

In the Mood Newsletter



Spring 2022

Welcome to In The Mood.

As we celebrate 75 years in the Haulage Industry since my grandfather first started trading, it has been refreshing to be able to visit some of our customers again face to face.

All businesses have faced some form of turmoil these last 2 years. Therefore, agility and resourcefulness to steer the business in fast changing circumstances, has been at the heart of survival and success for most of us.

Within logistics, it has felt like we are plugging holes in one side of the ship, only to find a leak springing on the other side, as we tackled issues such as driver labour shortages, fuel price increases, container logistics in uproar, Brexit issues and of course the war in Europe! *Whatever else can be thrown at us to navigate through?*

On a positive note, our growth has been tremendous across the group, and we hope throughout these external pressures, you will agree that we have maintained our care and reliability towards our customers and employees, who are at the forefront of everything we do.

We have made huge investments in our fleet and employees this last year, and have just taken another leap of faith and signed a lease on an additional 30,000sq.ft. of warehousing space nearby in Ashington to act as a satellite warehouse. This will enable us to be able to continue to give our customers the space they need, when they need it!

So, if you need storage space or order fulfilment let us know!

Enjoy reading the latest news!

Caroline

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS IN HAULAGE



Chairman Alan Moody with a photo of his late father and founder of the business, David.

2022 marks a significant milestone birthday for Moody Logistics and Storage.

We have been delivering trust and reliability for 75 years - an amazing achievement, and something chairman Alan Moody is rather proud of, having had some testing times over the years including the closure of the mining industry in the 80s (which ironically ended up changing the direction of the business for the better) and more recently the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The business has overcome all its challenges which has been down to its dynamic leadership, from founder David Moody right through to the third generation who are currently at the helm.

Speaking of the 75th anniversary Alan said, "It's an incredible achievement to have been in business for 75 years.

"I have fond memories of watching my father establish the business, and being involved

From a very young age shovelling coal into bags for delivery and driving a loading shovel around the site. I even drove the trucks making nearby deliveries aged 15, something I'm sure wouldn't be allowed these days!!



"I'm grateful to each and every team member who has helped

build our family business over the years and I hope Moody's is a name that will continue to prosper in the haulage industry."

As celebratory ideas come to fruition, including hospitality sporting events across the year and branded giveaway merchandise, the directors are inviting staff across the three sister companies to an activity away day at Slaley Hall, where the team will be able to hone their skills in practical activities such as archery, axe throwing, clay pigeon shooting, and quad biking.

FAST-TRACK TRAINING PROGRAMME CONTINUES TO BE A ROARING SUCCESS

Alex Elrod and Steve McLetchie are following the examples of our previous apprentices who gained their Class 2 licences within five months.

We launched the scheme last spring to overcome the lengthy delays hampering the government-backed driver apprenticeship scheme, which takes between 12 and 18 months to qualify.

Speaking of its success, Caroline said: "Our own apprenticeship scheme is allowing us to produce qualified drivers within a much shorter time span, without compromising the quality of their training.



"Developing our own programme has allowed Moody's to insulate itself from the problems surrounding recruitment and the

nationwide shortage of HGV drivers.

"It's great to attract younger people into the industry and, by contracting the training process, it means they can earn a higher wage much sooner while the company gets an employee fully able to contribute to the success of the business."



Steve, 28, of Blaydon, has already completed the process having gained his Class 2 licence in February, whilst Alex, 20, of Blyth, is combining his driver training by gaining experience in the warehouse, but has also recently been out on the north east roads driving the light vans.

We wish them both a long and successful career at Moody's!

HELPING WITH UKRAINIAN DONATIONS

After Newcastle's Polish Centre was inundated with donations of aid for Ukrainian refugees fleeing their war-torn country, we immediately offered use of our facilities after the centre ran out of space to store the huge number of items donated by the public and North East organisations.

Volunteer and Northumberland county councillor Wojciech Ploszaj said: "Fortunately, Moody Logistics quickly stepped in to collect the aid and made its



storage facility available to us for several days until we could find a more permanent solution. We are extremely grateful for their help and support."

Next day Blyth MP Ian Levy arrived along with a group of volunteers to unload the lorry and then, with the assistance of Moody's transport manager Mark Fisher, the aid boxes were wrapped and safely stored.

Caroline said: "People are horrified at the distressing images and reports coming out of Ukraine and everyone is doing whatever they can to offer support."



DELIVERY ACCURACY WITH WHAT3WORDS

We're very excited to announce that we now accept what3words addresses in our award-winning freight tracking software, MyNexus, so you can tell us exactly where to deliver your freight.

It's a hassle free delivery straight to your door using just 3 words - what's not to love!

More information on our website.



HEATHLINE'S WORKSHOP UPGRADE

Since opening the doors to its new purpose-built workshop in June 2020, Heathline Commercials has been making improvements to its equipment as the team expand and demands for its services increases.

Most recently the workshop has had an exhaust fume extraction system installed (pictured below).



These huge flexible hoses are designed to control indoor air pollution and control exposure to diesel exhaust fumes.

Our technicians simply attach the nozzle to the HGV exhaust to safely capture and remove fumes from their working environment.

It's a hugely successful addition.



AWARDS EVENING 2021

SHY BAIRNS GET NOWT

At just 15, Aidan Moody (who bears no relation to the company) used his surname and charm to put forward a sponsorship proposition Caroline just couldn't refuse!

Aidan is a student at King Edward VI school in Morpeth, and has loved rugby since the age of 8 when he joined Cramlington Rockets.

He joined Newcastle Thunder academy programme in October last year, and needed a sponsor to help with training and kit costs. We wish him the best of luck as he pursues his passion.



APPRENTICESHIP HAT-TRICK

Huge congratulations to Matthew Fretwell, Production Supervisor at MCR Services, on achieving his Level 3 Business Management and Team Leader/Supervisor qualification.



This is Matthew's third apprenticeship he's undertaken during his 7 year stint at MCR Services - what an achievement!

When asked 'what's next?' Matthew replied, "I'm taking some time out of additional studies to focus on managing the team. Our client base is expanding and the work is coming through thick and fast, so it's the perfect environment to put my leadership skills into practice."

CELEBRATING STAFF EXCELLENCE

Just before Christmas we recognised the contribution of staff that have excelled in their roles at our annual awards night.

Caroline presented the Employee of the Year award to accountant Jodie Curran while operations director Richard presented Michael Crackett with the Driver of the Year award.

Karen Brown, of MCR Services, and James Clark, a driver, were both presented with long service awards to mark their 10 years spent with each company.

Awards also handed out on the evening included staff who had 100% attendance for the year,

and drivers who have maintained accident free driving.

Caroline said, "2021 was a crucial year which was again dominated by the uncertainties created by the pandemic.

"Despite these challenges, all three businesses have continued to thrive and expand, due in part to the strong links developed with our staff which promotes a loyalty that goes both ways.

"While these key awards deservedly highlight individual contributions, we recognise the success we have achieved is very much a team effort."

JAGUARS' SLEEK NEW TRAINING GEAR

When we can do, we love helping support local community sports clubs and charities.

This year we've sponsored Cramlington United Jaguars, a girls under 10s football team.

The team are coached by Moody's sales administrator Claire Dodd and her husband Ben, whose daughter plays for the team.

Our sponsorship meant the girls could get these fabulous durable training tops - with our logo emblazoned across the back - as well as some woolly hats.

The girls received their tops in January and we were informed that after the first wear, they won their game 2-0.

We do hope that Moody's training tops work as a lucky charm for the rest of the season and wish the Jaguars the best of luck!



Above: Izzy models the new top and hat, and below, the Jaguars during training!



CAREER CHANGE TRUCK DRIVERS CELEBRATE GAINING CLASS 1 LICENCE

A former insurance broker and a taxi driver are now behind the wheel of some of our largest trucks in the fleet after gaining their Class 1 HGV licences.

Michael, 52, from Cramlington, formerly worked in an office-based role in the insurance industry for 30 years and, facing redundancy, opted to undergo his Class 2 training prior to joining Moody's. We supported him in progressing to his Class 1 licence.

Ray, 36, from Seaton Burn, is a former transport manager and taxi driver, who despite his lack of truck driving experience, joined us having self-funded his CPC qualification and Class 2 training, with his test already booked.



Top of the Class:
Michael Weightman (top)
and Ray Armstrong

Once he gained his Class 2 licence, Ray then funded his Class 1 training, supported with a contribution by Moody's.

Caroline said: "There has been a great deal of reporting around the national shortfall in HGV drivers. We are bucking that trend by our willingness to recruit people with the right positive attitude from outside the industry and giving them the opportunity to progress their careers."

Michael Weightman said: "Many might think it's a huge change going from insurance broker to lorry driver, but it appealed to me. I decided to get my Class 2 licence and then applied for a job at Moody's and thanks to their encouragement I now have my Class 1, which allows me to earn more money."

Ray Armstrong added: "Getting both my Class 2 and Class 1 licence has been a real achievement. I hope it shows others that, if you put your mind to it, that it's possible to switch careers to something you enjoy doing."

IVECO S-WAYS STEAL THE LIMELIGHT

Last year we were hot out of the blocks in purchasing a pair of Iveco S-Way trucks, deemed some of the first on the UK roads.

Since joining the fleet, these streamlined trucks have been a huge success - so much so that this year we've invested in 2 more!

The trucks will predominantly be used to pull double-decker trailers on the night shift run between the Pall-Ex Hub in Leicester and Moody's HQ.

Our Iveco investments haven't gone unnoticed in the trucking world, quite the opposite in fact.

We welcomed a professional photographer on site who took

some amazing shots.

Not only has Iveco created a press release about them, but we made front page news of Commercial Motor magazine, with an 8-page spread inside, and featured in Truck & Driver magazine where driver Dean gave his honest review of the S-Way.



With soon to be four S-Way's on the roads, we're sure to cause a frenzy! Keep a look out for them.

THUNDER'S COMING

We're excited to have entered into our 4th season of sponsorship with professional rugby league club Newcastle Thunder.

This year is set to be a big one, with the return of the hugely successful and popular grassroots festival, The Moody Cup.

However, the club have announced massive plans to take the festival to the next level, inviting both girls and boys across two weekends in August to perfect their rugby skills on the professional team's pitches.



Our event was hailed a huge success last year

We've already been to a couple of matches to see Thunder in action, and are looking forward to what they can achieve this season.

GO THUNDER

SPOTLIGHT ON... JEFF JONES



Role:

Purchase Ledger Controller

Length of service?

4 years

Describe yourself in 3 words:

Forgetful

Item you couldn't live without?

Oxygen

What's your claim to fame?

I once drove Boy George and Culture Club around the region as they featured in a TV programme

Your last meal would be...

Arsenic on toast

Who would you trade lives with for one day and why?

My current wife to find out how hilariously amusing I am.