

Rigid

Directors Report — Richard Coward

Breaking records!



Now well into the final quarter of the year, we have seen a period of sustained recovery from the tentative start to the year — so much so that we have been breaking a number of records! With the work that has been done by Les Swanick and his team in Desborough, working closely with Steve Roche and the team at Selby,

we have managed to beat both our 'output for one day' record — at 448,000 sqm — and break the 2 million sqm in one week at Desborough for the first time. At Selby, two of our recently installed converting machines are performing exceptionally well. The Göpfert rotary die-cutter has converted over 14.4 million sqm of board in the first 10 months of 2009 (more than the whole of 2008!) and the Tanabe speciality folder gluer has produced more boxes by the end of October than the whole of last year. This has contributed to Rigid's best ever sales volume month in October. Congratulations to all involved!

Sales volume does not of course tell the whole story. September saw a substantial rise in raw material costs, which was followed by another increase in early November. With tight margins in the industry, these will have to be passed on. However, we do believe that with our total dedication to providing a high level of service to customers through our 'stock and serve' offering, the impact of these increases can be minimised through the use of efficient manufacturing volumes.

So as we approach the end of 2009, we have an increased confidence that the beginnings of a recovery are evident, and we believe that Rigid stands well placed to support its customers during this period and prosper from this increased level of activity

On behalf of the Management team at Rigid, I would like to thank everyone for their continued hard work and wish you all a very happy and healthy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Kerrygold goes with Rigid for RRP solutions

Partnership goes from strength to strength

Increasing numbers of major brand owners are still turning to Rigid for added value solutions in the design and supply of Retail-Ready Packaging (RRP), and these include The Kerrygold Company Limited.

Printed in up to four colours, the attractive, dual-role RRP cases are stocked by Rigid to provide daily call-off deliveries to Kerrygold's new £30 million, state-of-the-art cheese packing facility.

This vital service reflects Rigid's continued investment in strengthening its highly-developed supply chain management and

logistics facilities at the company's extensive Desborough and Selby plants. These sophisticated operations offer customers unrivalled turnaround times, which are essential in today's fast and challenging retail environment.

As with many of its customers, Rigid has worked closely with Kerrygold on RRP design and corrugated case re-engineering to help rationalise stock holdings, improve pallet utilisation and to generate increased efficiencies and valuable cost savings.

Rigid is acknowledged as a UK pioneer in the development, testing and supplying of a wide variety of RRP solutions. As with Kerrygold, this has involved helping customers benefit from innovative and ground breaking designs, which provide stronger and easier to assemble, fill and display RRP.



A parachute rescue!

Understanding the pressures on suppliers and manufacturers during the busy festive period, we will once again be providing customers with a 'parachute service' — emergency supplies of packaging in ultra-quick lead times. This service is particularly geared for companies experiencing large and sudden increases in demand for products over Christmas. Call our sales team for more information about this service!



“No Job is so important that it can’t be done safely”

This is the belief of the management of our parent company — VPK Packaging — and it has been whole heartedly adopted by Rigid’s management team and employees throughout the company.

VPK Group Health and Safety Manager, Richard Lancaster, says that Rigid Containers has continued to invest in best practice measures in health and safety at both its operating plants. “The management teams are committed to ensuring further health and safety improvements are made throughout the company. This is to reduce the risk of accidents and ill health to its employees, visitors and contractors that work or visit these plants,” he explains.

Richard continues, “At the Desborough site, there has been a major review of the health and safety policy, risk assessments, machinery engineering control measures, control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH), safety training and job task training. From this review, all the converting machines and associated manual job tasks have been re-assessed to ensure that all the hazards have been identified and suitable measures have been put in place to eliminate them — or at least control down to an acceptable, low level risk.

“A new COSHH software management programme has been

developed to further assist our management team to control the use of substances hazardous to health.”

Explaining work undertaken at Selby, Richard adds, “We have continued to build on the already successful health and safety management system, with reviews of risk assessments and the site health and safety action plan to ensure they stay on course to further reduce accidents and ill health at the site.”

Richard concludes his report, praising the hard work of all site personnel and management at both plants, who continue to work and manage safely. “I also want to say a huge ‘well done’ to all the line management at the Desborough plant for successfully passing the IOSH Managing Safely qualification. They were Phil Foster, Andy Crook, Darren Tebbutt, Paul Eden, Wayne Sharpe, Moira Anger, Ian Brown, Evelyn Brown, Chris Nunley, Jason Milligan, Nathan Thompson, Chris Stewart, Ian Constable, Steve Nixon, John Bruce, Stuart Martin and Ian Clipston.”



CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES...

	DESBOROUGH PRODUCTION	SELBY PRODUCTION	SALES OFFICE
Tue 22nd Dec	24 hour operation	24 hour operation	8.00am - 6.00pm
Wed 23rd Dec	6.00am - 12.00am	6.00am - 8.00pm	8.00am - 5.30pm
Thurs 24th Dec	Closed	Closed	9.00am - 1.00pm
Fri 25th Dec	Bank Holiday	Bank Holiday	Bank Holiday
Sat 26th Dec	Bank Holiday	Bank Holiday	Bank Holiday
Sun 27th Dec	Closed	Closed	Closed
Mon 28th Dec	Bank Holiday	Bank Holiday	Bank Holiday
Tues 29th Dec	8.00am - 4.00pm	8.00am - 4.00pm	9.00am - 1.00pm
Wed 30th Dec	8.00am - 4.00pm	8.00am - 4.00pm	9.00am - 1.00pm
Thurs 31st Dec	8.00am - 4.00pm	8.00am - 4.00pm	9.00am - 1.00pm
Fri 1st Jan	Bank Holiday	Bank Holiday	Bank Holiday
Sat 2nd Jan	Closed	Closed	9.00am - 1.00pm
Sun 3rd Jan	Closed	Closed	Closed
Mon 4th Jan	24 hour operation	24 hour operation	8.00am - 6.00pm

Student Starpack award for Laura

The corrugated sector has often struggled to attract the best designers and innovators due to our reputation as an industry that makes brown boxes. However, we were delighted to do our bit in helping the future of our industry, by assisting a talented young student recently. When approached at a recent exhibition, we were more than happy to help in whatever way we could. Laura Busby is studying design at Wolverhampton College and decided to enter the Student Starpack Awards competition. One of her tasks was to work with a packaging company and create an innovative, useful tool for everyday use. Laura decided to develop a desk tidy for stationery equipment, made from corrugated. We naturally offered her our full support when we met at the exhibition. On visiting Desborough, we discussed the model she had produced, focusing on our ability to produce this design from a production and commercial aspect. A full drawing was



created for this multi piece, complex design. Samples in E flute board confirmed its viability. These will be used to demonstrate the process of “concept through to production on a commercial basis.” Laura also had a tour of the Desborough factory, gaining a useful insight into how her design would be produced. Throughout the process, Kevin Steed, Technical Manager at Rigid, was on hand to assist where he could. He tells us, “After submitting her entry and waiting for the results, I am delighted to confirm that she won the competition. It is so nice to have been able to help out a promising young student like Laura and we wish her all the best with her career.” Huge congratulations from us all here at Rigid.



Laura with her winning design, Storitz, and left, receiving her prize from a Starpack representative

Golf — helping raise money for charity

We were delighted to assist in raising almost £20,000 a few months ago for The Urostomy Association, by entering a team into a celebrity golf day at the Harleyford Golf Club near Marlow. After an initial qualifying day at a local course, three members of our team — Tom Graham, Iain Sinclair and Tim Wright (pictured below) — were selected to represent the company in an event organised by Dennis Waterman and Brunton Publications. The team was joined by former England cricketer Roger Tolchard for the day. Many companies from the corrugated industry were represented at the event and the Rigid team scored a respectable 69 points to make the cut for next year. The team received good support on the day from Iain’s family including fellow Rigid



employee Patricia Sinclair, and enjoyed the chance to rub shoulders with the likes of Robert Powell, Kenny Lynch, George Cole, Warren Clarke, Martin O’Neill and Russ Abbott amongst others during the evening.

In other golfing news — a competition has taken place recently at Selby and it is hoped that The Wilson & Tasker Memorial Trophy will now be held on an annual basis following the success of the inaugural event. Rigid was asked if it would provide a trophy because the event is being held in memory of two former employees. The company kindly agreed to provide the trophy and the date and venue were arranged.

Held on Sunday 11th October at the Thornhirst Manor Golf and Country Club, 10 players took part on a day when the sun shone and the wind blew, but thankfully saw no rain. The event took a ‘Stableford format’, with each player playing off $\frac{3}{4}$ handicap.

The day was full of fun and enjoyment and we felt we had to report on a few of the day’s highlights, including: Wayne Pearce’s first tee shot launching sideways out of bounds; golf buggy driving ability (or lack of!) of Graeme Jackson and Gary Smith and Darren Crossland taking the ‘nearest the pin’ competition on the 145 yard 8th hole over water — well done Darren!

Overall it was a close fought competition but the honours were taken by Paul Simpson who scored 35 points playing off a 12 handicap, closely followed by Graeme with 31 points off a 21 handicap. Special thanks go to Chris Herbert and Paul for all their hard work in organising this event and to Darren for organising the trophies. Everyone commented on how enjoyable the day had been and anyone is welcome to take part next year.

people news... people news... people news... people news...

Great North Run success

Ersilia Gibbons, one of a growing band of regular runners, took part in the recent Great North Run. As with her previous runs, she undertook the event for charity, this time raising much needed funds for the Lakelands Hospice. We are delighted to report that she raised a total of £812.50 for the charity, a great achievement in its own right. Ersilia tells us, "It was great fun with a great atmosphere and I got round in 2 hours 21 minutes, a little slower than I had hoped for. I want to send out a huge thank you to everyone at Rigid for their enormous generosity — it was really nice of everyone, especially as I've only been with the company a short time. I'm definitely going to do it again next year!" Pictured are Ersilia and her husband, Liam, handing over a cheque to the charity.



Siobhan on the move

The Operations Team would like to wish **Siobhan Barratt** good luck in her new role in Credit Control. Over the past three years, Siobhan has proved to be a real asset to the Department and we have no doubt that she will continue to excel in her new role. The Team would also like to take the opportunity to welcome **Kiera Richens** into the Planning Department. In the few short weeks that Kiera has been here, she has shown great promise and looks set to be a valuable member of the team.

Wedding bells – Down Under!

Darren Tebbutt, Nightshift Manager at our Desborough facility, sends news of his forthcoming marriage to **Debbie Wing**. On 29th December, Darren is set to 'tie the knot' with Debbie, who is a member of the nightshift converting team at Desborough. The wedding will take place in Sydney, Australia, with a honeymoon to follow in Las Vegas. Best of luck — and don't lose too much money in Vegas!

Success for Kestrels

John Petch, Corrugator A Shift Supervisor at our Desborough site, is Manager of the Kingswood Kestrels Under 10's team, a local football team that is sponsored by the company. He sends us the following news: "This is our fourth season as a club. We play in the Weetabix small sided league, which is a friendly league with no table. We start playing 11 a-side next



year, when it becomes more competitive for the kids on the teams. Outside of the Weetabix small sided league, we have played in some competitive tournaments. Our most notable success was winning the 'Aztec' last year and the 'Grammarians' this year." Keep up the hard work with the teams John, well done.

Celebrity spotting

When **Rachel Rhodes** popped into Thomas the Bakers in Selby for a sliced loaf and a cheese sandwich, she got a lot more than she bargained for. Standing behind her in the queue was none other than crooner of the moment, James Morrison! James was in town visiting his brother-in-law — proving that Selby is a cool place to hang out after all.



And finally....

Claire Medhurst has been 'shaking the collection tins' in aid of The Breast Cancer Campaign and its Pink Day — she informs us the event raised an amazing £304.50. "I'm so proud of everyone who donated, thank you!" exclaims Claire. "We did a month of fund raising including a dress down day and a caption competition," she continues. "We also had some muffins donated by **Speedibake** — many thanks to them — and a mixture of flapjacks, muffins and shortbread from **Quorn Country Foods** — again, huge thanks for your support too." A job well done!

about us

Who we are

Rigid Corrugated is part of VPK Packaging Group - one of the fastest growing independent European manufacturers of recycled paper and corrugated cases with an annual turnover of some €480 million. Apart from the UK, it has a network of operating plants in Belgium, Holland, France, Poland and Romania.

In recent years the Group, (which is listed on the Belgium stock exchange), has evolved from a product-focused organisation to a service organisation, concentrating on customers' specific needs in terms of tailored packaging solutions, supply chain optimisation and just-in-time deliveries.

Part of VPK since 2000, Rigid Containers has been an industry pioneer in meeting the demands of the modern supply chain in the UK by introducing innovative, integrated manufacturing and logistics facilities with large warehousing capabilities for an unrivalled outstanding ex-stock service.

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