

East Kilbride & District Engineering Group Training Association Ltd.

Mission Statement

“EKGTA aims to serve the training needs of employers, whilst offering young people the chance to develop the knowledge and skills to attract an employer”

Editor's comments

Impact, the in-house newsletter from EKGTA is intended to keep member and associated companies and their staff informed about the latest innovations and developments being undertaken by the Association.

We hope that the news, views and updates contained herein have real *impact* on our readers and we would welcome feedback from you, along with any contributions for future issues.

Special points of interest

- Libya Visit
- Weir Pumps Cathcart
- Apprenticeship Competition
- The Chairman's Award

EKGTA “Out in Africa”

In March 2004, EKGTA took part in a Scottish Trade mission to Libya, which was organised by Scottish Development International the overseas business arm of Scottish Enterprise.

Brian Boyle, Customer Liaison Officer and Derek Syme, Training Manager both attended the event and found that the country is very keen to forge close links with the business community in Scotland.

EKGTA has been providing training services to several companies within the Oil sector in Libya for a number of years and the main purpose of our visit was to consolidate our contacts in the country, meet face-to-face with current clients, update them on the services we can deliver to them and how EKGTA can fulfil their training requirements.

Sources indicate that Libya has a shortage of skilled persons at shop floor level, and has an unemployment rate of around 30%. There is particular need for a structured approach to vocational training and the International Modern Apprenticeship framework developed by EKGTA from the Engineering Framework adopted by most British companies, was of particularly interest. Talks were held with The Specific Training Centre about the possibility of running a pilot programme for their trainees in the near future.



View of Tripoli Waterfront

Libya has in recent times opened its borders to African neighbours and has 6 million refugees, which matches the 6 million population. The country has however huge potential particularly with its massive oil reserves.

With the lifting of sanctions Libya is now able to tap into international support and in the next couple of years it can be expected that a large proportion of all Libya's business needs will be met by companies from out with Libya, thus opening up opportunities for UK/Scottish Companies.

The visit to Libya was a good and interesting experience for Brian and Derek and the people they met were all extremely pleasant, friendly and helpful.

EKGTA hopes to maintain and build on its links with Libya in the future.

The Chairman's Award

A major restructuring of how EKGTA delivers foundation training is now complete and will shift the emphasis from tutor, to “trainee centred”, training and development.

This restructuring recognises that our client/companies require apprentices who can understand what needs to be done, why it needs to be done and how it needs to be done. Also that they must work as part of a team, solve problems related to the job, make a useful contribution in the workplace and be aware of the “bigger Picture”



Prize Giving 2003

An integral part of this restructuring has been the introduction of **project-based training**, which has been designed to consolidate skills, knowledge and understanding, and to develop soft skills such as, Team building, Leadership, Communication, Time management, Planning, Negotiation and Cause & Effect. The concept is introduced early and reinforced throughout the programme.

Project teams will typically consist of between 6 – 8 apprentices taken from different companies, from various disciplines and a mentor will be assigned to each team.

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Meet the Trainees

Following on from our lead article, regarding the recent visit to Libya, we felt it would be a good opportunity to introduce some of the Libyan trainees currently attending EKGTA. Shown below working with ICT Instructor Jim Holmes, are Shukri Al Ghemi and Omran Belsheikh.



Shukri, an employee of with Azzawiya Refining Company, is currently nearing completion of a City & Guilds SVQ Level 2 Performing Engineering Operations qualification with a specialisation in Engineering Design and Pneumatics and Hydraulics. In addition to his training Shukri has fully enjoyed his stay in Scotland, relishing the opportunity to experience a new country and culture.

Omran, from RAS Lanuf Oil & Gas Processing Company, is also nearing completion of his City & Guilds SVQ Level 2 Performing Engineering Operations qualification, with his specialisation in CNC Machining and Metallisation. Omran's wife Nureia has joined him on his visit and has taken the opportunity to visit Glasgow, the shopping capital of Scotland.

Both trainees have gained significantly from their visit, gaining new workplace skills, improved language skills and have made many friends. Both think very highly of Scotland and it's people (although the weather could have been kinder at the start of their visit in January).

Company Training Spotlight— Weir Pumps (Clear liquid division)

Weir Pumps (Clear liquid division) was founded in 1871 & is the largest company within the Weir group. It has an annual turnover of 250 million US dollars & has 1600 employees at its headquarters in Cathcart.

Weir Pumps has a unique range of apprenticeship opportunities with the craft apprenticeship being split into various trades including fitters, fabricators, maintenance & CNC operators to mention a few. The technician route is split between the business units & the manufacturing areas. In the business unit areas the apprentice is trained in the tendering, design, quality assurance processes & in the drawing office where they gain the professional knowledge to assist both the customer & the shop floor. The manufacturing technician is trained in the various areas closely linked to production, these being, planning, inspection, CNC programming & manufacturing control plus other areas familiar with the business.

All apprentices, whatever the trade, attend East Kilbride Group Training Centre for the first 32 weeks of their time for basic off-the-job training, to gain all the required core skills & be educated up to SVQ level 2. This is where they form their relationship with the training centre who facilitate the ongoing college & log book assessment

From there they come to Cathcart, where a strategic individual learning plan is set up to suit the apprentice in their chosen field for the coming three years before they are finally placed in the department in which they will eventually be employed.



Apprentice Scott Porteous

For further details contact: Alan Ross, Apprentice Training Manager on 0141-308-2126

New Kid on the Block



EKGTA is pleased to announce a new arrival to its Training and Consultancy Team

Derek Brown joined EKGTA on 8th March 2004 in the role of Training Advisor. Having gained an HND in Electrical and Electronic engineering from Bell College, Hamilton in 1983 and a C++ qualification in 1992. Derek's background is mostly in the Electronics Industry where he has worked both as a Test/Equipment Engineer and as a Production Engineer.

Derek also spent some time working in production management roles with Tamura Hinchley, Motorola and Boots Contract Manufacturing. During his spell at Boots Derek was involved in the implementation of the company Vocational Qualification in Packaging.

Derek gained his D32/33 and D34 Certificates in Training and Development, although his main role within EKGTA is as a training advisor conducting the Assessment of Vocational Qualifications for our clients.

“The diversity of our customers and their needs makes this both a challenging and rewarding role.”

He is also the co-ordinator for our overseas business activity, which involves the design of training courses specifically tailored to meet the requirements of our overseas customers. “The diversity of our customers and their needs makes this both a challenging and rewarding role.”

Derek tells us he is forty one years old (allegedly), and lives in Strathaven, He is married to Pauline and has an eight year old daughter Lynsey.

He enjoys most sports, particularly golf and is a member of Strathaven Golf Club where he plays off a handicap of 1, which for those readers who are golfers will recognise is “no bad”.

Royal Connections at EKGTA

Training Manager Derek Syme, his wife Elizabeth and Mother-in-law, Mrs Catherine Murray recently visited Denmark at the invitation of Her Majesty Queen Margarethe and the Prince Consort, Prince Henrik.

The occasion was the wedding of HRH Crown Prince Frederick and Mary Elizabeth Donaldson. Mary is Catherine's niece and Elizabeth's cousin and God Daughter.

This was a fairytale wedding and Derek recalls the memories.

"We had 3 main functions to attend during the week leading up to the wedding. The first was a family dinner in at Christian the VIII Palace. This was very informal, for close family and there were around 80 people in attendance. His was our first chance to get acquainted with Frederick's family".

"The second function was a Royal Gala Performance at the Royal Theatre in Copenhagen. This was a grand affair (White Tie) and there were around 4000 guests. Our seats were on the first balcony on the same level as the Royal box and this was reserved for family and Heads of State. The performance catered for all tastes and was a wonderful experience".



Elizabeth, Derek & Catherine

"The main event was the wedding ceremony on the 14th May.

It's all a bit overwhelming, the build up on the TV is constant and brings home the enormity of the event that we are part of. We had breakfast at 9.00 am after which the nerves started to ease off. During breakfast we received a message that our car would arrive at 2.00 pm to take us to the coach that would eventually take us to the wedding. The lady's are waiting for their hairdresser to arrive. The hairdresser was laid on by the royal court and also came to the hotel to do their hair the previous afternoon: I had a drink while I was waiting on them getting ready.

We arrived at the cathedral by coach and police escort. The people were lining the streets and were waving at everything that moved. They were delighted when we waved back. When we left the coach we had a slow stately walk along the red carpet to the clattering of media camera lenses.

"I was unable to wave to the people because cause I had a lady on both arms".



The Royal Procession

In the cathedral Mary's family were on the left and Frederick's family and heads of state were on the right, directly opposite.

Sitting directly behind us was His Royal Highness Prince Edward and HRH Princess Sophie. Mary was traditionally late by 10 minutes and Frederick had a tear in his eye as she walked down to meet him. The ceremony was amazing.

"Back on the coach and under a heavy police escort we had a fast drive to Fredensborg Palace where the banquet would be held. We were presented to Her Majesty the Queen, the Prince Consort, Frederick and Mary; then on to the banquet marquee". Notice Mr & Mrs Syme in the background during the cutting of the cake.



Cutting the Royal Cake

"We arrived back at the hotel at 5.00 am, shattered but the adrenalin was flowing which made it difficult to sleep".

"This trip has been a once in a lifetime event, from the moment we were met at the aircraft steps to our departure from the Royal lounge, we were treated like Royalty. It has been an honour and a privilege to be part of it and we look forward to the christening of Frederick and Mary's first child".

"This trip has been a once in a lifetime event,"

In the Driving Seat

EKGTA's ongoing European Computer Driving Licence programme continues, with some comments from our recent success stories.

"As a mature engineering apprentice I found the skills learned through the ECDL qualification very helpful and will be of great benefit to me as I progress through the work required for my apprenticeship. I am not afraid of the computer now!"
Graham Hill, Rolls Royce PLC

"As the IT Trainer for Robert Wiseman Dairies I plan to offer the ECDL qualification to Wiseman employees. As part of the 'plan' I have completed the ECDL qualification myself to assess its merits, I think it is a great qualification for anyone to gain, giving a broad range of skills, I would recommend it to anyone. Thanks to the EKGTA for their continued support and assistance".
Carole Chalmers, Robert Wiseman Dairies



Rolls Royce adult apprentice, Graham Hill receives his ECDL certificate from EKGTA General Manager Stuart Waugh

Happy smiles all round as Carole Chalmers of Robert Wiseman Dairies receives her ECDL certificate from Brian Boyle EKGTA's Customer Liaison Officer



I.E.E 16th Edition Regulations now at EKGTA

EKGTA is pleased to announce the latest edition to its training portfolio.

We are now approved to run the City & Guilds scheme 2381 Certificate in the Requirements for Electrical Installations (BS7671: June 2001) The course is more familiarly known as the IEE Wiring Regulations 16th Edition.

The course is designed for Electrical Engineers involved in the installation of Electrical equipment and is recognised as a desirable qualification for all Electrical Personnel.

The training course has been developed by Jack Gilmour our Electrical Training Instructor. Jack and Jim Holmes recently undertook and passed the qualification themselves.

Jack stated "This is the third time I have passed the exam for the IEE regulations and Jim has passed it twice"

The reason for sitting the exam was to give Jack and Jim an understanding of the latest amendments to the regulations.

The course run by Jack at EKGTA is delivered over 3 days and covers all aspects of the regulations. Candidates on the course are also registered with City & Guilds and sit the exam at the centre on dates and times set by the awarding body. The exam consists of a multiple choice question paper with a duration of 2 hours.

Jack states: "This course is a welcome edition to our training portfolio and should prove very useful for our customers"

We have already received several enquiries and have now arranged a further two courses.

For further details on this or any other courses contact: Derek Syme on 01355-229985

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Each team will be responsible for deciding who does what (main functions), drawing-up a project plan, negotiating resources, time, facilities, ordering material, working to a budget, designing & manufacturing certain components, assembling the completed project and finally preparing and presenting a report on the project.

Teams will be assessed on their performance and the culmination of the training and project work will be the presentation to the best overall team of the Chairman's Award.

This change has meant lots of hard work and effort on the part of the Training Unit. They have had to change their approach, tighten delivery schedules, produce new assessments which are usable parts, enhance our monitoring/review systems, and undertake personal development in preparation for the delivery of the revised programme.

Derek Syme states " we believe this will enhance the training experience by making it challenging, interesting, meaningful, realistic and fun". Ultimately EKGTA hopes our clients will get a better product as a result.

National Apprenticeship Competition

Every year the Scottish Group Training Association in conjunction with SEMTA hold a National competition which is designed to recognise exceptional achievement of 1st year engineering apprentices. This year the competition has attracted some 25 apprentices from all over Scotland and will be run at Peterhead on 16th June 04.

After careful consideration against a strict criterion, David Dick, an apprentice with QinetiQ has been selected to represent EKGTA. David was selected from over 70 trainees who attended EKGTA for foundation training from August last year.



David had this to say about being selected:

"Since joining EKGTA I have exceeded my expectations not only in securing an apprenticeship but also being selected for this opportunity. I am pleased and proud to have been selected for this competition and hope to appear in the next newsletter holding the winners trophy."

Derek Syme, Training Manager said:

"This is a great achievement for David. He started with us as a non-employed skillseeker, but it was apparent from all the reports received from his instructors, that he was destined for greater things. Our client companies have also been impressed by David and he secured an apprenticeship with QinetiQ here in East Kilbride".

"David's chosen subject for the competition will be vertical milling and hand skills (fitting) and we are quietly confident that he will do well"

EKGTA have a good track record in this competition having previously secured a 1st, 2nd and 4th place over the last 5 years.

"Since joining EKGTA I have exceeded my expectations "