

The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

Calum goes on trial with new bike

A NEWCo employee has been accepted to take part in the world-renowned International Six Day Trials in Fort William this year.

Second-year apprentice Calum Easson will compete against 280 riders from all over the world in the gruelling challenge.

The Six Day Trials is the sport of observed motorcycle trials and is best described as a test of riding skill over observed sections.

Unlike other motorcycle disciplines, the trials are not about speed, but balance and concentration.

When competitors ride the observed sections their feet must remain on the footrests of the motorcycle and they must remain between laid out flags or markers.

Calum will be put to the test negotiating steep gullies, slippery rock steps, rocky streams or boulder-strewn gorges.

The sections vary in length and severity, and riders are penalised if they put their feet down to help them ride the section, and more so if they fail to negotiate the section in its entirety.

Calum, who purchased a new bike for the event, said he has been regularly practising at least 30 miles on his training sessions: "It's a prestigious event and there will be competitors from all over the world including as far afield as Australia and the USA.

"I am excited although a little nervous to be taking part. I have competed before in other events throughout Scotland, but this is the big one. Finding places to practise is not easy, but I have been managing to get at least 30 miles in every Sunday."



GREAT CHIEFTAIN O' THE PIPIN' RACE



AJ Engineering MD Alan James has been chosen to act as Chieftain for the region's biggest one-day event.

Alan who has been heavily involved in Piping At Forres since it started in 2013 was announced as the Chieftain at a meeting held to encourage more sponsors to get involved in the 2018 European Pipe Band Championships

which will take place at Grant Park in Forres on June 30.

The meeting, hosted by title sponsor of Piping At Forres, Benromach Speyside Single Malt Scotch Whisky, attracted both business representatives from across Moray

See over



Laura shares breakfast table with DYW Moray

Graduate apprentice Laura Mair will be taking part in a business breakfast next month with DYW Moray. The event is being held to “Celebrate the Success of the Apprenticeship Family in Moray.”

The aim of the event is to showcase how the Apprenticeship Family (Foundation Apprenticeships, Modern Apprenticeships and Graduate Level Apprenticeships) is delivered in Moray, to celebrate the successes of apprentices, recognise the commitment for employers and to encourage other employers to take on an apprentice.

Laura, joined by mentor and project manager Andrew Morrison, will take part in a panel interview.

New chieftain

Continued

and Highland and people from the tourism industry.

Alan has acted as chairman of Forres Events Limited, the company which organises the piping and drumming spectacular, for the last two years and has performed the role of accompanying and hosting previous chieftains throughout the event.

Eddie Tomkinson, a director with Forres Events Limited who works closely with Alan and the rest of the team to ensure the event goes smoothly said: “We are delighted that Alan has agreed to be our Chieftain for what is to be the last in the current series of European Pipe Band Championships being held in Forres.

“In 2012, Alan, together with other local business personnel, started Forres Events Limited with the aim of convincing the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association that Forres would be an ideal venue for the competition. Their efforts were rewarded because not only did we secure the initial three-year contract from 2013-15 but, because of the event’s wide success and popularity, it was awarded a further three-year contact for 2016-2018.

“Sadly two years ago two of our directors died, leaving a big gap in the leadership team and Alan agreed to take on the role of Chairman.

“It is therefore fitting that in this, our last Championship in this series, Alan not only leads the team in what will hopefully be a fantastic day for all the competitors, traders and public but also on that day he represents Forres as our Chieftain.”

Ian Chapman, Marketing Director for Benromach added: “We congratulate Alan on his appointment as Chieftain of this year’s Piping At Forres. This much-anticipated event showcases the musical and cultural talents of the participants, while the attendance of locals and visitors is testament to the festival team and our local community spirit. We are immensely proud at Benromach to have been involved with Piping At Forres from the beginning, and look forward to another great year in 2018.”

WALK THIS WAY

City waterworks contract could mean new jobs

A project to create a walkway and stainless steel pipeworks for an Aberdeen waste water treatment works, looks likely to lead to more jobs for AJ Engineering.

Under the management of Wilson Burnett, the company has just completed the project at Persely for Xylem Pumps.

The project was secured at the start of December and involved designing, fabricating and galvanising two steel walkways across the existing storm tanks. These were put in place to allow Xylem Pumps access to install new tank cleaning equipment. AJ

Engineering also supplied and installed stainless steel pipework between the tank cleaning pumps and cleaning nozzles.

Wilson said: “This is the first time we have worked with Xylem Pumps and they are now speaking with us about a similar job at another site in Scotland.

“This is the forerunner of future works that we are going to be doing in the Water and Waste Water Industry for ESD who are delivering projects to Scottish Water.”



A walkway being put in place at Aberdeen