and 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.



Member Offers

On our website and in our quarterly e-newsletter, Members can promote their promotional offers and member-to-member deals for free.



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 Members List

British Felt Co.

Unit 5, Fingle Drive, Stonebridge,
Milton Keynes,
Buckinghamshire MK13 0AT
T: 01908 320329 F: 01908 226599
www.britishfelt.com

Corseal Limited

Unit 5A, Bull Lane Industrial Estate,
Acton, Suffolk CO10 0BD
T: 01787 282444
www.corseal.co.uk

Cutting Systems UK Ltd

Units 25 & 29, Francis Court, Norris Way,
Rushden, Northamptonshire NN10 6AY
T: 01933 359359
F: 01933 359399
www.cutting-systems.co.uk

CW Seals Ltd

Unit 6C, Lineside Industrial Estate,
Littlehampton, West Sussex BN17 7SH
T: 01903 235784
www.candwseals.co.uk

Direct Gaskets Ltd

Units 26-36, Dansom Lane South,
Hull HU8 7LA
T: 01482 219655 F: 01482 321162
www.direct-gaskets.co.uk

DLR Elastomer Engineering Ltd

Unit 1A & B, Leyland Business Park, Centurion
Way, Leyland, Lancashire PR25 3GR
T: 01772 450930
<https://elastomer.co.uk>

East Anglian Sealing Co. Limited

Unit 3-9, Goldingham Hall,
Bulmer, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 7ER
T: 01787 880433 F: 01787 880442
www.easeals.co.uk

Flemings Seals and Polymers Limited

Atlas Mills, Atlas Mill Road, Brighouse,
West Yorkshire HD6 1ES
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www.flemingssp.co.uk

Flexitallic UK Ltd.

Scandinavia Mill, Hunsworth Lane,
Cleckheaton,
West Yorkshire BD19 4LN
T: 01274 851273 F: 01274 851386
www.flexitallic.eu

FPS Valves & Sealing Ltd

48 Haworth Road, Chorley, Lancashire PR6
9FG
T: 07525 298334
www.fpsvs.co.uk

Graphfor LTD

Maspro House, Chadwick Road, Astmoor
Industrial Estate, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 1PW
T: 01928 566344
<https://graphforltd.com>

Hempel Special Metals UK

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Dewsbury, West Yorkshire WF12 9BS
T: 01924 488585
<https://www.hempel-metals.co.uk/industries/metallic-gaskets/>

HITEK Electronic Materials Limited

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North Lincolnshire DN17 2AX
T: 01724 851678 F: 01724 280586
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www.jpmpolymer.co.uk

James Walker & Co. Ltd

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Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 0NH
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www.jameswalker.co.uk

Jointine Products (Lincoln) Limited

Lindum Business Park, Station Road,
North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 9AU
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www.jointine.co.uk

Keith Payne Products Limited

Unit 2, Manfield Park Industrial Estate,
Guildford Road, Cranleigh,
Surrey GU6 8PT
T: 01483 276000 F: 01483 278167
www.keithpayneproducts.com

Kewell Converters Ltd

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Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6HL
T: 01732 864310 F: 01732 865206
www.kewell-converters.co.uk

Lonestar Leeds Limited

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MacLellan Rubber Ltd

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Monarch Gasket & Sealing Ltd

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WF2 0XW
T: 01924 335945
www.monarch-gaskets.co.uk

Moontown Ltd

Unit 16D, Unity Road, Lowmoor Business Park,
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T: 01623 751515
www.moontown.co.uk

Revolution Digital

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Leicester LE67 3QX
T: 01530 510080
revolution-digital.co.uk

RGH Rubber and Plastics Ltd

Acorn House, Oak Industrial Park,
Great Dunmow, Essex CM6 1XN
T: 01371 875941
www.rghrubber.co.uk

Silicone Engineering Ltd

Greenbank Business Park,
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T: 0845 674 4747 F: 01254 583519
www.silicone.co.uk

SJG International Limited

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Forest Ind. Estate, Alcester B49 6ES
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www.sjginternational.com

Southbourne Rubber Co. Ltd

47, Aston Road, Waterloo, Looe,
Hampshire PO0 7XJ
T: 02392 255180
www.sbr.aero

The Seal Extrusion Company Limited

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Acton, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 0BD
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www.sealextrusions.com

V-Seal Ltd

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Elland, West Yorkshire HX5 9HX
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www.vseal.co.uk

WARDJet

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TF3 3AL
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<https://www.wardjet.com>

William Johnston & Company Limited

9, Speirsbridge Terrace, Thornliebank
Industrial Estate, Glasgow G46 8JH
T: 0141 620 1666 F: 0141 620 1888
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WR Gaskets Limited

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