

anopol newsletter

Surface Treatments for Stainless Steels

Issue 30

June 2015

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In Brief

We hope you like the format of our revised Newsletter. Whilst the contents follow our usual pattern of some serious and some not-so-serious items, we have tried to make some features more interesting by including more illustrations. We hope this adds to your enjoyment.

Congratulations to our Technical Director, Brian Swain, who has celebrated his BIG 70 this month.

Brian started at the company in 1969 at the tender age of twenty-five. You don't need to be a mathematician to work out that Brian has been with the company for over 45 years.

As a young man, Brian followed in the footsteps of his elder brother John, now Anopol's Chairman. They both completed indentured apprenticeships in engineering with the same Black Country heavy industry company. In those days, stainless steel, the life blood now of Anopol, was scarcer than gold. Mild steel was the metal of the day.

Without the rising demand for stainless steel over the past 50 years, Anopol and many other companies would not be here today.

In 2013 this country celebrated 100 years since a normal Sheffield man named Harry Brearley discovered the attributes of a chrome/nickel/iron steel, almost by accident. We'll drink to Mr Brearley and his fortunate discovery of stainless steel.

Pictured Brian Swain (*Left*) Harry Brearley (*Right*)



Anopol – how it all started

Back in October 1968, a thirty-one year old John Swain returned to the UK following over 5 years working in Germany. Those were the days of German-marks and the Common Market, of which the UK was not yet a member. John's original training involved structural engineering and industrial boiler design and he spent several years on the drawing board. Seeing little chance of progressing, he moved at 21 to another Black Country company where he worked on the extrusion of copper tubes. Now at 23 he became disenchanted with the drawing board and decided to try something completely different. An application for a job in Export Sales at Girling Ltd proved successful, although there was some disappointment that he was allocated Germany rather than Italy. As he commented at the time, "I loved opera, especially Puccini and had little time for Wagner." He quickly became frustrated, because he was now regarded as a sales person and not an engineer. He made a nuisance of himself by telling the Export Manager how procedures between Engineering and Sales could be improved. Tolerated for so long, his manager suggested he might like to consider a transfer to the new German company Girling which had recently established in Koblenz on the Rhine. John and his wife viewed the area, sold up and moved to Germany. John was not quite 25. Returning to the UK, John decided that he could probably progress faster working for



a German company in the UK than a UK company in Germany. Following numerous job applications John hit on an advert in a London Newspaper. A German company was seeking a German speaking Sales Manager to set up a British subsidiary. Apply in own handwriting in German. An interview in London with 11 other applicants and John was offered the post. The initial salary was £2750.00 annually, a big boost from the Girling salary of £2200.00. The German company had its base in Munich and John spent 4 weeks there learning a new vocabulary, in English as well as German.

John bought a house in Droitwich in 1969 and a spare bedroom was to become the first office of the future Anopol. Later that year two offices were rented in Droitwich town centre and a secretary was employed. In October of that year Brian Swain joined the company. The following year, very modest premises were rented on a small industrial estate and some plant imported from Germany for demonstration purposes. The policy of the parent

company was to sell plant and also the chemicals, which would be used in the equipment. The two brothers collected numerous metal components from interested companies and shipped them to Munich for surface treatment. One of the samples sent was a stainless steel chocolate mould from Cadbury in Bournville. The electropolished finish was not new to Cadbury; they had previously had moulds treated by another company, but the results had proved disappointing. This was to change when they received back the mould from Munich. An urgent meeting was called and Cadbury explained that, not only did the chocolate release better from the mould, but the gloss on the chocolate was much improved. The

question was asked; when could the company commence to electropolish 20,000 moulds? Then the order was placed.

A 600 litre lead-lined tank, together with rectifier and chemical, was delivered from Germany to Droitwich and quickly installed. The local Job Centre was able to provide a part-time worker and the first delivery of chocolate moulds was successfully electropolished. The company was solvent at long last.

(To be continued....)

What the Butler saw

David Butler joined the company in June 2010 as electrician and general maintenance engineer.

His duties are not centred solely on the Birmingham plant, as he is also responsible for ensuring that the electrical equipment at Anopol's southern factory in Hampshire is kept in good working condition.

Dave can also be found servicing or repairing equipment at customer's premises, for those who are using Anopol plant for carrying out processing in-house.

In his spare time David builds his own computers and enjoys a spot of fishing and sailing



The Four Musketeers

The three Birmingham directors, who were involved in the 2013 MBO recently visited the premise of Anopol (South) Ltd in Bordon, Hampshire together. They congratulated Managing Director Tony Mustill on his outstanding achievements in recent years. Following a number of years when Anopol (South) was

financially supported by the Birmingham parent company, Tony turned the company round, settled borrowing with parent company and is now benefiting from an extensive amount of sub-contract business due to its high quality and service levels. The photograph shows from left to right, Adrian Dallaway (Finance Director), Tony Mustill (MD of Anopol South), David Cass (Group MD) and Philip Spears (Engineering Director).



My goldfish died, and other excuses for late tax returns

Animal encounters and devious spouses feature in a list of the oddest excuses for late tax returns.

With the January 31 tax return deadline well and truly past, HM Revenue and Customs has released its top ten excuses from tardy taxpayers, with the top two being a builder whose pet goldfish had died and a farmer who suffered a run-in with a cow. A male trader who stated that his wife wouldn't give him his mail and a hairdresser whose husband allegedly told her the wrong deadline suggests that passing the buck is a widely used strategy. More bizarre excuses include a writer who was busy touring with his one-man play and a yachtsman who collected his mail only when on dry land. The top ten excuses were:

- 1) My pet goldfish died (self-employed builder)
- 2) I had a run-in with a cow (farmer)
- 3) After seeing a volcanic eruption on the news, I couldn't concentrate on anything else (woman from London)
- 4) My wife won't give me my mail (self-employed trader)
- 5) My husband said deadline was March 31 and I believed him (hairdresser)
- 6) I've been far too busy touring the country with my one-man play (writer)
- 7) My bad back means I can't go upstairs. That's where my tax return is (working taxi driver)
- 8) I've been cruising round the world and only picking up post when I'm on dry land
- 10) I've been too busy submitting my clients' tax returns (accountant)

Urinal advertiser flush after securing investment

CAPTIVE Media, which provides advertising space in public urinals, has secured a total of £1.4m of investment after a third round of funding.

University of Warwick Science Park business angel network Minerva contributed £40,000 to the latest investment round.

Captive Media provides interactive game screens for male washrooms at venues across the UK. Those screens are placed just above the men's loos and are used by advertisers.

Users can target their flow and, therefore, influence the on-screen games, which range from football penalty shoot-outs to the appropriately named 'Artsplash'.

The company has also been running an interactive game with the Anthony Nolan Trust that asks young men which political leader they would most like to 'splat' in the run up to the recent election.

Captive Media has recently signed up to venues in Birmingham - The O Bar and Sun on the Hill - with installations taking place in the next few weeks.

The company is aiming to reach 200 screens nationwide by the end of 2015 and wants to double that number again by early 2016.

Tim Powell, who runs Minerva, said: "Our investors are, obviously, looking for returns but, in many cases, they also want to back a company or product that offers something a little bit different.

"Captive Media is an exciting, innovative business with an energetic and very experienced team pulling out all the stops to drive the business forward and who were therefore easily back able.

"Advertisers are constantly looking at ways to capture the interest of consumers and with all the distractions of modern life, paying a visit to the gents is clearly one time they believe they can grab a man's undivided attention!"

Gordon MacSween, CEO of Captive Media, said: "Advertisers find it difficult to reach young consumers once they are out socialising, or to hold their attention. Captive Media addresses both those problems."



Sorry Germany.....England's got the last laugh

Have you heard the one about the comedian who decided if we couldn't beat the Germans at football he'd beat them at telling fast jokes?

After a year perfecting his delivery, Clive Greenaway, a professional Tommy Cooper impersonator from Poole in Dorset, has been awarded an official world record for telling 26 jokes in one minute. Rattling through his repertoire, he made sure to pause to give his audience time to laugh in accordance with the rules laid down by Guinness World Records. Greenaway, 59, took the record from Markus Weise, a German comic who had held it since 2012 with 21 jokes. The English attempt on the record was prompted by a football commentator who pointed out before the last World Cup that not only were the Germans better at football, they were better at telling jokes.

Greenaway commented, "We weren't going to beat them at football, but I knew I could take the record for telling the most number of jokes." He wrote down 30 one-liners, mostly borrowed from his comic heroes Tommy Cooper and Les Dawson. The rules stated that they had to be delivered during a live show in front of Guinness judges and a time keeper. His first attempt during a performance in Weymouth last June equalled the German's record and two days later he beat it at Haverhill Arts Centre in Suffolk.

"They had to be short jokes that had to have a trigger line and a punch line to them," he said. "I started flat-out and kept the pace up. I left a gap for the audience to react before I started the next joke. I really enjoyed it although it was a bit of a blur."

The reason it had taken so long to verify is because the video of the performance had to be scrutinised to ensure there was sufficient laughter after every joke. Greenaway admitted that he had an advantage over his German rival because the English language is ripe with puns. German has far fewer ambiguities because nouns are simply tacked together to avoid such confusion. Much of the humour in Weise's performance is lost in translation although some jokes appear to have crossed the language barrier such as: "What do you call a boomerang that doesn't come back? A stick" This is not the first attempt at a world record by Greenaway, a former driving instructor. Ten years ago he tried to get Guinness to acknowledge that he held the largest number of driving licences in the world, having passed his 25th test. He said, "I have a licence to drive everything from a motorcycle to a tank." The Driver and Vehicle Licencing Authority refused to confirm in writing to Guinness that he held more licences than any other person because it would "breach data protection laws".

On the BBC's *One Show* Greenaway told 28 jokes, but that was not an official record attempt and it will not be counted. Last year George Valentine, a former joke writer for Tommy Cooper, claimed to have managed 46 jokes in a minute telling "half-liners" such as the world's shortest joke, Jimmy Carr's "Venison, dear?".

Guinness said: "This particular title is about sharp and intelligent joke-telling. One of the key rules states that the jokes told must draw a reaction or laugh from the audience – so Clive's achievement of 26 jokes in one minute is a fantastic effort and one that will take some beating."

Heard the one about...?

English

My wife and I were happy -
then we met.

My wife dresses to kill and
cooks the same way.

My wife and I haven't spoken
In years – I don't like to interrupt.

Pollen count – that's a tough job

I ate a ploughman's lunch.
He wasn't happy.

I went to the paper shop but it
had blown away.

German

"Doctor, I have problems
with my circulation." "Well
go straight ahead instead."

Last winter someone froze
to death at a drive-in theatre.

He wanted to see the film

Closed in Winter

"Doctor, where is the patient
who was run over by a steamroller?"
"In rooms five to ten".

A skeleton visits the doctor. "You're
far too late," says the doctor.



"BARRY IS A FINE EXAMPLE OF THE SUCCESS OF OUR CLEAR DESK POLICY"

Four old timers were playing their weekly game of golf, and one remarked how nice it would be to wake up on Christmas morning, roll out of bed and without an argument go directly to the golf course, meet his buddies and play a round. His buddies all chimed in and said, "Let's do it! We'll make it a priority; figure out a way and meet here early on Christmas morning."

Months later, that special morning arrives, and there they are on the golf course. The first guy says, "Boy, this game cost me a fortune! I bought my wife a diamond ring and she can't take her eyes off it." The second guy says, "I spent a ton too. My wife is at home planning the cruise I gave her. She was up to her eyeballs in brochures."

The third guy says, "Well my wife is at home admiring her new car, reading the manual." They all turn to the last guy in the group, who is staring at them like they have lost their minds. "I can't believe you all went to such expense for this game of golf. I slapped my wife on the butt and said, 'Well babe, Merry Christmas! It's a great morning, what's it going to be; passionate sex or the golf course?' She said, "Don't forget your sweater."

I would not be bothered if we lost every game as long as we won the league. *Mark Viduka*

Alex Ferguson is the best manager I've ever had at this level. Well, he's the only manager I've actually has at this level, But he's the best manager I've ever had. *David Beckham*

You've got to believe that you're going to win, and I believe we'll win the World Cup until the final whistle blows and we're knocked out. *Peter Shilton*

Germany are a very difficult team to play ...they had 11 internationals out there today. *Steve Lomas*

One accusation you can't throw at me is that I've always done my best *Alan Shearer*

IN BRIEF

If you are having a bad day, remember that in 1976 Ronald Wayne sold his 10% stake in Apple for 800 dollars. It's worth now 58,065,210.000 dollars.

Golf is an awkward set of bodily contortions designed to produce a graceful result *Tommy Armour*
 To members of his orchestra who were not performing well: "After I die I shall return to earth as the doorkeeper of a bordello, and I won't let one of you in." *Arturo Toscanini Conductor*

