

anopol newsletter

Surface Treatment for Stainless Steel

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70 Bordesley St
Birmingham
B5 5QA
Tel: 0121 632 6888
Email: info@anopol.co.uk
Website: anopol.co.uk

In this issue

- 2nd Anniversary of the MBO
- Anopol's History – Pt 2
- Employee profile
- Cougartron Machine
- Brighten up your day

2nd Anniversary of the MBO at Anopol

July 30th 2015 marked the second anniversary of the management buyout of the Anopol group of companies by the management team led by Managing Director David Cass, together with Finance Director Adrian Dallaway and Engineering Director Philip Spears.

The two years since the buyout have seen a continued growth in the Anopol Group's activities as the new owners strive to build on the achievements of former owners John and Brian Swain, who have remained on board as directors to help consolidate Anopol's position as the premier provider of electropolishing and surface finishing services in the United Kingdom and maintain the standard of quality and customer service that the Anopol Group has long been known for and prided itself upon.

The next two years will be focused on further improvement in the processes and services offered to our customers, and a concerted drive to develop new surfaces treatment solutions and applications.



Anopol - Part 2, big changes afoot

It's 1971 and Anopol is operating from modest premises in Droitwich. There was, however a big plan. With financial assistance from the German parent company, the intention was to build premises on the new Droitwich industrial estate. Plans were drawn up and submitted to the Planning Department of Droitwich Council. A site on the industrial estate was allocated and the plans of the building approved. Then came the big stumbling block! The German parent company wanted the building to be built in stages as the company progressed. The initial stage was to house the offices and have an area for mixing chemicals. The parent company was not happy that we were carrying out sub-contract work for Cadbury. Their plan for Anopol was to mirror their activities in Germany, namely the sale of plant, to be made in Germany, and the marketing of chemical to their formulations. By now, the company had a regular, substantial order for one of these chemicals for supply to Ford Dagenham. The Planning Department was not prepared to allow the new premises to be built in stages. It was all or nothing.

As a consequence, the parent company suggested widening the search for a building site. Meanwhile, in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter, a derelict factory came onto the market. The asking price was £7,000 and this was to become the next location for Anopol's activities. The derelict building, originally a factory manufacturing pen nibs, was demolished for a price of £1,000, and the site cleared. Permission was granted to erect a temporary prefabricated building on the site. A concrete slab was laid and the building was ready to be occupied in 1972. The total floor area was 1,000 sq.ft. and 500 sq.ft. sectioned into two offices and a plant demonstration area. The rest was designated for chemical mixing and sub-contract electropolishing, mainly Cadbury chocolate moulds.



At around this time two companies were showing interest in purchasing a chemical electrolyte for electropolishing copper and brass. One of these was producing ladies powder compacts near Birmingham, and the other was manufacturing brass chandeliers in Brighton. Unfortunately, the chemical in question contained highly inflammable industrial alcohols. These alcohols were stored in a secure cabinet positioned well away from the main building. Because of the fire risk, John Swain elected to mix the chemical ingredients in a plastic mixing tank outside the building. He complained of getting high during the mixing, followed by bad headache. Business on all fronts was starting to



expand, especially the sub-contract side. The company now employed a secretary, two works' operatives and, of course the Swain brothers, soon to be joined by the first company chemist. The projects now taken on were becoming more adventurous. One example was a long cylindrical stainless steel fabrication, which required being electropolished internally and in a vertical position. The height of the fabrication made it necessary to remove some roof panels, so that some of it projected outside the building. (see photo)

By 1975 it had become apparent that Anopol's rapid growth could not be contained in the small prefabricated building. Amongst other things, the company needed to polish hundreds of investment castings daily, destined to become marine shackles. The search was on for larger premises in Birmingham.

(To be continued...)

Girl Friday

It had the makings of a big scandal with the headline: “Managing Director Tony Mustill of Anopol (South) Ltd has affair with a married employee”. We are happy to report that the employee’s name is Kay Mustill, wife to Tony for the past 37 years. Kay has been working by the side of her husband for over 3 years. During this time Kay has been a multitasker, duties ranging from answering the telephone, meeting customers with Tony and occasionally providing nourishments to visiting clients. As needs demand, she is not averse to also carrying out a little office cleaning. Kay and their 2 daughters form Tony’s main support team at home and at work.



Look under the bonnet. What bonnet?

One woman thought she had an “expanding petrol tank” because her fuel bill was rising. Another, who complained that her car was burning too much fuel on the motorway, did not realise that she had been in second gear for 100 miles.

Then there was the man who thought the tyre pressure needed checking when in fact the warning light was flashing because he was driving with the handbrake on. Whether it is the rules of the road or the basics of car maintenance, a survey of 2,000 drivers in Britain reveals an alarming degree of ignorance. One in ten drivers did not realise that they had to inflate their tyres with air and 21 per cent did not know which side of the car their petrol cap was on. One driver was under the impression that you could not drive on the motorway until you were 30 years of age. One in twenty were unaware that they had to fill up the screen wash. Some of those who did at least try to perform that routine task confessed that they had put the liquid in the oil tank instead. Others mistook air freshener for de-icer, almost one in four had driven the wrong way up a one-way street; and a quarter admitted filling up their tank with the wrong fuel.

The survey by the car retailer Evans Halshaw also revealed that 15 per cent of motorists have no idea how to open their car bonnet. When shown the symbol for the handbrake warning light, 20 per cent either said they did not know what it meant or guessed incorrectly; 40 per cent could not identify the engine coolant dashboard symbol, and 18 per cent did not know what the term “bald tyres” meant. A third of motorists said that they regularly drove around roundabouts twice because they were lost. More than half of those questioned did not know what MOT stood for and nearly one in ten did not know that cars older than three years needed one every year.

A spokesman for Evans Halshaw said, “Some of the misdemeanours drivers are guilty of are things we can all relate to, but lack of knowledge when it comes to basic vehicle maintenance can be vastly improved. The longer you have been driving, the easier it is to forget basic rules and many drivers do become complacent over time”. Leaving the handbrake on while driving was the most common failing, while mounting a kerb, running out of fuel mid-journey and turning the windscreen wipers on instead of the lights were other common mistakes that motorists admitted to.



Cougar stalks the UK and Ireland.

With the advent of small machines, which can remove weld oxide on stainless steel electrochemically, the market place is now flooded with an array of such functioning machines. One disadvantage has been reliability, which gave Anopol cause to seek out a machine which was robust, extremely reliable and, importantly, straight forward to use. For these reasons, Anopol chose to add the COUGARTRON machines to its range of products for cleaning weld oxide discolouration from stainless steel. The company has long been marketing its WELDKLEEN and MINIKLEEN units for cleaning welds. These machines operate by pumping a cleaning fluid to a pad at the end of a touch. The electrochemical action between the pad and the fluid produces an electrochemical action, which in turn removes the weld burn (oxide) from TIG welded seams and joints. Whilst operating, there is a continuous flow of solution to the pad.

The operating principle for the COUGARTRON range of weld cleaners is rather different. Instead of a pad, a carbon fibre brush is employed. This brush is dipped continuously into the cleaning fluid, which is then applied to the weld burn areas. The elevated power (amps) of this machine results in very rapid oxide removal, not only on TIG but also on MIG welds.



The COUGARTRON comes in two versions. The standard 'Cougartron Plus' cleans TIG and MIG weld oxides, whilst the 'Cougartron ProPlus' can also be used for electropolishing small stainless steel areas.

Did I really say that?

Elvis Presley is every bit as famous in death as he was in life, but try telling that to some of his early critics. Comic Jackie Gleason said in 1956 that Elvis 'can't last'. Writing in the *Daily Mail* Jack Payne opined, "Singing in any form is foreign to Elvis." While at the same period D.W.Brogan asked through the columns of the *Manchester Guardian*: "Who will sing 'Blue Suede Shoes' ten years from now?" Who indeed?

After his first gig, Presley was fired and told to rethink his choice of career. Jim Denny, booking clerk of the Grand Ole Opry club in Nashville told him in September 1954: "You ain't goin' anywhere son. You ought to go back to drivin' a truck."

The Beatles are still the biggest band there's been in pop music, though their success seemed by no means guaranteed to everyone. When manager Brian Epstein tried to interest the giant record label Decca, he got the terse reply: 'Go back to Liverpool, Me Epstein. Four-groups are out.'

Fellow musician Henry Mancini meanwhile suggested that the Beatles 'will never last'. After rowing with John Lennon, the group's original manager Allan Williams claimed: 'You'll never work again'.

IN BRIEF

Hedgehogs: Why can't they just share the hedge? *Dan Antopolski*

The fairways were so narrow you had to walk down them single file. *Sam Snead*

No good opera plot can be sensible, for people do not sing when they are feeling sensible. *W H Auden*

I'd rather play in front of a full house than an empty crowd. *Johnny Giles*

Rust's a Must

Mighty ships upon the ocean
Suffer from severe corrosion,
Even those that stay at dockside
Are rapidly becoming oxide.
Alas, that piling in the sea
is mostly Fe₃O₄,
And when the ocean meets the shore
You'll find there's Fe₃O₄,
'Cause when the wind is salt and gusty
Things are getting awful rusty.

We can measure, we can test it;
We can halt it or arrest it;
We can gather it and weigh it;
We can coat it, we can spray it;
We examine and dissect it;
We cathodically protect it.
We can pick it up and drop it,
But heaven knows, we'll never stop it.
So here's to rust: No doubt about it,
Most of us would starve without it.

**Copy of a letter found in a scrap book to THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES
20TH March 1941. (Things haven't changed much in nearly 75 years.)**

Dear Sir,

For the following reasons I am unable to meet your demand for Income Tax.

I have been held up, held down, sandbagged, sat upon, flattened out and squeezed by the Income Tax, Super Tax, Motor Tax, Purchase Tax and every other Society, Organisation and Club that the inventive mind of man can conceive to exact what I may or may not have in my possession for the Red Cross, Double Cross and every other bloody cross and hospital in the town and country.

The Government has governed my business until I do not know who the hell owns it. I am suspected, inspected, examined, required and commanded so that I do not know who I am, where I am, or why I am here at all. All that I know is that I am supposed to have an inexhaustible supply of money for every need, desire or hope for the human race, and because I will not beg, borrow or steal money to give away, I am cursed, discussed, boycotted, talked to, talked about, lied about, held up, robbed and damned near ruined.

The only reason I am clinging on to life at all is to see what the bloody hell will happen next.

Yours faithfully

This, as always, is the fun page, where we take ourselves not too seriously. Should you have a joke or story that is printable, please email it to John Swain at johnswain@anopol.co.uk. We will try and use it. Thanks.

Husband takes his wife to a disco. There's a guy on the dancefloor giving it loads; break dancing, moon walking, back flips, the works. The wife turns to her husband and says:

"See that guy over there? Well 25 years ago he proposed to me and I turned him down."

The husband says, "Looks like he's still celebrating,"

Three guys died and when they got to the pearly gates, St. Peter was waiting for them.

St. Peter said "I know that you guys are forgiven because you're here. Before I let you into Heaven, I have to ask you something. You have to have a car in Heaven because Heaven is so big. What kind of car you get will depend on your answer."

The first guy walks up and Peter asks him, "How long were you married?" The first guy says, "24 years."

"Did you ever cheat on your wife?" The guy said, "Yeah, 7 times.....but you said I was forgiven."

Peter said, "Yes, but that's not too good. Here's a Ford Fiesta to drive." The second guy walks up and gets the same question from Peter. The second guy said, "I was married for 41 years and cheated on her once, but that was our first year and we really worked it out good." Peter said, "I'm pleased to hear that, here's a Jaguar." The third guy walked up and said, "Peter, I know what you are going to ask. I was married for 63 years and didn't even look at another woman. I treated my wife like a queen!" Peter said, "That's what I like to hear. Here's a Rolls Royce."

A few days later, the two guys with the Jaguar and the Ford Fiesta saw the guy with the Rolls Royce crying on the golden sidewalk. When they asked the guy with the Rolls Royce what was wrong, he said, "I just saw my wife and she was on a skateboard!"

A man goes to visit his 85 year old grandpa in hospital. "How are you grandpa?" he asks.

"Feeling fine," says the old man.

"What's the food like?"

"Terrific, wonderful menus."

"And the nursing?"

"Just couldn't be better. These young nurses really take care of you."

"What about sleeping? Do you sleep OK?"

"No problems at all, nine hours solid every night. At 10 o'clock they bring me a cup of hot chocolate and a Viagra tablet....and that's it. I go out like a light,"

The grandson is puzzled and a little alarmed by this, so he rushes off to question the nurse in charge.

"I'm told you're giving an 85 year old man Viagra on a daily basis. Surely that can't be true?"

"Oh yes," replied the nurse. "Every night at 10 o'clock we give him a cup of chocolate and a Viagra tablet. It works wonderfully well. The chocolate makes him sleep and the Viagra stops him from rolling out of bed."

A pretty terrible golfer was playing a round of golf for which he had hired a caddie. The round proved to be somewhat tortuous for the caddie to watch and he was getting a bit exasperated by the poor play of his employer. At one point the ball lay about 180 yards from the green and as the golfer sized up his situation, he asked his caddie, "do you think I can get there with a 5-iron?" And the caddie replied, "Eventually."

