



PELICAN NEWS

Blue Skies Newsletter | May 2018 | Issue 144 | www.blueskies.com

Introducing our Blue Print Commitments



Blue Skies has published a number of targets as part of its Blue Print Sustainability Plan. The targets are based on priorities identified in a stakeholder survey which was conducted earlier this year. Commitments include achieving zero waste to landfill by 2020, eliminating all plastics from Blue Skies branded products by 2025 and recycling 100% of our factory waste water by 2025.

A full copy of our plan can be downloaded from our website at www.blueskies.com/blueprint.

Our intention is to consult further on our priorities ahead of our 2018 Group Conference and extend our targets to cover our top 20 priorities areas. We will also publish a full sustainability report in January next year.



Our 2018 Targets



Achieve £158m sales at 5% pbt by 2020



Achieve zero waste to landfill by 2020



Introduce Sustainability Strategy by end of 2018



Achieve BOD levels of <50 ppm in factory waste water by 2020



Publish 2018 Sustainability Report in January 2019



100% of trays or bags widely recyclable by 2020



Expand targets to include top 20 priorities by 2019



Eliminate all plastics in Blue Skies branded range by 2025



Recycle 100% of factory waste water by 2025



Reduce customer waste to an average of 6% by 2025



In memory of Isaac Malikson

This month we dedicate our newsletter to the memory of our Chief Engineer in Ghana, Isaac Malikson, who we very sadly lost this month. Isaac was a highly skilled and compassionate leader of our engineering department who had been with the business for almost 16 years.

Isaac had proven himself a very competent and professional member of the Blue Skies family and had been instrumental in expanding our operation in Ghana to meet the growing needs of our customers. He kept an immaculately organised workshop which was able to respond quickly and effectively to keep our factory in working order.

Isaac is survived by his wife, a daughter and two sons. All our thoughts and prayers are with Isaac's family, friends and colleagues at this difficult time.



Pictured: Forklift driver Wilson Yaw Amoaka

For the love of mango



The prepared mango quality from Blue Skies is renowned but a lot goes into putting the best fruits into our ready to eat convenience packs. We often talk about the skilled staff who wash and cut our fruits and the activities that go on at the mango farms, but there is an important team in the middle that ensures we get the best out of the fruit that we source. The procurement and intake team in Ghana are managed by Rose (pictured inset), an expert

in fruit but also a formidable manager of a 300 strong team. Amongst other things, Rose orders the West African fruit consignments from Ghana, Burkina Faso or Cote d'Ivoire. She also makes sure we unload lorries, sort and grade raw material and most importantly that we take every single one of the 1 million fruits that are processed weekly through a rigorous inspection and ripening process. The natural environment provides the perfect ripening humidity and temperature but people are the real secret to our mango success.

Pictures and report by Guy Murfitt, Procurement Director

Rijk Zwaan visits Egypt



On May 12 2018 Rijk Zwaan seeds visited Blue Skies Egypt. Rijk Zwaan is a melon seeds producer who supplies the Orange Melon seeds to Blue Skies. A group of 25 people from different countries spent about one and half hours at the factory to find out about what we do. The visit started with a Blue Skies presentation in the training room from Osama, the Production Manager. They then received a tour of the site.

Brazil votes to elect new committee



Pictured: Staff at Blue Skies Brazil recently turned out to vote in elections for their Health & Safety Committee.

Blue Skies Ice Cream and juice launches on Amazon Fresh



Blue Skies have launched its ice cream and freshly squeezed juice with Amazon Fresh to compliment our fresh-cut fruits, which have also been relaunched with a fresh new look. Amazon Fresh is available to people with Prime accounts in select postcodes in and around London. You can view the range here: <https://goo.gl/zxMFr6>



Ghana goes coconuts!

Pictured: Ever wondered what 80,000 coconuts look like? A new day dawns and a fresh delivery arrives for the factory in Ghana.



In search of new ideas in Brazil

Sarah Bircham from the UK NPD team recently visited Brazil to support the local team in developing new fruit salads and freshly squeezed juices with the exotic range of raw materials available in the country.



Pictured: Sarah at a citrus farm



Marcio and Sarah visiting Gold Fruit in Petrolina. Pictured at a fruit tasting

Happy Birthday



Many happy returns to Josephine Turkson (pictured) who celebrated her birthday on the 8th of May, which also marks her one year anniversary with the Blue Skies Production team in Ghana. Happy Birthday also to Janet and Pep who also had birthdays this month. Happy Birthday to everyone who celebrated a birthday in May!

Well done Rich!



Rich Railton reports on his 3 Peaks Challenge...

As most of you know my 3 Peaks Challenge took place last weekend. Thanks to your donations and others online and in person we managed to raise over £4,000 for the RTS support group, which is a monumental effort. Thank you to everyone that donated and supported me in this challenge. (If you still would like to donate, the website will be open for another few weeks....<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/rt3peak>) This money goes straight to the charity and will go towards helping families learn to adapt and live with this life altering condition.

As for the challenge, well, I managed 2 out of 3....

Friday night, we drove to Anglesey where we slept on the floor of an indoor climbing wall, well, 'slept' is a loose term, I think I managed about 3 hours. Then it was up at 5, bacon sandwich, cup of tea and off to the base of Snowdon, our first mountain and the second highest peak in Britain. We started Snowdon at about 6:15 on the best weather I have ever known Wales to have, clear blue skies and a spectacular dawn across the mountains. We got to the top in about 2 hours and 20 minutes, where we had stunning views across the Snowdonia National Park and out to the Irish sea. Then it was straight down Snowdon and in to the bus for the 5 hour drive to Scarfell Pike in the Lake District which is the highest peak in England and 3rd highest in Britain. This was a tougher one, even though it is a little shorter than Snowdon, you start closer to sea level so you actually climb higher. The path is just a long straight (ish) slog up to the top, or what looks like the top, then you turn right and realise you're only 2/3's of the way up! (The peak is hidden, I didn't miss it!) Still pretty spectacular though, you can see the majority of the path from stretching out through the valley.

After a few disheartening false summits, a lot of very loose rocks, and a final scramble over a boulder field, we eventually we got to the top at about 7:30 pm. Meaning that we had been going for 13 hours. As we neared the top, the winds picked up as they raced through the other valleys and hit us full force as we stood at the trig point. With nothing to shelter us from the wind and time pressing on, we did not stay up there for long! Then, it was a long, slow and painful trudge down a path that never seemed to end. It was a special kind of torture being able to see where you needed to get to, but no matter how many steps you took, it didn't seem to be getting any closer. With every plod, my knee was crying out a little louder so I spent my time watching my steps and hoping to get to the bus, before my knee gave up!

Eventually we did get back to the bus, quick change of clothes in a port-a-loo (not the easiest of things to do!!), grab some food, strap up some blisters and pile in to the bus for the 6 hour drive north to Fort William and the base of Ben Nevis, the tallest mountain in Britain. I'm afraid, that is where my story ends. With the endurance test that had gone before, I simply didn't have it in me for another mountain, let alone the toughest one in the dark! I figured that if I was that tired and my knee was playing up on Scarfell, then that's when accidents could happen. I left it wanting to do more, rather than wishing I hadn't, and I don't regret that decision. Besides, I couldn't afford to injure myself, I have a sales forecast to finish!!!

My story ends, but other members of the team did manage to find that last depth of strength and summited The Ben. All made it safely back down to the bus for the 9 hour drive back. If my memory is correct, the final time for all 3 up and down was 28 and a half hours, considering the road closures, the traffic and that most of us were novices, that is very good going. I finally got home at about 11:30 pm only to find that there was a burst water main and we had no water for a shower! (Don't worry, it's fixed now!!)

All in all, a hard day's walking, but well worth it, only trouble is now that I feel like I need to do it all again just to do the 3, I think some more practise first though! The whole point though, was not climbing the mountains, the point was to raise money for the support group and raise awareness of RTS and that we managed in spades! Thank you again for your support and donations, it really does make a massive difference to people affected by RTS.

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Bhuti and Dieketseng Lubisi (pictured top) who got married this month. Bhuti and Dieketseng both work at Blue Skies South Africa. Bhuti is a stock controller and Dieketseng is a Quality assurance in High Care. They got married on the 29th April 2018 at Freedom in Christ Prophetic Ministry church.

And congratulations to Maamle Akwada, one of our nurses at the Clinic in Ghana. She tied the knot with her long time friend Selorm Odjo Anyomi at a beautiful wedding in Tema.

On behalf of us all at Blue Skies, we wish all our newly weds a wonderful and happy life.

Sally to walk for charities

Mervat's daughter Sally El-Ghazali, will be participating in the Shine Night Walk half marathon again this year to raise money for Cancer Research. This time Sally will be doing the walk with her father and brother (pictured). You can help the El-Ghazali family raise money for this important cause by donation via their fundraising page at: <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/team/el-ghazali-family-team>

Sally is also going to be embarking on the Three Peaks Challenge in June to raise money for Group of Anaesthetists of Training (GAT) which works to promote safer anaesthesia in Africa. Sally is an anaesthetics and intensive care doctor trainee and also an elected member of GAT. You can support Sally by making a donation at:

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/greatgatchallenge>