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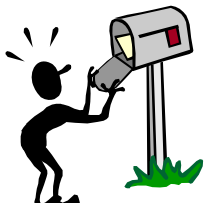

PIMA CHARITY GOLF DAY 2009 – another success

This perspective of the day's proceedings comes to you from last year's winner, Grahame Aston who says:

This year's PIMA golf day again turned out to be a well supported, great industry day played in just about perfect weather conditions.

We again had a great representation of mixed teams however, I (Grahame Aston) must sadly report that everyone's favourite head TAFE teacher again misses out on that elusive 1st place trophy, bad luck Stephen! You've got to hand it to Mr. D, he's tried just about everything to win that trophy! The word on the street is that if he didn't win a place this year, then he would turn to Lycra and congregate with men in tights! Each to their own I guess!

First – the rules

Second – a hearty Brunch

The highlight for me, and my only boast is that my team sat at the winning teams' table which leads me to this. Not that this article should turn out to be an opportunity to make false and untrue suggestions, but I have to ask you this, has anyone else out there seen the way Carl plays golf… and they won, someone must have been carried?

The word out there on the street is this, a little birdie informed me that one of the guys on the industry team submitted by, let's call them Dewpond (changed for legal reasons so you don't know who this is referring too!), was seen to be working in the Pro shop at Macquarie Links. Nice ring-in, mate but I'll keep your secret... NOT!

The boys obviously played well, in fact on the novelty hole, the pro shop worker snuck one out there about 230 meters. Maybe next year we can convince Ralph to blind fold single figure markers for this hole just to even things up a little?

Index

Also, the team from Secured Trading appeared to revel in their success on the golf course with some subtle yahoos heard coming from the table after their day's efforts on the course.

Note the great advertising opportunities

There are plenty of cold drinks available

On a serious note, it was a great day with fun had by all that attended both the golf and the meal afterwards with generous support for the charity. A day like this can't happen without great and supportive sponsors. We again were backed by these great companies and individuals who give tremendous support to our industry event, keep it up and many thanks.

Chris York presents the Ken York Memorial Trophy

Chris York receives the Alex Pennicook Mem. Trophy

Well done to Chris York for again winning the mixed event and Alex Pennicook Memorial Trophy and well done to the DuPont team for taking out the Ken York Memorial Trophy. We would love to see everyone back out there supporting next years', seventh PIMA Charity Golf day.

The R E Davison group look keen to get started

Who said men can't multi-task

A last big thank you must go to Ralph Cable's family for their continued support. Their day starts long before the first sausage sandwich is devoured and finishes well after the last beer has been swallowed but yet they still come back to support the PIMA Golf Day. Besides, while we all admire and thank Ralph for all that he does for PIMA, let's be honest, he is no way as easy to look at as the rest of the beautiful Cables, but yet again that's just my thoughts, enjoy!

Golfers, PIMA Members and supporters will be proud to hear that $12,500 has been raised at The PIMA Charity Golf Day for The Children's Cancer Welfare Service.

TAFE Graduation Dinner

The 4th PIMA/TAFE Polymer Processing Student Graduation Ceremony and Dinner was held at Carnarvon Golf Club on Thursday evening the 2nd of July. Those present, including, graduating students, their partners and company representatives of PIMA members were welcomed by Keith Monahan, PIMA President. Keith was introduced by Stephen Dawkins, Head Teacher Polymers, who also introduced the distinguished guest and speaker, The Hon. Duncan Gay MLC, who is the Leader of the National Party in the Legislative Council & Shadow Minister for Industry.

Duncan Gay and Stephen Dawkins presented awards to the students present, including for the first time, those achieving Certificate I through the Recognition for Prior Learning (RPL) Program that PIMA has been funded to undertake by the department of Education and Training.

RPL & Certificate I

Students from ASP Plastics, Precision Global, RE Davison and Techplas

Certificate IV Polymer Technology

Certificate recipients

SPE Best Student Award

Presented to Peter Morris by Han Michel representing SPE

Apprentice of the Year Award

Presented to Nathan Zerafa by PIMA President, Keith Monahan

Dinner Seminar

The September Dinner Seminar, held at the Carnarvon Golf Club was a double billing with two speakers: Michael Ryan from Finlease put the Government Investment Allowance in perspective for small and medium sized businesses which was particularly relevant to plastic moulders wishing to invest in new equipment.

Brett Egan from Consonic gave an interesting presentation on the efficiency of moulding plants. How to measure and monitor efficiency with an aim to improve efficiency so as to become more competitive internationally.

Michael Ryan, presenting the Government Investment Allowance topic

Brett Egan, left, mixing with other members

Other members and guests attending the September Dinner Seminar, showing that the need for information exchange, networking and team work is alive and well within PIMA .

The next Dinner Seminar and AGM is scheduled for October 21.

Safety When Purging of Plastic Materials For Shut Down or Material Changes.

When shutting down a moulding machine or when changing materials, there are some materials that need special consideration for safety sake.

Several polymer types are unstable at or near their melt temperatures.
Several polymer types will react violently with other plastic materials at their processing temperatures.
Some additive packages severely reduce the stability of one or the other of the polymers involved.
Some additive packages can react with other additive packages at processing temperatures
Several polymers are unstable at the processing temperatures of the other material in the change over, especially when the other material is a high temperature Engineering Plastic.

Main concerns are:-
PVC.
Acetal.
Polyurethane.
Flame Retardants.
Stabilisers.

The concerns are:-

PVC
PVC is unstable at its melt temperature and will degrade if left to long at these temperatures. The rate of reaction accelerates rapidly as temperatures increase.
Typical processing temperatures are 140 to 180°C.
The reaction is accelerated by acids and the reaction produces acids, so it is self propelling and once it starts it accelerates in rate. A major product of this decomposition is hydrogen chloride gas, which forms hydrochloric acid on contact with water.
The runaway nature of the reaction, and the evolution of large quantities of gas can build up enough pressure to cause explosions as well as emitting large quantities of corrosive, toxic gas.
It is important to keep PVC on cycle, and if it is necessary to delay for more than a minute or two, to purge with a lower melting pointing material that is chemically stable in the presence of decomposing PVC.
Low density polyethylene is such a material and is recommended for purging PVC.

Acetal
Acetal is unstable at its melt temperature and will degrade if left to long at these temperatures.
Homopolymer is worse than co-polymer in this regard, but either can decompose and give off formaldehyde gas.
This can cause a build up of pressure to the point of an explosion.
Typical processing temperatures are 180 to 210°C.
Formaldehyde is very noxious and reasonably toxic, although you would need an unbearable dose to do serious damage. It is thought to be a carcinogen.
Polyethylene is a safe purging material for acetal.

Acetal and PVC in combination.
Acetal also reacts with acids and processes at higher temperatures than PVC, so it can react violently, at least causing a burn down of the PVC and possibly exploding and blowing out metal machine parts at lethal speeds.

Safety When Purging of Plastic Materials For Shut Down or Material Changes (cont.)

Polyurethane.
Polyurethane is more stable than PVC or Acetal, and is not prone to explosions, but if overheated during processing, it can initially lose viscosity, but then crosslink and converting to the thermoset form and once it sets, the screw becomes stuck. At this stage the screw must be pulled to clean the crosslinked material from the screw.

It can also gradually build up on the screw and change the screw geometry. This also requires the screw to be pulled for cleaning.

A typical method of cleaning the screw is to burn off the build up of plastic.
THIS IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS with polyurethane as when burnt it gives of hydrogen cyanide which is a powerful deadly poison.

Flame Retardants.
Many flame retardants work by releasing oxidising agents just above the processing temperature for the resin they are used in. These Oxidising agents can be acidic.

Many heat stabilisers are antioxidant. Antioxidants by nature react with oxidising agents. The extent of the reaction depends on the individual reagents, the temperature and shear and the concentrations. It is too unpredictable to bet someone's life on.

Always use a plain simple unstabilised grade of polyethylene to purge flame retardant compounds.

TAKE CARE.

Many thanks to Pat Primmer of Beba Pty Ltd for submitting this article- Ed.

Grolsch on Tap - Straight from Your Fridge

Sidel has supported Grolsch Netherlands (SABMiller Group) in the development of an innovative PET solution which allows consumers to enjoy the full "beer on tap" experience at home. The Grolsch product "Cheersch" is drafted from a handy two-liter bottle with a reusable tap kit. The PET bottle blow molded on Sidel equipment and patented by Grolsch can be resealed and kept inside a home fridge door for up to two weeks after opening.

When Grolsch approached Sidel in 2006 with a request to help design and produce draft beer packaging for home use, PET was not an obvious answer. PET-bottled beer had hitherto not been particularly successful in the Dutch market. Yet it proved to be the perfect material for a custom-made container tasked to cope with a tap-valve under high pressure while keeping beer fresh and fizzy. Using PET rather than other materials has many advantages. In contrast to glass, PET enables a custom-made bottle neck design which is necessary for a snug fit between bottle, valve, and tap unit. At the same time, PET can withstand the pressure necessary to allow drafting beer without electricity. The 2-liter bottle is lightweight and easy to handle.

The compact two-liter bottle is made from a special PET blend preform and produced on a Sidel blow moulding machine. The material and its custom-made seal mean a guaranteed shelf life of six months - exactly the same as with all other Grolsch containers (bottles and cans). The bottles are supplied with CO_2 cartridges which enable the consumer to draft their Cheersch at the same pressure as the trade. The system uses a tap unit which only needs to be bought once and does not require electricity to work.

Sidel was chosen by Grolsch as the sole partner with responsibility for the whole line including sub-supplier Coster who produces the valve-inserter and closure unit. The Sidel line includes a Eurotronica FM-LT filler, a Rollquattro labeller, Robokombi palletizers and depalletizers, and conveyors. Close cooperation between Sidel and Grolsch enabled the product to come to market at an earlier date than originally planned, to allow for delivery in time for Father's day and the European Championship in June 2008.

About Grolsch

Grolsch is a company with a rich tradition that goes back to 1615. The focal point of Grolsch's commercial activities lies in the Netherlands, Grolsch's historic home market. However, important international markets for Grolsch include the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, France, Australia and New Zealand. Grolsch is focused on targeting the premium segment with the Grolsch brand as its main product. As of 12 February 2008, Grolsch is an subsidiary of SABMiller plc.

About the Sidel Group

With over 30,000 machines installed in 190 countries and an annual turnoverof 1.22 billion euros in 2007, the Sidel Group is one of the world leaders in solutions for packaging liquid foods including water, soft drinks, milk, sensitive beverages, edible oil, beer and alcoholic beverages. Sidel currently has production facilities in a total of twelve countries as well as sales and service branches on all continents, encompassing some 28 countries. Worldwide, more than 5,500 employees supply customers with complete bottling solutions that include package design, line engineering, packaging machines and related services - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Source: *Sidel*

Important Diary Dates for 2009

October 21st – PIMA AGM & Dinner Seminar
November 26th – Plastics Pioneers (NSW) Lunch

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