

Firm's rugby goalpost beer pumps prove a hit



CHEERS: Colin Farrar alongside the rugby goal posts-style beer pump, developed by his firm for the 2015 Rugby World Cup

A KEIGHLEY company has been commissioned by one of the world's largest brewers to make a memorable contribution to the Rugby World Cup.

Colin Farrar Brewery Services, which is based in St Paul's Road, Parkwood, developed an eye-catching beer pump resembling rugby goalposts.

These innovative pumps are now being used to dispense lager at bars around Twickenham, the home of England rugby. Colin Farrar Brewery Services recently received special recognition at the 2015 Keighley Business Awards. The busi-

ness was "Highly Commended" in the manufacturing business of the year category.

Owner Colin Farrar, said: "As a former chairman of Keighley Rugby League during the seventies and eighties I've only temporarily switched allegiances to the union code in order to oversee the development of yet another highly specialised product."

A spokesman for this firm said the business's work is heavily in demand by the world's major brewers, thanks to its growing reputation.

Recruitment

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WHO AIM HIGH

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- Generating new business opportunities through cold calling and maintaining existing accounts
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- Achieving targets set for print and online

THE CANDIDATE:

Ideally will possess the following skills:-

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- Excellent presentation and communication skills both verbal & written
- Experience in media sales would be an advantage but not essential as full training will be given. You will need to hold a full driving license.

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The closing date for applications is Friday 2nd October 2015

We strive to be an equal opportunities employer, welcoming applicants from all members of the community. We operate a no smoking policy.



Growing food firm opens new site

Base at city provides company with better transport links for tasty products and room for additional staff, MARK STANFORD discovers

LOCATION, location, location was a key factor in CK Foods' £5 million move and expansion to Bradford.

The firm, which posted a £30m turnover in the financial year up to March 31 this year, opened up its new base in West Bowling in July this year.

Up to 60 jobs are set to be created at the two-acre site at St Dunstons Way, Ripley Street, which formed a key part of the Food Technology Park.

The 40,000 sq ft site is the firm's first outing away from its base in Hull since its inception in 2005.

CK Foods provides pizza products and chicken dishes including popcorn and southern fried varieties to wholesalers and fast food outlets throughout the UK and Ireland.

They also export their current range of products, which includes halal premium and fine dining finger foods, pizzas and dairy products, to countries across mainland Europe including Spain, Holland and Malta.

But it is Bradford where the firm's focus currently lies.

Managing director Omar Bhamji, 40, who set up the business with his cousin Abbas Bhamji in 2005, said: "There could be further expansion in Bradford for us."

"Bradford is much more accessible than Hull. It's more central and it has great road and transport links. There is the potential for 60 people working here and we hope that will happen within the next 18 months."

"There are four major airports within a 40-mile radius of Bradford."

"Things are heading in the right direction for us, business is good for us. There



EXPANSION: Omar Bhamji, managing director of CK Foods, outside its £5 million base in Bradford, which opened in July and could be set to create 60 jobs in the next 18 months

is a lot of interest in our products. There is more capacity and more capability here in Bradford. There is a lot of support from the local universities with engineering, particularly in Bradford.

"We also chose Bradford because of the local skill set. It is the first facility that we have outside of Hull."

"We are getting there step-by-step with our project here in Bradford."

"We have a business development team coming here to Bradford at the end of October."

But if Bradford is best for CK Foods, then British is better for its customers, says Mr Bhamji.

He added: "People want to know where their meat is coming from after the horse meat scandal."

"They are looking for something on their doorstep."

"There is a wider catchment area for us now after moving to Bradford."

Their new Bradford plant cost £5m, which included a grant of more than £800,000 from the Leeds City Region fund to fit out the new factory.

But its opening had stalled over recent years. Originally planned for a 2012 opening, the site's grand opening was put back to last year and then July this year.

Originally, 40 jobs were planned for the West Bowling site, but that figure has risen to 60, giving a further employment boost to the area.

This is after construction delays and the firm successfully applying for planning permission to Bradford Council for the refrigeration and external plant machinery at the building.

The factory is the hub of the site, which has been constructed over the first seven months of this year.

Mr Bhamji says CK Foods is currently working on new products and dishes to hit the shelves in the future.

He added: "All that was here before was a piece of land."

"We have about 20 products at the moment."

"The machines we are using are the Rolls Royce of technology."

"We use a lot of chicken, which is not an unhealthy product. We're using a lot of breast meat, which is lean and clean."

"With the line capacity we have here, we can do all sorts."

"We're always on the lookout for gaps in the market place."

"We will have different offerings going forward. We offer quick snacks, food on the go."

der its Ceekays brand. In its brochure, CK Foods says another reason behind the Bradford move is: "The site is centrally located to the customer base and supply chain, reducing food miles and minimising the environmental impact."

Their Bradford team features food production operatives, engineers and marketing staff.

It provides what are billed as value-added chicken products including battered chicken pops, breaded chicken goujons and chicken nuggets.

The chicken they use comes into the Ripley Street site raw and is then prepared on-site, which includes the meat being weighed and put through a grinder, mixed, flavoured and, in some cases, held overnight in a cold room, depending on the types of dishes.

A range of pizza toppings are also produced on-site including different chicken flavourings. They also work alongside some of Europe's major cheese producers to compile pizza cheese blends, such as mozzarella and white cheddar varieties.

Potato wedges are also produced. CK Foods has two other sites in Hull including its head office in Northumberland Avenue and its cheese production facilities at New Cleveland Street.

But it is all eyes on Bradford at the moment, including a move which may have already endeared them to the city.

CK Foods has moved quickly to support the local community by sponsoring the Bradford City Football Academy.

Mr Bhamji added: "We were approached by one of our contractors who was working here about the academy."

"We were happy to do that and the sponsorship gives us a link to the local area."

Despite being founded in Hull, Dewsbury-based Mr Bhamji says he is proud of his roots and to also offer another business boost to Bradford.

He added: "I'm quite proud to bring another factory here into West Yorkshire, which is near our home."

It's exciting times for us. We are here in Bradford for the long-term."



JOBS: From left, production staff Jurij Ivanovs and Peter Milak on the shop floor at CK Foods

MY VIEW

Chris Holland
Telegraph & Argus Business Reporter



New regime must act fast to recover

WHILE I was enjoying the Italian sunshine the clouds continued to linger over Bradford's biggest firm, Morrisons.

The supermarket offloaded most of its much heralded M-Local convenience stores at a £25 million loss and the day after unveiled a ghastly set of half-year figures. Like-for-like sales in the six months to June fell by nearly three per cent - showing how difficult it is, in spite of a focus on prices by Morrisons' new top brass, to win back shoppers deserting for German discounters Aldi and Lidl.

The store group's total turnover fell by 5.1 per cent to £8.1 billion compared to a year earlier. Morrisons is closing 11 stores and axing 900 more jobs as part of a drive to cut costs by £1 billion. It can't have been a comfortable experience for chief executive David Potts, who was announcing the first set of figures since he replaced Dalton Philips in March. Mr Potts is a

Tesco veteran and understands the vagaries of the high street. He hopefully has the skills and experience to pull Morrisons round - and he certainly needs them.

He set out six principles to woo back shoppers. They are: to be more competitive; to serve customers better; find local solutions; develop popular and useful services; to simplify and speed up the organisation and make the core supermarkets strong again.

Mr Potts is heading a new top team at Morrisons - hand-picked by himself and chairman Andrew Higginson. They have a big job to do, as its share price plummets and some commentators now see Morrisons as ripe for a takeover. Morrisons remains the district's largest private sector employer. It is part of the commercial fabric of Bradford. Let's hope the new regime has the answers to its still significant problems.

Recruitment

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- Experience in media sales would be an advantage but not essential as full training will be given.

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