



## Pre-Rev Launch

# Thetford Manufacturing Excellence Club Meeting

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 14.00

Conference Suite, MotorsportVision Circuit Office,  
Snetterton Circuit, Norfolk, NR16 2JU  
(01953 887303)

---

### MINUTES

#### 1. Attendance

Richard Bridgman	Warren Services (Chair)
Ralph Burton	Breckland Council
Mark Stead	Rev Project
Kevin Whitfield	Active Technologies
Paul Spinks	Active Technologies
Michael Bezance	Active Technologies
Lynne Wellbelove	Breckland Precision Engineering Ltd
Richard Preston	Bridgeland Engineering
Mark Preston	Bridgeland Engineering
Alan Copeland	Bridgeland Engineering
David Holdham	Centurion Safety Products Ltd
Stephen Basey-Fisher	Century Logistics
Ian Rudling	Comtek Ltd
Bob Milton	Comtek Ltd
Mick Grossman	Comtek Ltd
Ron Decelis	EEIA
Roger Moore	EEIA
Derek Killapsy	Fireworks Fire Protection
Dave Dixon	Garmet Ltd
Carol Hodges	JobCentre Plus
Lee Hunton	Machined Precision Components Ltd
Tom Palmer	Merit Plastics
Gord Young	MTCE Ltd
Mike Marshall	Parkes Products
Neil Adams	Premiair Solutions Ltd
Roy Denyer	Pegasus Profiles / J.A.Clark
Susan Glossop	Thetford Manager
Gary Clark-Ward	Marketing Displays UK Ltd
Dave Rice	Trox UK Ltd
Darrell Harris	Trox UK Ltd
Chris Ward	WT Atkin

#### 2. Apologies

James Boughton	Blake & Broughton Ltd
Edward Rudd	C.S.I. Ltd
Graeme Werrell	C.S.I. Ltd
Charles Fenton	Click Clack Ltd
Ernie Panks	Dawsons
Lester Sharp	Dawsons
Colin Wilmslow	Detail Plastic Components
Derek Killaspy	Fireworks Fire Protection Ltd

**shaping the future**  
the economic development partnership for norfolk



Gary Dixon  
Andrew Blades  
Ray Wheeler  
Andrew Howard  
Stephanie Howard  
Sarah Johnston  
Oliver Booth  
Ann Rivett  
Debra Wing  
Nigel Clark  
Bobby McGregor  
Mark Duff  
John Home  
Craig Saunders-Johnson  
Doug Berwick  
Rob Howard  
James Grint  
Paul Nichol  
Trevor Webster  
Iris Bailey  
Karl Darby  
Nick Overton  
Stuart Northcott  
Andrew Barnes  
Will Lennard  
Brian Greengrass  
Geoff Toft

Garmet Ltd  
Glunz & Jensen  
Guardline Technology Ltd  
Goodwood Engineering  
Goodwood Engineering  
Hayssen Europe Ltd  
HMC Ltd  
Helmsman Ltd  
HJW Precision Engineering  
J A Clark & Co Ltd  
Jeyes Ltd  
Multiyork  
Parker Hannifin  
Parker Hannifin  
Parkes Products  
PCT Ltd  
Peerless Plastics & Components  
United Forktruck Ltd  
Baxter Healthcare  
Karis Welding Services Ltd  
Karis Welding Services Ltd  
Machined Precision Components Ltd  
Norfolk Engineering Sector Group  
Powertrain Technologies  
Powertrain Technologies  
SBS Ltd  
SBS Ltd

### 3. Welcome

Richard Bridgman welcomed everyone to the meeting at Snetterton. Members were able to spend a short time at the beginning of the meeting to meet and network with other members. Apologies were noted and minutes from 23<sup>rd</sup> November agreed.

### 4. Rural Enterprise Valley

Mark Stead, the Rev Skills and Recruitment Broker introduced himself and his background. Mark outlined that his role was to help guide and support local businesses with their skills, training and recruitment needs. There was a discussions about the new Train To Gain service and notification about the grant available for skills training under Towards 2010 from EEDA.

Mark spoke about the new Rev project website at [www.revproject.com](http://www.revproject.com) where it was anticipated that there would be an online directory of all the businesses within the club. Susan Glossop mentioned that there was due to be a new Breckland Online Business Database for all businesses based in Breckland to be launched in 2007.

There was a discussion about liaison with schools. Richard had been in discussions with the Rosemary Musker High school and were starting up an after school engineering club along with Protrain. More needs to be done to encourage young people into engineering and there was an idea of Engineering Champions.

Ron Declis mentioned that EEDA is putting together a framework for the region on Manufacturing.

The Forumla Schools programme was referred to.



Roger Moore asked the group about local overnight accommodation for overnight visitors or staff attending courses. In another area in the region there is a consortium of land ladys. This is linked to the Tourist Information Centres.

### **5. Future of the Thetford Manufacturing Club**

Ralph opened the discussion relaying to members how the club started, how many meetings there had been and the achievements of the club since 2004 including the A11 Gateway East campaign. The following points/comments were raised in discussion about its future:

- Businesses have little interface with the government/other businesses so it is a good opportunity to do so.
- Happy to pay to attend the club meetings.
- Would like to see it continue in its current form.
- Different agendas will offer different things to different sized businesses.
- It is an ideal forum to hear about training offers/grants.
- It kicked off the A11 Gateway East campaign.
- It could get involved in political lobbying – Christopher Fraser has offered to host the group at the Houses of Parliament.
- Could look at forming sub-committees i.e. education, purchasing, health & safety. Could be a danger that the sub-committees get stronger than the actual club itself.
- The brief details on the agendas give members a good idea of the topic of discussion – would like to see this remain.
- The club gives a common voice from the sector.
- If you are not able to attend yourself a representative from your business is always welcome.
- Need to share email/telephone numbers of everyone who attends on the minutes.
- Networking time is important.
- [www.justjobsnorfolk.co.uk](http://www.justjobsnorfolk.co.uk) – obtained a deal to secure £50 per job advert for anyone within the club.
- Need to be careful not to rely too much on Rev.
- Diversity of businesses attending if good.
- Formal informality of the club works well.
- The club has grown well since 2004 and works well.
- Rev is a good opportunity to move the club forwards and evolve – happy for it to be part of Rev.

### **6. AOB**

Richard elayed any fears that the Hethel Engineering Centre was going to close. It is very much open for business.

Richard also thanked Ralph on behalf of the group for the time, effort and work to facilitate the meetings over the last 2 years.

Ralph reaffirmed how important it is more members to complete surveys/questionnaires for this sector i.e. EEDA's manufacturing questionnaire to ensure more support is made available for manufacturing in the future.

The next meeting is likely to be in February 2008, date and venue to be arranged.