

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF...

### ...a Senior Production Certification Engineer in the Rubber Industry

Tony Widdowson joined Dunlop Aerospace Precision Rubber as a 17 year old Junior Laboratory Technician. He was interested in a technical career and with 9 GCSEs including science and technology, the prospects offered by the rubber industry were attractive to him.

From the date of joining Dunlop, a programme of internal training and extensive Further Education has enabled him to make significant progress in terms of his career and the rewards that have accrued.

Tony's list of academic achievements is impressive starting with gaining a BTEC ONC National Award in Polymer Science and Technology and moving forward to both HNC and finally a BEng Hons Degree gained at Coventry University. All this training has been sponsored by his Company and he has benefited from a "learn and earn" approach in his 11 years in the industry.

Currently he is developing his management skills via a Certificate in Management and a Post Graduate Diploma at Loughborough University, with a final year dissertation to be started in the summer of 2005, which will culminate in Tony gaining and MSc in Management.

A series of internal promotions has taken his job role from routine batch testing to product and rubber compound development. Dunlop Aerospace Precision Rubber manufactures a vast range of aircraft seals and Tony is a primary contact for organisations that include Boeing, Rolls Royce, Lockheed Martin and Airbus.

He considers his work in developing design manuals as part of ISO9000/2000 and the gaining of the Aerospace Standard AS90/100 as important achievements in his career to date. His Degree thesis that established a micro model for rubber compounding has produced massive cost savings and efficiency improvements.

Currently in his role of Senior Production Certification Engineer, Tony works with key customers on design specifications for aircraft seals and handling the certification programmes and costings. His role means considerable international travel to parts of the world as distant as Brazil and Japan. His ambition is to progress to a senior technical management position.

Outside work, Tony now has a young family which makes "enjoyable" demands on his time. His hobbies include Martial Arts (he has a Black Belt) and motor sport.

He is extremely pleased he took the opportunity to have a career in the industry. At 28 years of age, he holds an important position with his company and has the scope and potential to increase his responsibilities and gain the financial rewards it brings.

