

AVK

FACE230AF

THE MAGAZINE OF AVK UK GROUP FOR STAFF AND CUSTOMERS

Warm waters - chilly undercurrents

"Changing times"; what an understatement! There has been so much going on around us this year that it is - at times - difficult to find a sense of perspective. The impact of the Japanese earthquake, continuing uncertainty in the global financial markets and the changing political environment in the Middle East have undoubtedly affected us all.

Despite these unsettling external factors it is fair to say we have, particularly during the last six months, experienced improvements in activity, mainly through the water utility market, which I am pleased to say we expect to continue into the next financial year. We are also realising further benefits through the continuing innovation programme that will further assist in providing us with a strong and well-differentiated offer for our customers.

I realise during these changing times we may just forget to recognise how hard we work towards realising our Vision to be a supply chain partner valued by our customers. I must say, whilst we are currently in the process of reviewing business plans and finalising our expectations for the

financial year end, it is clear to me and the rest of the management team how hard you have all worked in making a difference. Thank you.



As you may know, we are in the process of totally changing the direction of AVK Manufacturing, in Hyde by creating a dedicated business unit to service the UK water and gas fittings market. AVK Manufacturing - which will be known as AVK Fittings (see page 3) will be a service-driven business that will make a significant contribution to our UK operations by adding value to the existing product offer and providing our customers with a fast and efficient service. Unfortunately, the reorganisation necessary to implement this change has meant moving Series 600 production to AVK Polska.

Having returned from the summer vacation, there is a great deal of

uncertainty surrounding global financial markets, which is impacting upon interest and exchange rates, material costs and potentially government and public expenditure. This leads me to believe that we are entering into a tougher trading environment than originally expected. As such, we must once again focus upon cost efficiencies and competitiveness.

In looking forward, we can all remain confident in our business, knowing we have a market-leading product and service offer and a talented organisation with the drive and determination to succeed.

It's time for us all to wear our 'yellow hats' and continually look for the positives. Wherever possible we must all recognise our achievements, no matter how large or small.

Keep smiling and look for the best in what we do.

Paul Hubbard
AVK UK Group
Chairman



Donkin eases gas switch pressure

50,000 Londoners are depending on Donkin technology to keep the gas flowing while the UK's largest UK gas diversion project for decades is completed at King's Cross and the world's biggest pressure reducing station is built.

"In the UK gas is transmitted at high pressure but delivered to customers at a much lower 25/50m.bar, which is where the pressure reducing station comes in," explains Alan Bite, key account manager for UK gas.

"At King's Cross dismantling and moving the existing gas reduction station was not an option because it would have disrupted



continuity of supply. Instead, a completely new station is being built and the underground gas mains are being diverted; after that, the old station will be decommissioned."

Honeywell-RMG is building the new triple-stream reducing station and all three

streams will have a 900mm AVK-Donkin Series 777 Baurer valve with a Rotork electric actuator so that they can be isolated individually.

In addition AVK has been tasked to supply all the gas valves for the mains diversion being carried out by main contractor BAM-Nuttall - everything from 50mm ball valves to 1200mm double disk

slide valves in sizes appropriate for pipelines in 1200mm steel, 900mm steel and 630mm PE.

ABOVE: The Series 777 Baurer valves dwarf construction workers on the King's Cross pressure reducing station site.

Put the lid on hydrant damage

The civil unrest in a number of cities across the UK this summer was a stark reminder of how much we depend on the Fire and Rescue Service, and how vital it is that the equipment they use, such as fire hydrants, is in good working order.

Sadly hydrants are frequently put out of action, whether the motive is theft or vandalism. It's a problem that costs the UK water industry millions every year in the form of repairs and lost water revenue, and also because of the money utilities have to invest in alerting the public to the dangers of such anti-social behaviour.

Yorkshire Water Services, for example, calculates that it loses 20 million litres of water every month as a result of hydrant abuse, and NI Water recently reported that 300 of its water hydrants were vandalised in a single year.

As the market leader in this product sector AVK UK is well aware of the problem, and now it has come up with

a solution - a unique security device that prevents unauthorised access to the hydrant outlet and operating spindle.

Made from cast iron and mild steel fully epoxy coated for corrosion resistance, the three-part locking cap is lightweight and maintenance-free. No special tooling is required to install it, and a unique key removes it with just three turns. As a universal fitting, it is suitable for all AVK UK Type 1 and Type 2 hydrants in a number of UK styles, and for others manufactured to the quality standards of BS 750.

The AVK security device affords protection against vandalism, water theft and the potential introduction of hazardous materials, maintaining the critical functionality required by the fire and rescue services and the water utilities; and it is offered at a price that takes full account of the financial constraints that both are currently having to work under.



University graduates with 21/75 'honours'

The University of Birmingham has chosen AVK's new Series 21/75 resilient seal gate valves to replace deteriorating valving installed more than 50 years ago on the water mains at its Edgbaston campus.

"We have had an increasing number of sealing and leakage problems with the old valves, to the extent that is now restricting our ability to isolate sections of the system for maintenance and repairs to an unacceptable degree, so replacement has become essential" said the University's Ray Staniland.

One of the university's maintenance staff installing a 21/75 valve.



"Edgbaston has more than four kilometres of on-site water mains, many of them housed in an access subway and others underground, and we anticipate it will take at least eighteen months to re valve the whole system."

The University's enquiry for DN150 and DN200 21/75 valves was made in the first instance through AVK UK's website. Following a site visit by Midlands key account manager Tony Howard to confirm the appropriateness of the product choice, an initial order was placed with local distributor BSS.

The 21/75 is one of three recent additions to AVK's market-leading Series 21 range of resilient seated gate valves, each the outcome of dialogue with key water industry stakeholders under the company's Vision 4 "Our vision is your advantage" programme.

It is for use in chambers or above ground, where lighter control equipment such as actuators or hand-wheels is suitable (as in Birmingham University's case), making it easier to use and therefore less costly to operate.

Going down - and up with the best

AVK's progress in reducing its UK carbon emissions is among the world's best according to feedback from National Grid - and the latest figures from the company's CLOEE monitoring system show that all sites are maintaining a downward trend through 2010-11 compared to the baseline period of 2007-8.

"National Grid is one of the participants in the Carbon Disclosure Project, a UK-based not-for-profit organisation that works with companies all over the world to publicise their greenhouse gas emissions," explains Matthew Jowsey, AVK Donkin's carbon / environmental coordinator.

"As a National Grid supplier, we were recently asked for data for our most recent full year (2009-10). Our scores from the previous year's response were also revealed and we were told that our score was in the top 25% of responses."

National Grid also hinted that AVK was the leading company in its sector - and stated as a fact that it ranked in the top five amongst its suppliers worldwide.

(The Number One supplier is Siemens, which also appears in third place on the Best Global Green Brands list for 2011 - not a bad company to be recognised alongside.)

Cheap valve failed again and again

Brendan O'Dowd, AVK UK's general manager in Ireland, calls on a recent experience to reinforce the message featured in last year's Face To Face about the dangers of water utilities compromising on quality in order to make short-term savings.

In the three years I have been in this job I have seen huge variation in the quality standards of suppliers claiming to provide valves that meet EN and BS standards.

That's not to say that AVK is the only quality supplier, but there are too many who fall into the latter category. Yet the cost savings to those who buy such dubious products is insignificant compared to the cost and disruption of having to remove and replace them prematurely.

One local authority that I have experience of was sufficiently suspicious about the quality of valves supplied to it recently that it had a sample tested by a reputable third party academic institution, only to find that it failed on number of counts with respect to the specification they were claimed to conform to.

Specifically, the valve:

● **FAILED** the torque strength test to BS EN1074-2 because the valve, seat seal cover, brass nut and rubber door were all

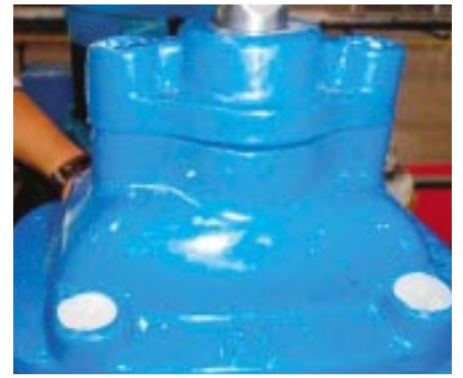
unable to withstand 800 Nm of torque - and the bending moment test could not be performed at all;

● **FAILED** the flange measurement test to BS1092-2 because a significant number of flange holes had a minimum diameter less than allowed by the standard;

● **FAILED** the coating measurement test to WIS 4-52-01 because of observable and electronically detected pin-holes, insufficient adhesion to the casting, and areas less than the required minimum 250µm thickness.

In addition, visual inspection of the valve body surface raised concerns as to the quality of the mould in which it was cast, as well as pre- and post-manufacturing quality assurance standards.

Naturally, this catalogue of failures was enough for the local authority to reject the entire consignment of valves and turn to a supplier whose product claims could be trusted (and you won't be entirely surprised when I tell you it was AVK).



The valve's stem seal cover distorted badly when the specified 800 Nm of torque was applied during the spindle torque test.

On a more positive note there seems to be a ground swell - in Ireland at least - for buyers to commission random third-party testing of valves supplied to them, which must be welcomed.

In the meantime, suppliers who cut corners on quality in order to shave a few euros off their price should stay out of the kitchen (because they obviously can't stand the heat); and procurement departments should take to heart the Latin motto "Caveat Emptor" – let the buyer beware.

Million-saver

Impressive news online on air relief valves from AVK.

The valves disperse the pockets of air that accumulate in water mains, reducing the air-free area of the pipe and the volume of water it can deliver and therefore increasing energy consumption.

It's an old familiar problem, and now ARI has built a demonstration model that not only shows exactly what happens but also puts numbers on the savings.

Using a variable speed pump to keep the flow of water at a constant 17.1 litres per minute, the demonstration shows that without air relief valves air quickly builds up in the pipes and the pump has to run at 550rpm to move the water; but with the valves open to release air the pump can deliver the same volume at only 480rpm, which translates into an energy saving of 20%. On that basis if air relief valves were introduced across the UK's literally millions of pounds would be saved.

Go to YouTube and search for ARI Energy savings to see the demonstration for yourself.

AVK Fittings

AVK UK has strengthened its capability for supplying valves and fittings packages for the British water and gas industries.



"Contractors and utility companies know that AVK manufactures valves, but not all of them are aware that if they need fittings to connect valves to pipework we can make these too, and put both together in a single package" says Kieran Fitzpatrick, who is leading the initiative as general manager of the fabricated fittings business in Hyde.

Now re-branded under the 'does what it says on the tin' name of AVK Fittings, the business also has its own website www.avkfittings.co.uk to give more immediate access to information about the complete fittings range.

"AVK Fittings is also geared up to meet unforeseen needs in an emergency: advising on exactly what is needed (on site, if necessary), and then manufacturing and delivering it within an acceptable timeframe. We have made changes to our organisation to enhance our speed and flexibility, including a dedicated 24/7 0800 202 8228 emergency line.

"Finally for projects where time is less critical we have the full, competitively priced, product range that the market needs.

"All three aspects of the AVK Fittings service, Fast, Express and Emergency make life easier for customers. If you're buying valves from a supplier you know you can trust, why go somewhere else for the fittings?"

All in a day's work for busy Invicta

Since Invicta Valves joined AVK Group in February 2010, the company has never ceased to demonstrate its expertise in putting together valve and actuator packages with all the complementary products and services that go with them.

We reported four projects at home and abroad in last year's Face2Face, and this June Water magazine carried an article by managing director Paul Jennings that made reference to a further nine to illustrate Invicta's ability to add value to a customer's project.

Now here's a few more to keep the pot boiling:

At **Queenborough Pumping Station** the company provided replacement 450mm gate valves for Morrison Utility Services / Southern Water and installed them out of hours (in fact overnight).

Pumping station needs met

AVK UK had everything needed for the job when it supplied valves and related products for the recently completed refurbishment and upgrading of Wessex Water's Ashton Avenue sewage pumping station.

Southampton-based Trant Construction carried out £9.5m of improvements to the station, which was built in the 1960s and today handles wastewater from around 90,000 people in South Bristol, in order to reduce the risk of flooding during times of heavy rainfall.

Central to AVK's contribution was replacement of the DN1200 gate valves in

It refurbished five Ham Baker gate valves with actuators at **Roundhill Stormwater Pumping Station** for Costain – an appropriate and cost effective solution following a site inspection implemented at short notice and in very tight installation conditions that covered every requirement, right down to the finishing primer and two coats of epoxy paint.

At Severn Trent's **Wyland Intake** it supplied Costain with gate valves, integral external spindles and gearboxes suitable for PN40 potable water, including PTFE repair seals and packing and a Sigma WRAS-approved coating.

Last but by no means least were valves and actuators for a wide variety of duties at Welsh Water's **Cardiff and Afan advanced digestion plants**.

the main pump building, along with three recoil check valves of the same diameter weighing in at around 7 tonnes each.

Also included were S21 resilient-seated gate valves, S41 non-return valves, and specially manufactured 2250mm x 1500mm 4-sided sealing stainless steel stop logs to keep the river at bay during the work.

Completing the list were actuated 900mm and 200mm square penstocks with extension stems more than 5 metres long, supplied in collaboration with valving actuator expert Rotork.



Dedicated to saving time

No back stop, lighter weight, tie rods. That's the essence of the Series 603 dedicated flange adaptor for water and sewage, one of the recent introductions now available from the newly-created AVK Fittings (see page 3).

"The 603 is designed to connect plain metal and uPVC pipes to flanged pipes from DN80 to DN200," explains sales manager Bill Taylor-Veitch. "There are four sizes, each with a sealing range of 11mm on average covering main pipe types, ductile iron, cast iron, steel and uPVC, whereas most manufacturers offer fewer sizes with a typical sealing range of 25mm.

"Because each standard universal flange adaptor must seal across a wider range they have to be fitted with longer bolts that take longer to tighten, but the opposite is true of our Series 603. The difference may seem trivial, but not when you spend your working day laying and connecting pipes. Every second counts, and (as the saying goes) time is money."

As is to be expected, the AVK 603 flange adaptor complies with all the applicable standards and certifications – BS EN, WIS and WRAS – and is suitable for a maximum working pressure of 16 bar, temperatures from -10°C to +70°C, and a total angular deflection of ±4 degrees (although it is not designed for end load resistant applications).





Air valve solved a tricky problem

Contractors grappling with an awkward replacement job for Anglian Water recently had reason to be grateful for the 'easy to fit' characteristics of one of AVK's air valves.

Tasked to replace a defective 50-year-old wastewater air valve on a pumped sewage main in the Norfolk village of Filby, the contractors had initial difficulty locating the valve because the chamber access cover had become buried beneath soil and grass. They then had to set up a traffic management system because the site was alongside the main road, and use mechanical lifting equipment to remove the old valve safely.

Fortunately there were no such complications with the AVK Series 701/79 wastewater chambered air valve chosen to go in its place. When new connections to the main had been completed, the chamber was removed from the top of the 701/79, the valve itself was lowered into position manually (no need for mechanical lifting) and bolted into place on the main, and the chamber was re-attached – a simple procedure that took no more than 30 minutes. The fully installed valve is shown here.

Thanks to the AVK valve, the whole job could have been completed in a single day shift – something the contractor has taken note of for future reference.



Glenfield Doha story continues

Glenfield Valves continues to rise to the challenge of manufacturing valves for the 680,000 m³/day Doha North Pumping Station – part of the massive Qatar water project, the Middle East's largest wastewater treatment and water reuse facility commissioned by the Emirate's government to ensure sustainable development and continuing economic growth.

Following on from the hundreds of gate valves supplied last year, Glenfield has successfully satisfied all the requirements of an order for more than 30 highly specialist multi-door recoil valves from DN800 to DN1000 from Singapore-based international water engineering company Keppel Seghers.

As well as on-time delivery of the valves, the company passed a third party inspection and submitted a full, 149-page quality documentation pack including material certification, dimensional reports and hydrostatic test certificates.

Nottingham gas safety programme

Here's the 'man-in-the-trench's' dramatic view of a 500mm AVK Donkin 555 gate valve ready for lowering into position.

It was one of four needed this summer for a six-month project introducing PE pipe into a Victorian cast iron gas main in Nottingham - part of National Grid's 30-year safety enhancement programme to ensure that no metal main runs within

30 metres of a building. Similar work was carried out 'back home' in

Chesterfield a couple of years ago (with AVK Donkin valves, of course).

There's also a steady demand for the world-class products where gas mains have to be re-routed to make way for transport infrastructure developments. Current examples include Scottish & Southern's diversion for the completion of the M74 in Glasgow ahead of the 2014 Commonwealth Games, and the A2/M2 diversion in Kent.

Golf Day did well for Water Aid

Time has flown since the first and hugely successful Geoff Baggaley Memorial Golf Day in May 2010 and before we could say 'hole in one' there we were again on the Marriott Breadsall Priory's breath taking fairways for the second!

Apart from enjoying the day, the main focus was to raise funds for WaterAid and beat last year's total of £3675 through sponsorship and other events. Unlike 2010's glorious sunshine however, the morning's overcast skies and threat of heavy rain was worrying but, true to form, brilliant sunshine burst through, catching off-guard those pessimists toggged up for a blustery downpour.

With the 15 teams in position on different tees across the challenging Priory course, the competition began at 11.00am signalled by the sound of a shot gun. By 4.30pm the last teams had returned, just in time to watch the nail-biting play-off in the putting competition and to see Glen Stocks of Southern Water take the title.

Back by popular request, golf professional David Edwards performed his brilliant trick shots at the first tee, and during dinner gave his hilarious commentary on the video of the day's play before the presentations, raffle and auction.

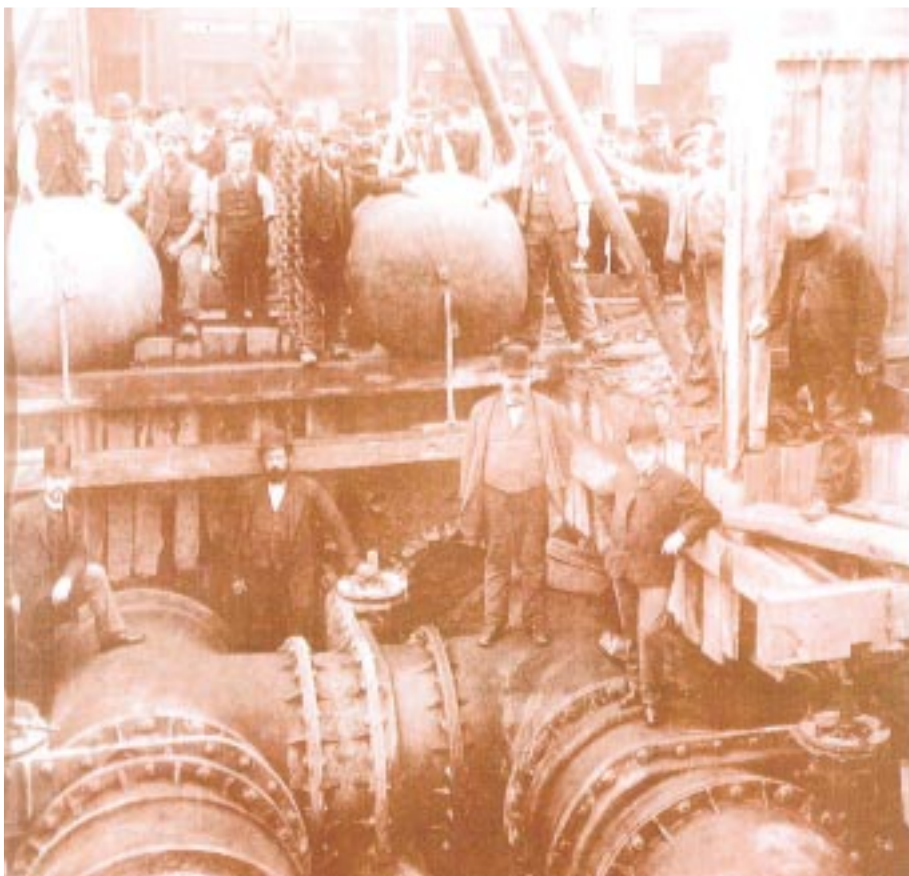


Willing volunteers risk life and limb as David Edwards attempts a trick shot (ABOVE) and Richard Stone presents the trophy to David Sykes of Radius Plus.

Overall winner was David Sykes from Radius Plus with 2nd and 3rd prizes going to Ed Kendall and Kevin Blair respectively. Other prizes were for 1st team, 2nd team, nearest the pin, longest drive and the 'pink' ball competition.

For most the day drew to a close after the presentations, while others stayed on to enjoy Stuart Montgomery reciting Burns far into the balmy midsummer night.

Over £4,000 was raised for WaterAid.



Donkin to the fore - then and now

If you look into a trench where gas mains are being worked on it's very likely you'll see an AVK Donkin product – and even a century ago things weren't much different.

In the foreground of this splendid archive photograph from 1895 are three Donkin rack and pinion valves – in fact, designing this particular type was the company's very first contract in the gas industry way back in 1847.

The picture comes courtesy of John Eastwood Snr, managing director of gas and water distribution specialists Flowstop Services, who first saw it in the chairman's office of South Eastern Gas more than 40 years ago.

John was told the photograph was taken on London's Old Kent Road during a visit by the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII), and that the elegant gent in the top hat on the left is the man himself. Face To Face begs to differ on the last point; even as a young man, Queen Victoria's heir was built for comfort rather than speed.

IGEM events put Donkin centre stage

When the Wales & West section of the the IGEM forum gathered in Bristol recently it was an opportunity for members – gas engineers, consultants and private companies - to hear presentations on the

subject of alternative gas supplies, and for sponsors (AVK Donkin among them) to showcase their wares and network with customers.

Pictured above right with UK gas key account manager Alan Bite (right) is Kenny Cameron, managing director of McNicholas Construction – both with the latest version of the ‘can’t put it down’ AVK magic cube that reinforces the message of the company’s Vision 4 programme.



It was a similar story at this year’s IGEM Conference and Engineering Update in Loughborough, where visitors saw a striking display of the latest in Donkin gas control technology on the AVK UK stand (left). The theme was products for PE systems, with the emphasis on the new Certus PE 100 ball valve and 555 ductile gate valve.

The biggest gas industry event in the UK calendar, the Conference this year stressed the themes of ‘Managing Ageing Assets’ and ‘Innovation and Industry Developments’.

“There was a bigger attendance than in recent years; in fact both days were oversubscribed,” says the company’s man on the stand Mike Skeemer, market sector manager for gas. “We had enquiries from both UK and overseas delegates interested in our new products, which justified our attendance at the event and has assured our continuing support.”

Speakers worth hearing



“The IWO conference was exceptional this year. We met a lot of good contacts, and there were some impressive and authoritative

speakers on some very interesting subjects.” That’s the opinion of Huw Jones, national accounts manager – water, about the Institute of Water conference in Swansea back in May (pictured here).

Amongst those on the podium was the managing director of Welsh Water (whose patch this was, of course), the chair of Scottish Water and Wessex Water’s director of compliance and sustainability Julian Dennis, who tackled the subject of ‘Skills for the 21st Century’.

The latter emphasised the need for the industry to improve its skill levels, particularly by bringing in more young people – a message that is understood and acted upon by AVK not just here but internationally.

“Our HR procedures are designed to make sure that we get the right people for the job in the first place and then we develop their skills on an ongoing basis,” explains Huw. “Everyone’s training progress is recorded, and there is a test at the end of every session to make sure that what’s been taught has also been understood.”

Look, no screwed connection!

When gas utilities need to fit a gate valve in order to isolate a section of medium pressure PE main they also need purge points up- and down-stream, which involves making screwed connections underground – a tricky, time-consuming and therefore costly procedure. But all that could soon be a thing of the past, thanks to an innovation from AVK Donkin now under-going field trials – the 455 purge/bypass point ball valve.



Based on the proven 455 ball valve that has been used by the UK gas industry for over 20 years, the design adds a factory-fitted ‘tail’ of PE pipe to eliminate the need for the screwed connection. The complete assembly, is fully enclosed so that it can be buried after installation ready for access as required. The ball valve is supplied with an anti-rotation device that is fitted before backfilling to prevent rotational forces being transferred to the pipeline when it is operated.

All about AVK UK people

As logistics manager for UK manufacturing at Staveley, Hyde and Corby, newcomer **Ray Essom** is principally responsible for internal materials planning and procurement processes. He is also part of the team developing service performance through the SKIPPER supply chain platform.

Ray has an MBA from De Montfort Business School in Leicester and more than 20 years' experience in operations and supply chain management with European multi-nationals in the access control and rubber and plastics industries.

Richard Snookes has joined AVK Donkin as operations manager of the Staveley manufacturing plant. Previously with Sheffield steel stockholders Howco Metals Management, Richard has worked for some of the city's most famous names. He began with an engineering apprenticeship at Edgar Allen Tools, and spent 12



years at David Brown Engineering in a variety of manufacturing operations and continuous improvement roles.

AVK UK has two new key account managers. **Robert McDonald**, who covers the South East, has spent his entire career to date in the valve industry, from an apprenticeship with Hale Hamilton (Valves) in Uxbridge in 1989 through to a sales engineer role with Swagelok in London most recently. Aker Kvaerner and BOC gases are some of the other names that appear on his CV.

Down in the South West is **Trevor Carroll**, an apprentice with British Gas North Thames who stayed with the utility through its many name changes, along the way qualifying as an industrial engineer and an NVQ assessor for A and V and spending three periods on secondment to Distribution (he says he has lost count of the number of Series 202 repair clamps he has fitted!). He finally left in 2003 to work for Tyco in the Middle East, and spent the last four years running an optical thin film coating company.

New AVK UK marketing manager **Jackie Cook** comes to the company after three years in the same post at Sheffield heavy engineering specialist Davy Markham.



Locally born and educated, she has Chartered Institute of Marketing and MSc marketing management qualifications from Chesterfield College and Sheffield Hallam University, and first applied what she learned during five years as marketing executive in the Sheffield office of accountants and business advisers PKF.

Jackie is also an enthusiast for UK manufacturing industry and the need to involve young people to secure its future. As a voluntary STEM ambassador (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), she has hosted school visits and took part in Sheffield's Global Manufacturing Festival earlier this year.

Other New Starters

AVK Donkin

Shaun Atterbury - Manufacturing Financial Controller
Matthew Jowsey - Carbon & Environmental Co-ordinator

AVK Manufacturing

David Latham - Manufacturing Financial Co-ordinator
Chris Ollerenshaw - Technical Support Engineer
Bill Taylor-Veitch - Sales Manager – Fittings

AVK UK

Wendy Taylor - Purchase Ledger Controller
Emma Simmons - Sales Co-ordinator
Richard Kitchingman - Sales Co-ordinator (AVKM)
Lorraine Staten - Sales Co-ordinator
David Smith - Warehouse Controller
Adam Tkacz - Key Account Manager – Export
Sylvia Lo - Accounts Administrator
Emma Bulley - HR and Payroll Assistant

Transfers within the Business

Tony Moreton - Materials Expeditor/Co-ordinator (AVK Donkin)
Kieran Fitzpatrick - General Manager AVK Manufacturing
Richard Kitchingman - Sales Co-ordinator AVK Manufacturing
Alasdair Wilson - Business Development Manager Invicta Valves

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

10 Years

Martin Rose - AGM
Ian Rose - AGM
Mark Heath - AGM
Tom McMullen - AGM
Julie Aston - AVKM
Steven Rose - AVKM

30.08.11

Gordon Devlin - GVL
James Haswell - GVL
Wildon Holland - GVL
Hugh Law - GVL
Alex Lewis - GVL
James McAllister - GVL
James McColm - GVL
Catherine Moffat - GVL
George Paton - GVL
Scott Pyper - GVL
Derek Skilling - GVL
Ramsay Watson - GVL
Alexander Wilson - GVL
James Wilson Snr - GVL

RETIREMENTS

David Yates - AVKM
Monica McDonald - GVL

BIRTHS

Jo and Gareth Launt – a baby boy Isaac – 28 November 2010
Greg and Susan Morris – a baby boy Archie – 16 February 2011
Nicola Lewis and Wayne Partridge – a baby girl Scarlett Irene – 23 January 2011
Nicola Leech and Dave Newell – a baby boy Jack Alexander – 23 March 2011
Ruth Mackey and Steve Ringer – a baby boy Jake Mackey Ringer – 6 June 2011
Mark and Ann Zelos – a baby girl Danya – 24 July 2011

ACHIEVEMENTS

Pete Hill – AVKD – NEBOSH Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety
Pete Hill – AVKD – NVQ level 3 in Management
Louise Menzies – AGM – NVQ Level 3 in Management
Ruth Mackey – AVKUK – NVQ Level 3 in Management
Allison Bassindale – AVKUK – NVQ Level 3 in Management
Sean Brody – AVKU – NVQ Level 3 in Management
Mick Cook – AVKUK – NVQ Level 2 in Team Leading
Keith Lee – AVKUK – NVQ Level 2 in Warehousing and Storage
Craig Barclay – AVKM – NVQ Level 2 in Team Leading
Chris Jones – AVKM – NVQ Level 2 in Team Leading

Acquisition good for business



AVK's latest corporate acquisition has created opportunities in new markets that complement the Group's established strengths.

InterApp, which was acquired last November, is a developer and manufacturer of high-quality metal and plastic valves headquartered in Switzerland with more

than 40 years' experience and its own fluid control technology. It has an international presence - production plants in Switzerland and Spain, and subsidiaries in Austria, Italy, Spain, France, Germany and Singapore.

The company will remain independent within the AVK Group, maintaining its own brand name and locations and serving its four strategic market segments - water

treatment, power generation, chemical process and life science.

Giving a UK perspective on the acquisition, AVK UK managing director Paul Jennings said "I think the key benefit of the InterApp acquisition is that it expands our product offer for the industrial market in the UK, enabling us to supply butterfly valves in particular into a variety of industries that we have not been able to access previously".