

EsterForum!



Volume 4, Issue 1

June 2004

Esterform celebrates!

On the 10th of May, a momentous date was celebrated at Esterform. Five years ago Esterform Packaging Limited was first set up to specialise in wide neck PET bottles for juices, dairy beverages and household bottles

Just over three years ago Esterform acquired Able Industries, and successfully integrated the two businesses on the Tenbury Wells site. Since then the combined operations have flourished. This last financial year has seen a further increase in turnover and profits at Esterform, supported by sustained investment in new plant and equipment.



Continuous improvement to the range.



The current range of 38 mm neck bottles available from Esterform is always under review as regards possible improvements or additions. The square 500 ml bottle has just been upgraded as part of this process. The overall shape has been subtly rounded into a squound design, and label panels have been improved. Overall the top load strength has been improved, as has general effectiveness on the filling line.

Accreditation to the new BSENISO9001: 2000

During 2003 Esterform was assessed for the new ISO standard and achieved accreditation at the end of the year. As part of their customer service focus, maintaining an effective quality management culture is critical to Esterform. This culture was also reflected last year, when the BRC/IoP Technical Standard for Packaging was achieved.



Significant new investment at Esterform Packaging

Major new investment at Esterform is reflected in the arrival of a new SBO10 reheat blow moulding machine from Sidel at Tenbury Wells. The machine



has been swiftly

blow moulding machines, which will deal primarily with shorter runs and specialist products.

Auxiliary equipment, including two semi-automatic stretch wrappers in the blowing section, and new conveyors in the preform section, has also been installed. Production and engineering strategy at Esterform is focused on ongoing improvements to the factory layout to ensure optimum efficiency.

In addition, during early April two new

commissioned to respond to the rapidly increasing demands of the filling season. Its' primary role will be the blowing of 330 ml and 500 ml 28mm neck bottles.

Optimum planning and production



Nissei DPH 70 injection stretch blow moulding machines were installed at Esterform, and are already running in full production. This capacity is primarily devoted to the production of bottles for the household, healthcare, automotive and DIY sectors.

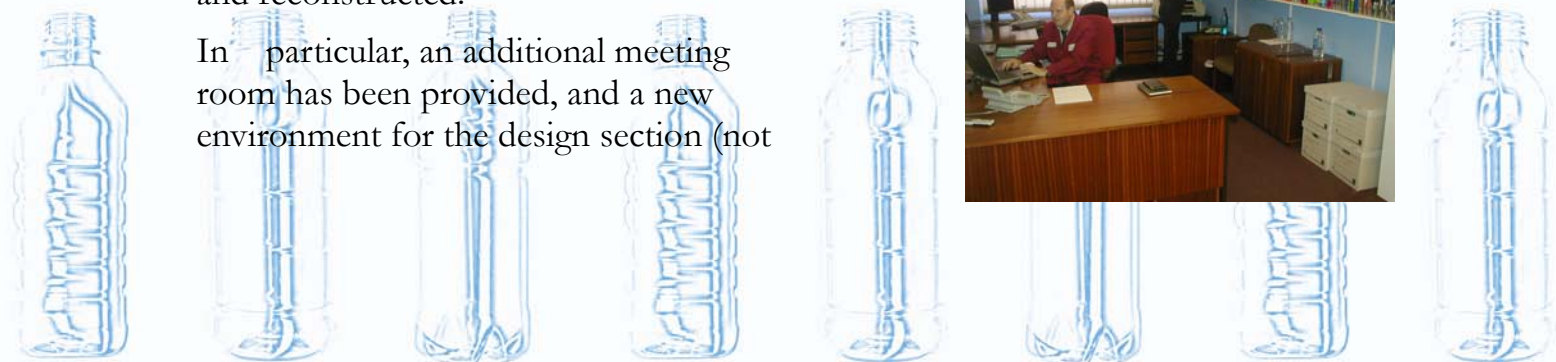
flexibility will be ensured by the utilisation of Esterform's other reheat

All change in the office

Continuing our theme of continuous improvement, the main office at Tenbury Wells has been reorganised and reconstructed.

In particular, an additional meeting room has been provided, and a new environment for the design section (not

that they ever seem to lack inspiration.....)



People at Esterform

Personnel

On the 22nd March **Darryl Gunn** was appointed as Engineering Manager of Esterform Packaging, with a challenging brief that includes keeping the business at the cutting edge of PET conversion. His background includes 8 years with Husky Injection Moulding Systems, which provides especially valuable experience in a critical area of manufacturing for Esterform. In his spare time Darryl does not always escape his technical background, as he has a keen interest in radio controlled, petrol driven, model cars. However, he does find time for golf and socialising as well!



The internal sales department has been significantly strengthened by the recent arrival of **Margaret Robinson**. Margaret has considerable experience in sales



administration in the manufacturing sector. She has spent the last 18 years with Richard Lloyd Limited in Tenbury Wells, with key responsibilities regarding the smooth running of the sales office. Margaret has a wide range of interests ranging from gardening to

ballet & theatre. She clearly finds no problem in balancing her interests with her working day, as she is very rapidly acquiring essential information on our products, and our diverse portfolio of customers!

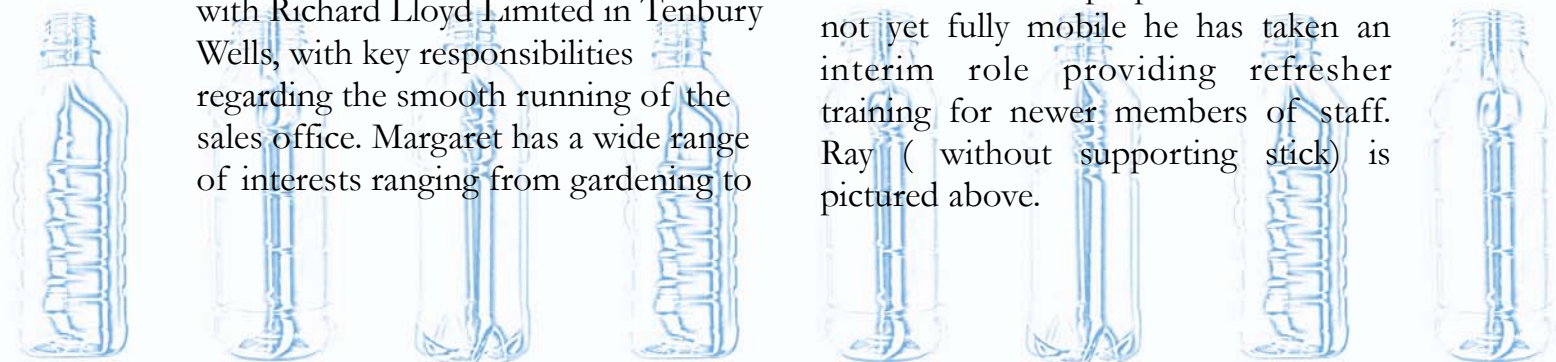
Another recent arrival at Esterform is



Lorraine Lewis, previously at Forest Gardens PLC, who joined as a packer on Green shift in 2003. Lorraine has a B.A. in Art and Design, and has put her skills to good use and designed an attractive recruitment poster for Esterform. Our illustration shows Lorraine with our Designer Mick Roberts.



The health of Esterform employees is always a key issue from the company's point of view. One particular concern is that there should be a flexible approach when staff return to work following significant illness. **Ray Hardy**, who is normally in one of our production teams, has recently returned after a hip operation. As he is not yet fully mobile he has taken an interim role providing refresher training for newer members of staff. Ray (without supporting stick) is pictured above.



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New trigger spray bottles launched for the “Astonish” range

Household products specialist London Oils originally packed their household and cleaning products in standard



HDPE bottles. However, their “Astonish” range has been re-launched in customised 500 ml and 750 ml

trigger spray bottles in clear and blue PET. The new bottles offer superior strength and visual impact in comparison with HDPE, supporting the premium image of the “Astonish” range.

The bottles have a special neck finish designed for the Guala trigger spray dispenser. The Guala trigger spray adds a distinctive style to the pack. At the same time, it offers push-on/screw-off capping, that provides maximum throughput on the filling line combined with convenience for the end customer.

