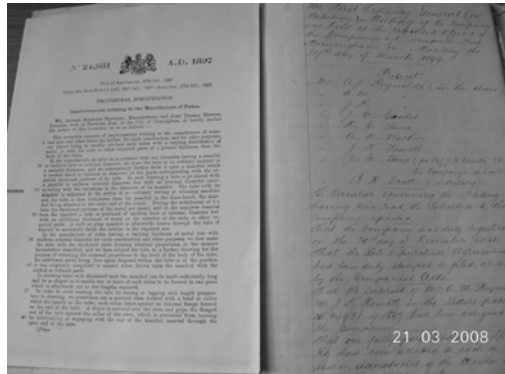




Celebrating 110 years of tube making

Newsletter April 2008.

Welcome to the first of a number of News Letters we will be sending to our frame builder customers during this special celebratory year.



Reynolds has a long history in the tube making industry. In the picture on the left there is a copy of the original butting patent dated 1897. The company was incorporated in December 1898. The right hand page of the picture shows the hand written record from the first ever Directors meeting in March 1899.



How do you celebrate 110 years of service to an industry? Reynolds have many ideas that will be announced as the year goes on, but the first one is :- Reynolds have found a material that is very close to the 531 specification we had in our range for many years. We do not plan to introduce this back into the main range, but from May 2008, there will be a limited supply of tubes to the following sizes, for lug construction, complete with 531 decal. (We hope to have a new retro style, not the one shown)

- 25.4 x .9/.6/.9 x 600 (ref AB111)
- 28.6 x .9/.6/.9 x 650 (ref BB123)
- 28.6 x .9/.6 x 635 (ref CB103)

Please contact us or our distributors for price and delivery information.

Reynolds 953 stainless Steel.

This material has now been in the market for over a year. At the North American Hand Built show, there were six frames on display. Reynolds are now selling this material into all the continents of the world, and the demand is growing.

From the initial request for lightness, there has been a move towards performance, and now many frames now being built with lugs.

Recently Reynolds have introduced a special chainstay for MTB frames, with extra tyre clearance. We are also speaking to our raw material supplier to see if we can get some alternative raw material sizes to increase the range of tubes offered. In addition we have had requests for 25.4 butted top tubes for traditionally lugged frames. These will be available from May 08.



The Reynolds US distributor, Fairing Industrial, had a booth at the recent North American Bike Show. Reynolds staff attended to support them.

What a delight to see over 80 small frame builders in one room, and all building in steel, and many with lugs.

The highlight for Reynolds was to see the MTB frame built by Drew Guldalian of Engin Cycles win the award for the best MTB bike in the show. (see pic)

This frame was built with Reynolds 953 and was lugged.

Factory move

Reynolds were based at Tyseley, Birmingham since 1917, but moved to our current location in Hall Green during March 2007. This was a major move which included our custom made butting presses, which weigh 8 tonnes each. At the same time we took the opportunity to layout the factory more efficiently. Reynolds also installed a long length tube draw bench for use on new projects that require longer tubes. This will take us into other markets such as wheelchair, motorcycle and motor sports. During April 2008 we plan making modifications that will increase our butting capacity by 50%.

Taipei Show 2008.

We have just come back from this show. In conjunction with Founder Land Co, we have a Reynolds Asia office, to serve this important market for us, and so we share their booth.

The two main stories coming out of this show were :-

- Steel is back.
- The price of raw materials are increasing rapidly. Aluminium rose sharply in 2007 and CrMo 4130 steel to make butted CrMo tubes in China and Taiwan has increased by 25% in 2007 and projected to increase by a further 20% in 2008.

Our European steel makers have informed us of steel rises, but nowhere near these levels. We expect our prices to increase by approx 5% from 1st June 2008.

North American Distribution (Fairing Industrial - Chino)

Following the success of the NAHBS show, there were many positive comments from the frame builders we saw. We are trying to accommodate as many of these as possible. The first is to increase the range of tubes stocked in the USA so they reflect the comments made, and make a full range of tubes available for TIG welding, brazing and lug construction, in 853 and 725. The distributor Fairing Industrial will be contacting the US frame builders with the details of this extended range. (to contact them :- e.mail - info@fairing.com or phone (909)902 5400)

News

Have you made a Reynolds frame for a celebrity, or a very special frame of your own design and would like others to know ? Then let us know, we may be able to incorporate the news into later news letters.

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