

SPOTLIGHT ON

In this issue, we turn the interview spotlight on **Nigel Brookes**, Group Sales Director.

What brought you into this industry?

My father worked at British Leyland's Longbridge plant for 24 years, along with two of my brothers and three sisters. Between them, they encouraged me to get an apprenticeship there and learn a trade – which I did and the rest is history, as they say.

What's the most exciting thing about your job?

The thrill of the chase...when you see an opportunity and set your sights on it, then it's a real buzz when you bring it in.

Who inspired you most in your career?

My old boss at Kesan Automation – he was a legend and my surrogate father. He took me under his wing as young 25-year-old and mentored me through all elements of the system integration business. I owe him a lot.

If you were an item in a warehouse, what would you be?

The noisy toy robot that, when you wind it up and let it go, you never know what damage it might do.

If you had to do it all again, what would you do differently?

There are certain things I would do differently but overall I wouldn't change much.

What is the most embarrassing thing that's ever happened to you?

I fell off my chair in the KUKA UK conference room many years ago when introducing myself and the company to them for the first time. When I stood up, the chair rolled back away from me so when I sat down it had gone – and down I went. It was very embarrassing but a great ice breaker – we went on to do lots of business with them, so perhaps that would be a great sales tactic for the future!

Who or what makes you laugh?

It's not hard to make me laugh; customers telling me their budget is always a good rib tickler! I love British comedy, especially Python and old-school BBC shows such as Morecambe and Wise – when I watch an old re-run I can't stop myself laughing.

Do you have any hidden talents?

I am not a very secretive person – heart on my sleeve and all that – so any talents I have were exposed years ago.

If you won the lottery, what would you do?

Hmm...carry on working until well into my 80s. Oh dear, I have just exposed one of my talents...

What's your favourite book of all time?

Those who know me will know that I am a prolific reader of books so I have lots that I have loved. Going back over the years, however, 'The Lord of the Rings' trilogy is one I find hard to better. That said, I loved 'Cloud Atlas' and those of you with the patience to get into it should give it a go.

Who would be your perfect party guest?

Andy Currington for his witty humour, amazing dress sense and his generally quiet disposition. Well, one out of three isn't bad.

What is your guilty pleasure?

I used to like to go through other people's 984 ladder logic programmes and remove all unnecessary horizontal shorts...I really miss those days. Now it's got to be Jameson's on the rocks.

Do you have any secret ambitions?

To play the lead role in 'Darren Ashford – my life story', a show coming to the West End this millennium. I am even now practising my break dancing and stocking up on talcum powder.

What's your dream holiday destination?

Mauritius. I went there on honeymoon with Becky Boo and loved it.

Name your three favourite movies of all time.

'Forrest Gump', 'Blade Runner' and 'Die Hard'. I have lots more but they popped straight into my head.

What's your favourite pastime?

Playing tennis – I love it and it keeps me out of trouble.



EMMA JOINS SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Automated Technology Group's Social Committee recently welcomed Emma O'Dell as one of its members. Emma, along with Michelle McGivney, was responsible for the success of the group's 2014 Christmas party – well done, girls, for your hard work to make that night a great success! We look forward to Emma's input for this year's calendar of social events.

If anyone else within the group is interested in joining the Social Committee, please feel free to chat to me or Matt Challinor about what is involved – we are always open to new recruits, whatever your role or location.

Johnny Bangs
Junior Planning Engineer

DIARY DATES

Pump Centre Conference & Exhibition, 14 May

The Automated Technology Group will be promoting its expertise to executives in the pumps industry at this year's event, taking place at the International Centre in Telford.

Annual Golf Day, 22 May

The Automated Technology Group's annual Golf Day will take place at Pavenham Park Golf Club – full details are available from Kevin Hardy.

Silsoe Stride, 28 June

Charity fun run sponsored by The Automated Technology Group – see www.silsoestrides.co.uk for more details.

If you have an idea for an event or feedback on events held to date, please feel free to email your social committee at social@atg.gb.com