

Beatson Clark install highly flexible
Bradman Lake shrink wrapper

**MORE DETAILS
CAN BE FOUND
ON PAGE 10**

FROM PROCESS TO PALLET

Innovative solutions to exceed every packaging demand from single machines to fully integrated lines.

FEEDING SYSTEMS ♦ DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS ♦ FLOW WRAPPING ♦ ROLL WRAPPING
SHRINK WRAPPING ♦ ROBOTICS ♦ CARTONING ♦ CASE PACKING ♦ STORAGE SYSTEMS ♦ BAKERY SLICERS
BAKERY BAGGERS ♦ PALLETISERS ♦ TURNKEY SOLUTIONS



A Langley Holdings Company



Bradman Lake Group
Integrated Packaging Technology





Bradman Lake, Beccles (inside shown below)

BRADMAN LAKE'S OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

BY ED BINSTED

In May, the announcement came through that Bradman Lake had been awarded the Queen's Award for Enterprise in 2022. The Queen's Award is the highest and most prestigious award a British company can receive and is a globally

recognised seal of Royal approval.

I had the opportunity to meet up with John Marlee, Group M.D of Bradman Lake, and Paul Holmes, Technical Sales Manager, to discuss the impact of the Queens Award, which the company

gained in spite of COVID, the invasion by Russia into Ukraine and a general slowing down of the world economy.

Clearly John and Paul were in great form and immensely proud of their recent achievement, as John commented, "The Queens Award is a real pat on the back for our whole team who have diligently got on with the job in very difficult times, continuing to build world class machines and supporting our customers in the Food and Pharmaceutical global markets. Throughout the pandemic we took all the right precautions to safeguard the health of the team and I am proud to say that no team member was hospitalised with COVID."

The current Bradman Lake story started when Langley Holdings plc, a privately owned UK based engineering and industrial manufacturing group, acquired Bradman Lake in 2007, shortly after John Marlee was appointed M.D. from his previous role as Technical Director. Bradman Lake has four component parts; Autowrappers who produce 'Product Handling and Primary



Packaging Machinery', Bradman Lake 'Product Handling and Secondary Packaging Machinery', Europack 'Product Handling and Tertiary (or end of line) Packaging Machinery' and Ibonhart 'Product Handling, Slicing and Bagging for Bakery Products'. The company is now the largest UK based packaging machinery manufacturer and operates from three sites, Beccles, Bristol and Rock Hill, South Carolina in the US with Regional Sales and Service in Mumbai, India.



Bristol site

Bradman Lake have a significant export business, John commented, "Initially the majority of our exports came from Commonwealth countries where we

followed Global Food and Pharma clients who have been such loyal customers over the years, our coverage is now global. I am particularly pleased with the fact that customers come back to us time and again, which demonstrates to me that we do our best not to let anybody down in after sales and service. We continue to support machines in the field that first went in in the 1960's and when asked to, we can strip them down and fit new components and the machines will continue to give great service."

Being the leading player in machinery for Food and Pharma requires the company to constantly invest in new innovation through an ongoing research and development program and technical staff through their Apprentice programme. BL have 20 apprentices across the business and budget for six additional apprentices every year, as John said, "Our apprentices are our future and now make up 10% of our workforce, it is vital that we have the correct skills in place where we need them."

There is a culture of openness and transparency within the whole

Langley Holdings group and at BL also, we are very aware of staff safety and are proud to say there have been no recordable incidents in the three manufacturing plants in the last decade, another great achievement.

I will be publishing three very interesting projects which I saw on the shop floor in Beccles; a shrinkwrapper that is going into a glass manufacturer, a high speed end load cartoner and wrap around case packer going into a leading UK savoury pie manufacturer and, for the Pharma industry, a system for collating and loading small aerosol components for inhalers into trays with an integrated automatic palletising system. All three systems are going to existing clients who have returned to BL for automation as their own production continues to increase.

It has been a real pleasure to be able to report on a UK engineering success story, the Bradman Lake team thoroughly deserve their latest award and I wish them every success for the future.



A HIGHLY FLEXIBLE SHRINK WRAPPER FOR BEATSON CLARK

BEATSON CLARK (BC), WANTED TO UPGRADE ONE OF THEIR PRODUCTION LINES, BY INSTALLING A NEW BOTTLE PACKAGING SYSTEM TO HANDLE A WIDE RANGE OF BOTTLE SIZES AND SHAPES.

Bradman Lake (BL) the UK's largest manufacturer of packaging machines delivered a new flexible high-speed machine with integrated collator, robot loader and energy efficient shrink wrapper.

"The existing machine, a BL Europack Collator / Shrink Wrapper supplied to the South Yorkshire

site is being re-purposed within Beatson Clark." said Graham Lax, Head of Project Management.

Bradman Lake's relationship with Beatson Clark has developed over many years with the first-generation of pneumatically operated machines entering service three decades earlier.

The second-generation of machine utilises servo controls and this latest edition now incorporates an integrated robot allowing easier size change, gentler bottle control and flexibility.

This new machine increases BC's install base to twelve BL Collator Shrink Wrappers and Collator Tray Packers.

This is the 'Third Generation' machine and uses a Fanuc Robot as the film wrapping actuator.

"This new wrapper will meet our increasing quality expectations as well as support the production of less stable and lighter containers. The new unit incorporates a new generation of Technology which will give us increased flexibility and reliability with an element of easy set up and repeatability." said Graham Lax, Head of Project Management.

Features and Benefits

Designed to pack over 70 different bottle types in a variety of different 'inline' and 'nested' collations. The machine can pack both 'Flint' (clear) and 'Amber' (brown) glass.

Bottle sizes vary from 25mm dia x 47mm tall up to 100mm dia x 250mm tall in ovals, rectangular, round, and bespoke shapes, including hexagonal and triangular, with infeed rates more than 240 bpm.



Product enters in a single lane and is divided into two lanes and directed to two servo-driven collators. Each collator employs three servos, including a travelling steady device. If one collator faults and stops, the other will continue to pack, taking a large % of production until an operator attends to the machine to deal with the stoppage.

Specific features required for each bottle shape & format are programmed and retained in the PLC, making the machine easy to size change and operate.

The shrink wrapper has a 1000mm film width capacity and can handle 40 – 100micron gauge polythene film. The primary seal is formed on the silicon transfer belt, which is speed locked with the Fanuc robot to provide precise placement on glassware onto the film web. The sealing jaw is also servo controlled and gives a perfect seal and cut profile for each pack size. The approach angle of the jaw minimises the overall film wrap resulting in less



energy requirement to achieve the desired shrinkage.

All packs are 'side sealed' with 'button sealers' that permit the air contained within the pack to escape but provide a

totally enclosed finished pack.

A servo-driven intermediate belt conveyor ensures that the transfer speeds from the sealing belt onto the tunnel belt are perfectly synchronized,

continued on page 12 ►





continued from page 11 ►

eliminating any issue with excess film on the pack undersides.

A twin-chamber shrink tunnel, developed with emphasis on pack quality, provides unlimited variations of heat and airflow settings, and together with belt speed variation, can produce first-class finished packs over the entire range. The twin impeller recirculation design creates the ideal environment for perfect shrinkage with reduced heat energy input.

Most of the size change is automatic due to the high number of servo drives used on all major assemblies (Collators, transfer conveyor, robot and sealing jaw all auto adjust).

A reversible transfer conveyor allows rapid product removal into bins contained within machine guarding.

The machine is fully illuminated due to its working environment.

A film hoist (large 350mm diameter x 1000mm reels are used) is fitted as standard equipment.

🌐 www.bradmanlake.com
 ✉ uk@bradmanlake.com

