

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

- Qualification Firsts
- Plasser Machinery Ltd
- Deadlines Approaching

New Qualification First for EKGTA



Stuart Waugh, Alan Ross, Jim Lewars

Pictured left is Alan Ross – Apprentice Supervisor in Weir Pumps Ltd, Cathcart, Glasgow being congratulated by Stuart Waugh – General Manager, East Kilbride Group Training Association Ltd (EKGTA).

Alan is the first candidate from EKGTA to successfully attain a Modern Apprenticeship in Management Certificate.

The achievement of this prestige award is the culmination of Alan having successfully completed The Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) – Introductory Certificate

in Management and an EMTA Awards Ltd SVQ Level 3 in Management. Alan attended a series of workshops held at EKGTA on topics such as Team Building, Time and Stress Management, Leadership, Communication Skills, Problem Solving and Managing Change. Alan then had to prove competency in the application of these subjects and other Management skills in the workplace.

This programme was delivered through EKGTA in conjunction with Scottish Enterprise.

There are currently 30 Management candidates working towards completion of this programme and EKGTA will be accepting nominations for the next programme which is due to commence in April 2005.

If you are interested in being registered on this programme or would like further information regarding the above please contact Jim Lewars at EKGTA on 01355 229985

New Website Launch

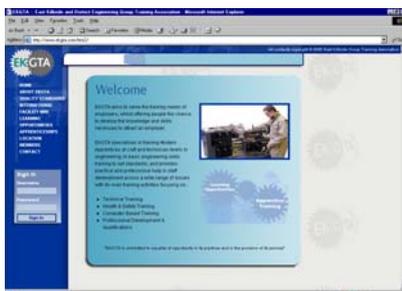
The World-Wide-Web and the associated benefits of e-mail systems are becoming increasingly important communication tools for all businesses.

EKGTA recognises the valuable assistance our Web Site can provide to employers and learners who are seeking information on our training, courses or qualifications or Apprenticeship Training programmes. Over the last three months we have carried out an extensive review of the facilities available through EKGTA's site.

The launch of the new look Website is scheduled for March 2005. We hope visitors will find the new site both informative and interesting. Among the new features is the ability to download our

Newsletter *impact* direct. Another feature is the Members section which will allow representatives to view relevant information such as Minutes of Meetings, profiles of other Member Companies, make suggestions for improvements or changes and most importantly review their current status for the recruitment of apprentices with EKGTA.

for further information regarding the above please contact Brian Boyle at EKGTA on 01355 229985



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Company Training Spotlight— Plasser Machinery Parts & Services Ltd



Plasser Machinery Parts & Services are acknowledged market leaders in the field of technical services, machine overhauls and spare parts supply for the extensive range of Plasser & Theurer track maintenance machines. Speedy and efficient emergency call out service, day-to-day maintenance work, as well as performance related maintenance contracts are provided for our customers. Since 1957 the company has been in the UK supporting the rail industry users of Plasser & Theurer track machines.

Since 1953 when the first Tamping machine was built in Austria more than 11,000 heavy duty machines have been supplied to 96 Countries. Today machines are produced in 14 countries by a work force of over 3,000 Worldwide. In 1997 the company set up a small service group in Scotland, which started with 2 engineers. This has now grown to 8 and 3 apprentices with admin support and management at our out base depot in East Kilbride, which supports our products in Scotland, North England and Ireland. Our head office is situated in West Ealing, London on 5-Acre site, which has one of the most up to date rail linked Workshops in the country.

Our Scottish apprentices have all started their careers and learning at EKGTA where the centre has provided a great grounding structure to these apprentices, providing them with the core beginnings (basic knowledge and skills) to an engineering career with continuous support throughout their apprenticeship years in the field.



www.eurailpress.com

Contact: Gerry McDevitt
Tel: 01355 264777



Happy Retiral Bill



The picture on the left shows L to R Bill McDougall – Section Leader, Langside College Building and Engineering Technology Department along with Anne Taylor , Weir Pumps Ltd and Jim Lewars EKGTA on the occasion of Bill's retirement from the College on 28th January 2005.

Bill has had a long and helpful relationship with EKGTA over the years in the delivery of Further Education programmes / qualifications and recently was involved in the setting up of the EKGTA / Langside partnership arrangements whereby lecturers from Langside College deliver the SQA National Certificate curriculum in EKGTA's centre for their apprentices.

Bill was the main contact between EKGTA, our member companies and Langside College Engineering Department giving advice and assistance to ensure that all apprentices are given every opportunity to successfully complete their studies and attain their qualification.

We wish Bill good health and a long and happy retirement.

Make it in Scotland

For three days in January 2005 EKGTA were amongst eighteen other companies who attended a careers event at Hampden Park organised by Careers Scotland to promote Engineering as a career and help second year pupils to choose the appropriate Standard Grade subjects for a career in Engineering.

Brian Boyle – EKGTA , Customer Liaison Officer, (the one with the grey hair and dimples) is pictured giving advice to pupils from St Lukes High school on how to assemble and test a pneumatic cylinder. Brian was assisted over the three days by a number of the first year apprentices currently in our Training Centre. Pictured on the far right is Brian Wynn from Anderson Precision Gears.



There were fifteen schools and 2400 pupils involved over the three days of this event. This is the third in a series of events being held throughout Scotland and EKGTA was pleased to have been invited to attend the events in our region in order to influence these pupils towards a career in Engineering.

Another New Qualification First for EKGTA

EKGTA's long association with Inland Revenue Scotland was further cemented recently by the successful completion of the Scottish Vocational Qualification in Customer Services by one of IRS's staff. The picture below shows the first of the successful candidates, Wendy Clark receiving her certificate from Drew Alexander one of EKGTA's training advisors / assessors. Drew was delighted with Wendy's success as it was the first SVQ in Customer Services at level 2 to be achieved through the submission of an Electronic portfolio.



Drew Alexander, Wendy Clark, John Aiton (IRS Learning Manager)

Drew commented on the commitment, enthusiasm and desire shown by Wendy throughout the duration of assessment. *" I did enjoy this experience as I felt "This was new territory for all concerned". The support from all the training staff and the dedication from Wendy made this project a very enjoyable experience indeed". Wendy commented on the concept of gathering evidence electronically and how much it help her with her computing skills. "I did enjoy this experience as I felt my job role reflected the requirements of this qualification, I also learned some new computer skills which was a good spin-off from the project".*

Jean Ferguson who is one of the Learning Specialists at IRS and was very instrumental in setting up these qualification, expressed her delight that her vision of introducing nationally recognised qualification to the Revenue is taking place. Jean stated "these

qualifications demonstrate our desire to achieve nationally recognised certification, where in the past, certification was provided in-house by Inland revenue, which was not portable".

Wendy has since gained promotion to band D and is now based in Edinburgh.

Meet the Trainees

As a part of our regular relationship with Libyan trainees, we at EKGTA were pleased to welcome the latest arrival to our shores

Mr Naser D Alssanusi, an employee of Sirte Oil Company, is attending to complete a Maintenance Management and Planning course. Naser who has been employed with the company for 31 years has recently been promoted to the position of Supervisor in the companies Maintenance Department, concentrating mainly in the Welding and Fabrication aspects of their maintenance needs.

Despite his many years experience as a welder, Sirte's Training Manager felt Naser would benefit from the training EKGTA offers in this area and has provided to many Sirte employees in the past.

This is Naser's first visit to Scotland and so far he is enjoying his stay and the opportunity to meet new people, but is not too sure about the weather, in fact one of his first purchases when he arrived was a warm woollen hat!



Derek Brown welcomes Naser to EKGTA

New Blood at EKGTA



A new group of Non-employed apprentices started their foundation training programme on 10 Jan 05. The eight lads who come mostly from the East Kilbride area were selected from 42 applicants that were interviewed. They are now 5 weeks into their programme and already they are making a good impression. Most have got very good standard grades from school and some have higher grades too.

During their training programme they will learn about Health and Safety in an engineering environment, Working with others on engineering activities, Communicating technical information, Identifying and selecting engineering materials, Fitting using hand tools. Machining engineering materials, Electrical wiring and testing and much more. In a few weeks these lads will be available for work placement and our aim will be to secure a Modern Apprenticeship in Engineering for them.

If you are interested in the work placement programme, please contact : *Drew Alexander at EKGTA. 01355 229985*

Deadlines Approaching

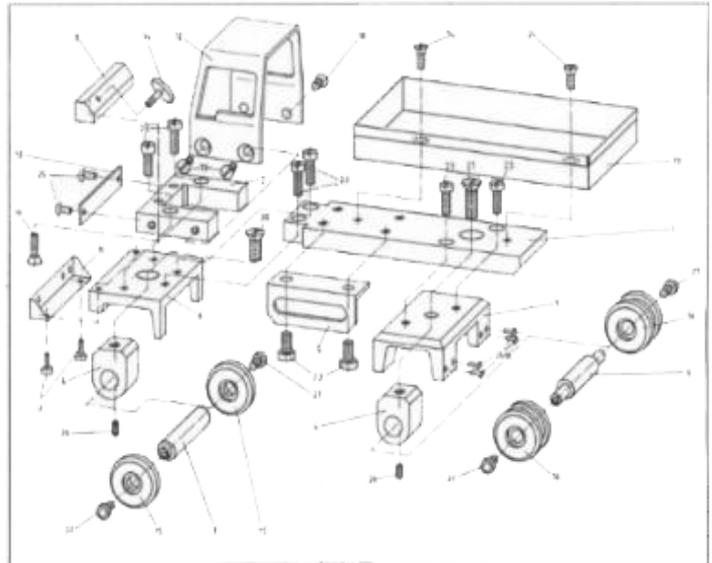
Our many readers will recall from the information provided in a previous issue of "impact" that as part of the foundation training for all apprentices a team based project, which has a competitive element as well as a practical purpose, has been introduced to consolidate the learning, which apprentices undergo over their 26-week training programme.

Many of the apprentices are due to leave the centre on the 25th February 2005 so there is a real buzz about the place as a number of deadlines approach.

Each team project submitted by the various apprentices will be assessed by a panel comprising of EKGTA's Chairman, EKGTA's Training Workshop Manager and two senior engineers from Weir Pumps Ltd & Rolls-Royce.

The timetable for this event is as follows:

16 Feb	-	Completed projects to Mentors
17 Feb	-	Mentors complete their summary
18 Feb	-	Project reports to the assessment panel
23 Feb	-	Teams present their project to the assessment panel
24 Feb	-	Award ceremony
25 Feb	-	Winning team enjoy their reward.



On conclusion the project judged the best project overall will be recognised by the presentation of the new EKGTA Chairman's Award to the winning team.

EKGTA's Annual Award ceremony is scheduled for 24th February 2005 and this ceremony will include presentations to the winners of various 1st year skill categories awards and also the Apprentice of the Year award for the best final year apprentice.

The winning team will participate in a corporate event organised by ScotKart in Cambuslang.

If you would like further details regarding EKGTA awards, please contact

Derek Syme, Training Manager on 01355 229985 or e-mail drs@ekgta.com

Champion in the Making

Mark Stewart, a Rolls Royce apprentice who is carrying out his foundation training at EKGTA, recently won a Bronze medal in the 18-20 Male Junior Kata. This was an International open Karate competition and was held in London's Crystal Palace on 21 – 23 January 2005.



Mark Stewart Rolls-Royce

Mark has been involved in the sport for some 10 years now and has achieved 1st Dan. He is no stranger to competition either and has won many prizes over the years. Mark has been selected to represent Scotland at the European Championships, which will be held in the PAOK Sports Arena, Athens from the 8th to the 14th of February 2005.

"It is a great honour to represent your country in a sport you love"

His ambition is the represent Scotland in the World Championships next year.

Mark says, "It is a great honour to represent your country in a sport you love, but it's very difficult as there is no national funding to help with the expenses I would like to thank Rolls Royce for allowing me time off to attend these National events".

We are sure Mark has the grit and determination to succeed in his ambition and we wish him every success.