

# MHEA Matters

Issue 06 January 2010



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[www.mhea.co.uk](http://www.mhea.co.uk)

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## MHEA Has a new President !

### Brian Mackenzie

Brian is Managing Director of Materials Handling Products based in Swadlincote

It is now my privilege and honour to take over the presidency of this historic organisation.

I do have a little pedigree in the business in that my great grandfather was area engineer for the Bedlington coal company and took out the patent for the hot metal method of attaching the pit cage to the winding cable, a development no doubt appreciated by many. According to Graham Leason my late uncle was the design guru at the Cable Belt Co in Australia whilst at the same time his brother was the senior design engineer at the NCB workshops in Ashington at a time when Ashington was the coal capital of the world. As for me I fitted my first conveyor belt in 1973 and for the past 20 years have focussed on screening and abrasion resistance in minerals processing. I have known our current secretary for at least that 20 years and look forward to working with him and our aforementioned vice president to take the association forwards in the future.

I do appreciate the tremendous contribution and dedication brought, voluntarily, to the MHEA by all of those who serve on the executive, and one of my intentions for this presidency is to make more use of that irreplaceable experience. I do not accept the view that we are in decline as an industry as I tried to illustrate at Bretby, just changed and different. As an SME operator myself I do intend to champion the cause of smaller member companies who, after all, make up the majority of most industries and also to bring to the fore the often hidden giants such the several power transmission companies who have given such tremendous support to the MHEA over many years.

Brian Mackenzie  
President MHEA

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## What's On in MHEA !

Check out below new and forthcoming events in MHEA, make a note in your diary now.

### MHEA Business Forum Next Meeting February 25<sup>th</sup> Bretby

Following on from the great success of the first MHEA business forum meeting held on the 24 September the Executive Committee is pleased to announce the next event will be held on Thursday 25 February at the Bretby Conference Centre. The theme for the event is Cement and the speakers will come from the Cement Industry. As we move out of recession this sector is expected to see a return to growth offering opportunities for our Industry

The event will continue on the theme of promoting business through the MHEA and there will be an opportunity for Member Companies to give a presentation on the Products and Services, companies interested in presenting should contact the Secretary.

We are also offering advertising space in the conference hall and dining area, please contact the Secretary for more information.

The venue will again be at the Bretby Conference centre near Burton-On-Trent in the centre of England. This is a great opportunity to Network with fellow members and find out what's happening in your industry

See inside for a review of the first event and watch out for the flyer / registration form

### MHEA Web Site

The new Web Site is progressing well and it is hoped to go live beginning of January 2010. The site will launch in a basic form and will expand as we add the various options in the future. It will be fully searchable with a full members listing plus a product category search facility. Watch out for further information on the activation and make sure you let the Secretary have your company and product details

### Bulk2010

The dates for Bulk2010 are 13-14 May 2010 at the Hilton Hotel Blackpool. Why not consider offering a paper, watch out for the Call for papers flyer. The event is a must for all MHEA members so put it in your dairy now.

# Review of MHEA Business Forum Meeting

Meet the Power Industry

September 24th 2009 at the Bretby Conference Centre

Web: [www.mhea.co.uk](http://www.mhea.co.uk)



Busy time at the reception desk !

This first event attracted 50 members who came and saw presentations from RWE Npower and E.ON. In addition two MHEA members companies gave presentations on their products and services. The audience was also updated on what's happening in MHEA, both from the Executive committee and on the Strategic review which we are currently undertaking.

## Highlights from the September Business Forum Meeting

### Opening

MHEA President Steve Clewley welcomed the 50 delegates to the inaugural MHEA business forum meeting at the Bretby Conference Centre. Steve spoke about the need for any Trade Association to be able to offer real tangible benefits to its members, not only technical assistance but commercial as well. The response to the first event showed that MHEA had listened to its membership and offered up an event which had sparked such a strong response from the membership. Nick Garthwaite also took the opportunity of updating the audience on the progress the MHEA Strategy Review, tangible benefits are now starting to emerge and as Nick mentioned the Business Forum meeting was as a result of the review .

### Presentations from the Power Industry

#### Alan Meyers - RWE Npower

##### What does an end user require of the MHEA?

Alan Myers RWE npower Engineering's Corporate Materials Handling Engineer delivered a presentation tackling the title 'What does an end user require of the MHEA?' The presentation tackled the question from two fronts. Firstly, ways in which the MHEA could consider increasing its visibility to existing members and parties outside of the MHEA with the aim of securing new business for MHEA members, secondly, providing an insight into potential materials handling opportunities within RWE npower in the coming years, also touching on activities currently being undertaken by RWE Power in Europe.



#### Andy Archer - E.ON

##### Opportunities for Bulk Materials Handling

Andy's presentation described what opportunities may arise for the bulk materials handling industry in the UK due to E.ON's new build programme for Coal and biomass fired power stations. The way in which these projects would be managed was described and ways in which suppliers may be able to contribute were outlined.



The Executive Committee would like to thank both Alan & Andy for two superb presentations to launch the first MHEA Business Forum meeting.



### Member Company Presentations

#### Materials Handling Products Ltd

##### Brian Mackenzie - MD and current MHEA President

Midlands lining, spillage and screen media specialist Materials Handling Products Ltd (MHP) gave a presentation of their own activity and project



work and some observations on the problems encountered by plant engineers on commissioning new plant and equipment.

Following the contraction of the UK OEM sector, post coal, many projects are designed by overseas manufacturers who may not have sufficient local knowledge of the material characteristics to be handled. Financial constraints may restrict the selection of the most appropriate

downstream equipment, particularly for spillage control, and unforeseen problems will inevitably arise post commissioning. This has resulted in the growth of a range of SME's who's business is the resolution of these problems. Unfortunately earlier "economies", or even the deliberate transfer of essential equipment to the users maintenance account, sometimes restricts the effectiveness of later re-engineering.



The presentation was illustrated by discussion of a range of recent projects in the fields of extreme abrasion handling crushed blast furnace slag, quarry dump truck linings, anti blinding screen media, belt cleaning on carbon plant in the aluminium industry and conveyor enclosures. Often the problem had serious H & S implications which necessitated an effective solution. In each case the characteristics of the technical solutions served as an illustration of best practice.

#### Siemens VAI

##### Peter Stoddard - Sales Manager Stockton

Peter presented a paper entitled 'Being a Customer and a Supplier - The challenges we all face winning work' The presentation outlined the challenges faced by us all in today's economy, both the Supplier and the Customer and posed some very interesting questions and debate



Also at the conference were MHEA Media partner HUB-4 The attached photo shows MHEA Secretary Peter Webster being interviewed by Daren Thomas from HUB-4



Contact the Secretary for further Information on the event and on future events

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# MHEA Gains 3 New Members !

## George Robson (Conveyors) Ltd



Robson a family company for over three generations. The company has built an enviable reputation for 100 years for the design, manufacture, installation and commissioning of robust, reliable, Bulk Material Handling Conveyor systems. Producing a vast range of products to suit many industries. Able to produce bespoke designs for every application. Including systems for the Sugar, Cement and Glass, recycling environmental and Quarry and mining industries. Robson are specialist in the manufacture and installation of Airport Baggage Handling Systems and Airport Conveyors with major installations in airports worldwide. Robson has the equipment & expertise to design bespoke systems to suit customer needs worldwide.

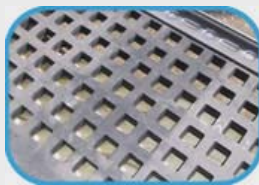


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## ConveyorTek Ltd



**ConveyorTek** is Northern Ireland's newest force in servicing and supplying conveyor components to the bulk-handling industry in the UK and Ireland.

**ConveyorTek** founding director Philip Trimble, brings 16 years experience in bulk handling equipment design, manufacture, installation and servicing to this Ballinderry based business



We have recently expanded our team to include several very experienced personnel including Brendan Meehan ROI, Malcolm Hanna NI as well as John McCall who joins the senior management team.

Working with world class suppliers, such as the Semperit Group, the team at **ConveyorTek** has invested in modern equipment and energy saving technologies. We believe that the investments which have been made will deliver improved results for our customers and safer, faster equipment for our employees.



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## RULMECA UK Ltd

### The RULMECA GROUP

*We are the worlds leading manufacturer and supplier of rollers, motorized pulleys and components for the global bulk materials handling market.*

RULMECA is a worldwide Group of Companies, specialising in the production of rollers/idlers, motorized pulleys, fabricated pulleys and other components for the worldwide bulk handling industry.

The Rulmeca Group's strengths include:

- Wide distribution networks in countries with a strong tradition in bulk handling due to their mining and quarrying activities; - Close relationships with customers and professional services;
- Manufacturing flexibility;
- Range of products focused on the needs of the bulk materials handling industry;
- A continuously expanding and evolving product range;
- Constant improvement in technical, design, and sales services; - A global market reach thanks to 10 manufacturing companies, 6 sales companies and 2 representative offices (Russia and Kazakhstan) with a total of 1160 people employed;
- A network of skilled agents ready to meet the needs of the market on a timely basis.

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# MHEA AGM



MHEA members travelled to Newcastle this year to attend the annual AGM. The turn out was brilliant with 26 Members attending the AGM and Site visit to the Port of Tyne.

A number of members took advantage and stayed over enjoying an excellent evening of wine and dining, the venue was exceptional with great views of the Tyne Bridge and river, a great time was had by all!

At the AGM Brian Mackenzie from Materials Handling Products was elected President of MHEA for a term of two years, Nick Garthwaite was elected Vice President. In addition it was agreed that the executive committee would be expanded by adding two ordinary members reflecting the increased membership of MHEA. Out going President Steve Clewley gave his yearly summary and finished by wishing Brian a successful and enjoyable term as president of MHEA. The full details of the AGM along with Steve's, Brian's and Secretaries reports will be available to members on the new web site at the beginning of January 2010. The AGM was followed by a Site Visit to the Port of Tyne arranged for MHEA by Brian Reeves from the Port of Tyne. The group firstly travelled on the north bank of the river to have a



brief visit to the new Tyne Tunnel which is being constructed as an Immersed tunnel. At the casting yard we viewed the immersed tunnel units which will form the river crossing element of the works. The main contractor for the scheme is Bouygues Travaux Publics and the immersed units are being subcontracted to Volker Stevin which is an Anglo-Dutch team onsite.



New Submersible sections for the Tunnel



Following this the group travelled onto the Port of Tyne for a full tour of all the ports facilities. Of particular interest was the Coal Handling Conveying Systems installed by MHEA Member company Continental Conveying. The day finished with a presentation of the Port handling Systems and the traditional question and answers session over a cup of Tyne Tea.



## Secretaries Corner:

This is the second-house News Letter which I hope you find informative and of interest.

As I mentioned would welcome stories / articles from the members regarding projects or business opportunities which can be shared. If you would like an article included please contact me.

We are also open for members to advertise in the newsletter, please contact the secretary for details, support the MHEA and promote your business!

Please feel free to circulate the news letter to colleagues and non member companies, we want MHEA to become the place to be in the Materials Handling World and there are lots of potential members out there who may not realise the benefits of membership, MHEA is changing and we want everyone in our industry to know about it.

We have several key events coming up, the Business Forum Meeting at the end of February and the design seminar in May, PLEASE support these events, its your MHEA!

Peter

## MHEA Summer Site Visit To Imerys St Austell



MHEA's summer site visit for 2009 was made to the Imerys operation at St Austell, Cornwall on July 15<sup>th</sup>. The popularity of the associations site visits was confirmed by the 18 corporate members who made the long journey to Sunny Cornwall. All were rewarded with an extremely interesting and enlightening visit.

Tour Guide Ivor Bowditch, Community and Public Relations Manager for Imerys Minerals Ltd took the group on a full guided tour of all the main facilities around the St Austell area starting at the China Clay Museum

which in itself is a very worthwhile visit. (for further information on the Museum visit their web site at <http://www.wheal-martyn.com>)

The group was firstly taken to look at one of the massive pits where the china clay is wet mined. In the "wet mining" process, a high pressure water jet is directed at the quarry face to dislodge the china clay and other minerals. This forms a clay slurry which after a first treatment process, is pumped to the top of the quarry and transported via a pipeline to a refinery plant.

Next stop was to have a look around the new Dry Mining Processing Plant at the Melbur Pit installed by member company Fairport Engineering. In the "dry mining" process, the whole kaolin matrix is mined by traditional mining methods in the quarry, then hauled by trucks to the slurry plant, therefore avoiding the energy intensive water recirculation within the pit. The overall energy savings achieved by the move to "dry mining" are expected to reduce the energy required for the production of ceramics kaolin by 60% per ton of clay produced.

Following this the group then visited the drying and processing plants before going on to the Port to view the Rail Unloading System and Ship loading facilities. The Ship loading originally took place at Par Docks but has now been moved to Fowey docks. Fowey is now the sole point of departure for all Imerys' clay. The clay arrives at the water's edge by pipeline in slurry form, rail or along Imerys' private road that was once the track bed of the railway linking the two harbours.



Dry Mining Plant