

1874

150 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE



HUNTING

1874

150 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

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Acknowledgements

For this Hunting 150th celebratory book, many of the acknowledgements from the original *The Hunting History*, authored by Dr Penny Hunting remain; in particular, those who contributed to the pre 1989 Hunting PLC early history.

This is also the case for the Early Chronology, of which some of the images have been reused. For the later Chronology, the majority of stock is from internal sources, including the Hunting Review. The rest was repurposed from the Hunting Early Years, of which Penny's husband Richard Hunting CBE was a key contributor.

Key editors for this publication are Georgia Pickering and Phoebe Chubb, while Katherine Briers, Eden Davenport and Niall Buntain were instrumental in the design and production.

Foreword

In April 2024, we celebrated the company's long history across all our main facilities around the world. A 150th steering team was formed, comprising Chui Khee Ng for Asia Pacific; Alison Neil for Europe, the Middle East and Africa, Christopher Williams for the Americas as well as myself. A derivation of the design on the cover of this book was created as a theme that could be replicated in each location, appearing on jumpers, shirts or baseball caps distributed to each employee, to suit local preferences. As evidenced in this celebratory review, this also extended to an impressive array of celebratory cakes, for which the images speak for themselves!

I would like to thank all the folk who made these occasions happen, as well as all who took part in them so enthusiastically, making the celebrations so memorable. The underlying slogan for the event was "We are Hunting", which exemplifies the core spirit of the company. Also of note, are the 150 themed vignettes of various social and community projects which we hope to build upon during this monumental year.

The format is unashamedly visual, a departure from the original Hunting History by Dr Penny Hunting when Clive Hunting wrote his forward in 1991, stating: *"I hope future readers will look upon it, as the definitive Hunting story, not just a reference book, though it is, of course, that too"*. Because that original book concluded with the formation of Hunting PLC in 1989, we decided to resurrect the original Chronology, and create a later Chronology to cover the years since 1989, leading up to our 2030 vision. For this I must thank Richard Hugh Hunting for his forensic research and dedication. I hope they will both forgive my editing for the purpose of this publication.

Finally, I wish to thank Jim Johnson, Bruce Ferguson and the Board of Hunting PLC for enabling this whole 150th project to come to fruition.



David Hunting
September 2024

Introduction

Dr Penny Hunting's definitive "The Hunting History" traced the story of the company from its roots and inception in 1874 to the formation of Hunting PLC in 1989. Today, we have been able to celebrate 150 years of excellence with staff events held around the world.

This is a remarkable achievement. Through global wars, pandemics and economic downturns, the business has evolved and weathered these storms. Change becomes the accepted pattern, markets dictate and new directions are taken. We must maintain a dynamic attitude and entrepreneurial spirit. This is a big milestone but our culture of innovation and our ability to adapt, will take us forwards well into the future.

This book has an edited Early Chronology from start-up to Public Company, the later Chronology is from 1990 to the present day.

I am proud to illustrate the involvement of our community around the world in celebrating the 150th anniversary. Change is our constant travelling companion and we look forward to the future with that thought foremost in our minds.

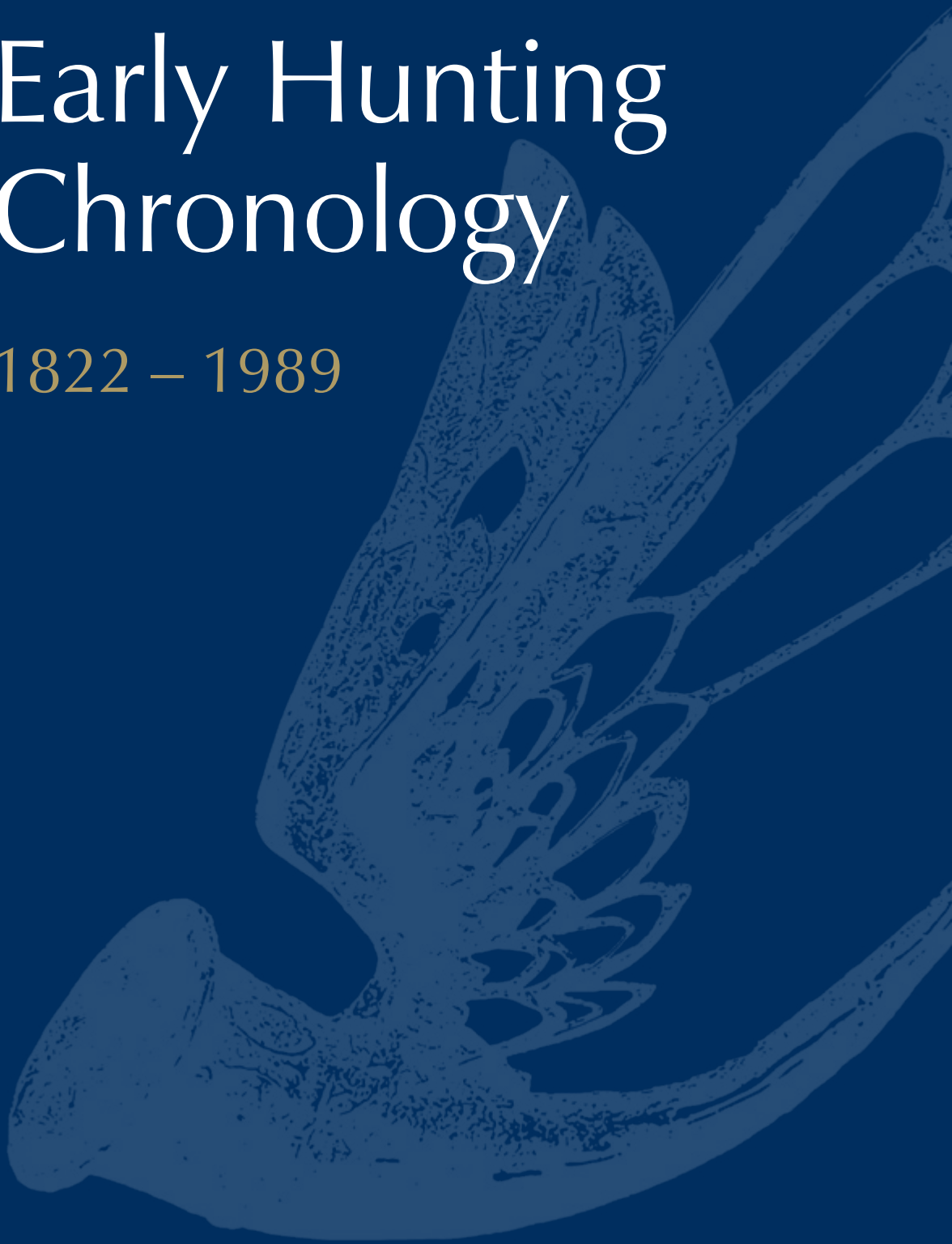
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Johnson', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Jim Johnson

September 2024

Early Hunting Chronology

1822 – 1989



Early Hunting Chronology

- 1822

On 17th December, Charles Hunting was born in Yoxford, Suffolk.

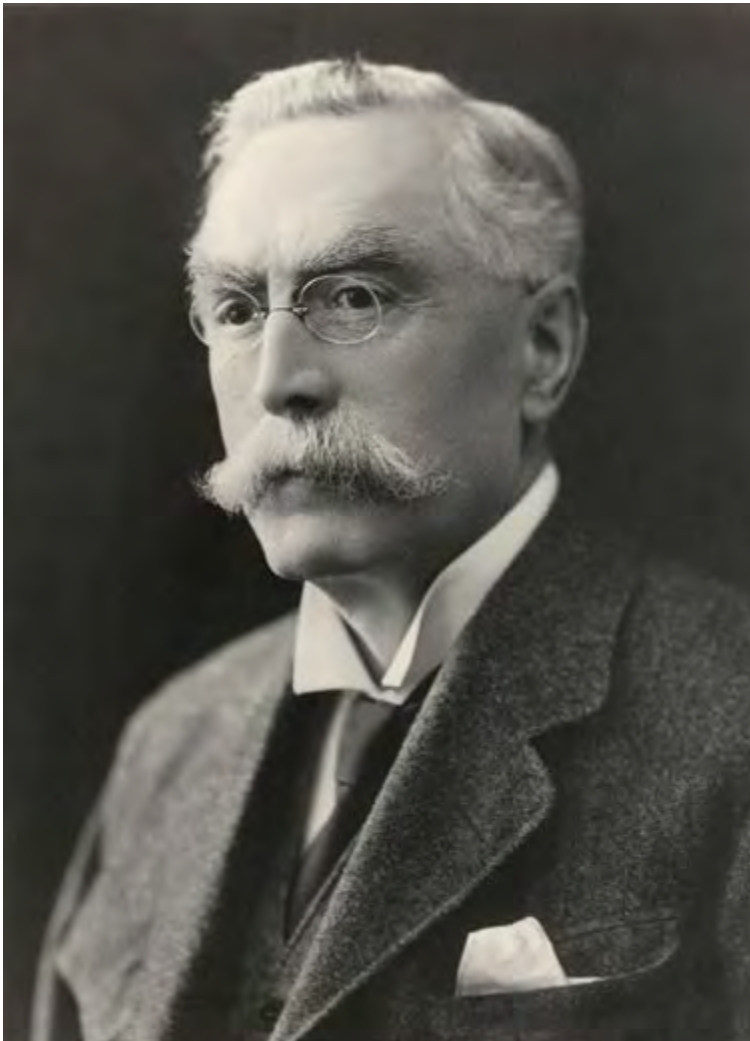


• 1843

Charles Hunting married Louisa Higgins at St James's church on 25th June in Bermondsey, South London.

• 1853

After moving to County Durham in 1851, Charles Samuel Hunting was born two years later in Easington on 24th July.



1874

A partnership between Hunting and Pattison was formed to manage the newly purchased second-hand ships, *Genii* and *Sylvia*. Based at the Newcastle upon Tyne quayside, the ships were owned on the sixty-fourth system by individual shareholders.



When a barrel was a barrel.

Over the next few years, several more ships were purchased to be managed by the partners, Charles Samuel Hunting and William Pattison. As well as ship management, the partners fixed cargoes for other ships during this period.



S.V. Sylvia Hunting & Son's first sailing vessel.

1878

Later, Charles Hunting joined as a partner, with the business thereafter comprising of three equal partners.



The *R. F. Matthews*, a general cargo steamship owned on the 'sixty-fourths' system by C. S. Hunting and others, being loaded in Sicily in the 1880s. This vessel was in the Hunting Fleet from new in 1879 until sold in 1899.

1885

Percy Llewellyn Hunting was born in Jesmond Dene, Newcastle upon Tyne on 6th March.

1886

The first London branch office opened at 32 Great St Helens, Bishopsgate, London to extend the firm's chartering operations. The address was home to Hunting and Company (ships' stores dealers) as well as Hunting and Pattison steamship owners, ship managers, charterers and brokers).

1889

The *Duffield*, one of the very first dedicated bulk tankers was ordered. It was later delivered in 1893, following an elongated financing process.

1891



Gerald Lindsay Hunting was born in Jesmond Dene, Newcastle upon Tyne on 28th March.

Later in the year, the Hunting and Pattison partnership was dissolved. Pattison's shares in the ships were divided between Charles Hunting and Charles Samuel Hunting.

1892

In December, the new partnership articles were drawn up for Hunting & Son.

1893

Later, Hunting & Son withdrew from shipbroking, and Edward Aisbitt Gibson, a sole trader with no Hunting stake in his business, continued the shipbroking operations.

The Northern Petroleum Tank Steamship Company was incorporated to operate the bulk oil carriers.

1894

The Norwick Steamship Company was established to own the *Alnwick* and the *Garfield* vessels. It later went into voluntary liquidation in 1911, after it experienced losses.



Officers of the general cargo steamship *Westhall* in 1900. Dogs (as shown here) and monkeys were frequently taken to sea.

1898

The Mineral Oils Corporation was formed to own the tanker *Minoco*, which was dedicated solely to Russian trade. The company was primarily sponsored by Charles Hunting; however, it went into liquidation in 1901 due to difficulties arising from obtaining supplies from Russia.

1899

Zabrat Oil Company was founded to explore, refine, and market oil from the Zabrat region of Russia. Later, in 1912, the company was wound up when the lease on the oil properties expired.

Charles Hunting died on 17th September and his shares in the shipowning companies were distributed to wider members of the family.

1906

The offices of Hunting & Son ship management company moved to Milburn House, Dean Street, in Newcastle.

1907



Percy Hunting joined Hunting & Son and became a partner.

1911

Lindsay Hunting joined Hunting & Son, later becoming a partner in March 1912.



Left: Slaley Hall under construction (1912).

Below: Aerial view of Slaley Hall (1950).



1913

Edward Aisbitt Gibson died, and Archibald Aisbitt Gibson took over the Gibson business, a company which to this day remains one of the prime tanker brokerages.

1914

The sixty-fourth shipowning principle came to an end when Hunting Steamship Company Ltd. was incorporated on 20th March to take over ownership of the ships.



1918

The Hunting Fleet, which boasted the largest independent tanker fleet in the world before The Great War with 8 ships and 6 dedicated oil tankers, lost half of its ships during WW1.

1921

Charles Samuel Hunting died on 16th September, leaving his finances in turmoil.

1924

Field Tank Steamship Company Ltd. formed to manage the new tankers, *Oilfield* and *Wellfield*. Both ships were launched in 1923 and had been partly financed by the Frenchmen, Fenaille and Despeaux.

1925

The last dry cargo ship left the Hunting fleet, leaving only the oil tankers for several decades.

In November, E. A. Gibson and Company was sold to Hunting. E. A. Gibson's son, A. A. Gibson, who continued as Managing Director until his death in 1926. Following this, Bill Green (who joined Gibson in February 1916, aged 13) was appointed to manage the firm's business.

1926

Hunting & Son became Hunting & Son Ltd. and on 31st December the two previous partners, Percy and Lindsay Hunting became Governing Directors.

1933



Chairman Percy Hunting moved his office from Newcastle to the E. A. Gibson office in Cunard House, Leadenhall Street, London.

1936

The Hunting & Son Ltd. Board began to invest in civil aviation.

1938



In August, Hunting & Son Ltd. acquired shares in Rollason Aircraft Services as well as a minority stake in the Aircraft Operating Company Ltd.

Percy Hunting joined the Board.

Later, the Sylva Oil Company and the Brazos Young Corporation were founded in partnership with McAlester Fuel Company of Oklahoma, USA which lasted until 1981.

1939



Hunting became majority shareholders in Rollason, which later became the Field Consolidated Aircraft Services in 1941.

1940



On 15th August, the Rollason plant at Croydon was bombed during one of the first raids of the Second World War. The bombs were dropped before the air raid sirens sounded and 6 out of the 850 people present in the plant were killed.



The team at NECACO in Llanberis during the Second World War. Top left is Ken Morgan who had moved from Hunting & Son in Newcastle. In the front row, from the left, are Arthur Summers, Lloyd George (the former Prime Minister who had helped find the site), Percy Hunting and Mrs Lloyd George.

Arthur Summers, who played a key role in the founding of Northeast Coast Aircraft Company (NECACO) joined Hunting. NECACO, which was later renamed Hunting Aviation Ltd. in 1944, set up a shadow aircraft factory at Llanberis in North Wales.

1943



Hunting acquired the remaining shares in the Aircraft Operating Company (AOC) and Aerofilms. AOC was later rebranded to Hunting Aerosurveys, before being abbreviated to Hunting Surveys.

1944



Percival President VIP aircraft.

Hunting bought Percival Aircraft from Lord Londonderry, Edgar Percival *et al.*

Towards the end of the year, Hunting Aviation Management Ltd. was established to co-ordinate all aviation related activities of the business.

1945



At the end of the Second World War, there were only four ships of the Hunting Fleet remaining: *Clydefield*, *Pontfield*, *Wearfield* and *Thamesfield*. Prior to the war, there were 9 tankers with 2 more being built in the duration of the war. This marked a turning point for the business to expand activities outside of the maritime domain.

Later in the year, the Hunting Horn logo appeared for the first time on the title page of the Hunting Aviation diary.

1946

In keeping with the business' expansion into the air domain, Hunting Air Travel was created.

The Northern Petroleum Tank Steamship Co Ltd. was the first Hunting company to go public and was quoted on the London and Newcastle Stock Exchanges.



Field Consolidated Aircraft Services became Field Aircraft Services Ltd.

1947

Weston Aircraft Ltd. of Oshawa, Canada, was purchased by Percival Aircraft Ltd. (Canada). It later became Field Aviation Co Ltd. in 1951.



A visit by the late King George VI and his Queen, to the Hunting Aerosurveys laboratories at Elstree Way, Borehamwood, in 1948.

1950

Percival Aircraft formed a Weapons Research Department, signalling the company's first move into defence.

In August, the Gibson Petroleum Marketing Company of Calgary was launched, as a partnership of E. A. Gibson, Nickles Mapping, Webers and Guinness.

1953

Hunting partnered with the Cayzer family, who owned the Clan Line shipping company, to form Hunting-Clan Air Holdings Ltd. With an issued share capital of £1,000,000, the company took over all the shares capital of Hunting Air Transport Ltd. and Field Aircraft Services Ltd. After this, the air transport business operated under the name of Hunting-Clan Air Transport Ltd. until 1954.

Later Percival Aircraft Ltd. became Hunting Percival Aircraft Ltd. before becoming Hunting Aircraft Ltd. in late 1957.



Lord Rotherwick of the Clan Group and Percy Hunting after the agreement to form the Hunting-Clan airline.



A party of school children departing from London Heathrow on a Hunting-Clan Vickers Viscount, in summer 1959.

1957

The Weapons Research Division became a separate entity known as Hunting Engineering Ltd. and for a period was one of the top ten defence contractors in the UK.

1960

Hunting Aircraft Ltd. was acquired by the British Aircraft Corporation (BAC).

Hunting Clan and Airwork combined their fleets to form British United Airways, with Field Aircraft Services returning to full Hunting control.



The Hunting Jet Provost of which 500 were built.



The Hunting 107, precursor of the successful BAC 1-11 aircraft.

The renowned Glass Reinforced Plastics manufacturing company, Halmatic was purchased by the Hunting Group. It went on to develop boat hulls for commercial, leisure and defence interests internationally, including lifeboats for the RNLI to replace its wooden hulled fleet.



A line-up of Halmatic-built pilot launches at Harwich. The classic Nelson hull design is apparent throughout this range, from 40 to 50 feet in length.



Hunting Light Industries was formed to own Hunting Engineering, the Fields companies, the Henderson Safety Tank Company, Halmatic and Trills, which effectively managed all the non-shipping and non-oil activities, including defence interests.



Sir Percy's personal crest.

Percy Hunting retired as Chairman of the Group, having run it continuously as a Senior Partner/Chairman since 1921. He latterly received a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours that same year.

1961



Lindsay Hunting was appointed the Chairman of the Group, but retired at the end of the year, due to severe arthritis.

• 1962

Pat Hunting was appointed Chairman of the Group.

• 1965

Hunting Science and Industry Ltd. (HSI) incorporated as a private company on 24th March. It then acquired the entire share capitals of Hunting Surveys (Holdings) Ltd. and Hunting Light Industries Ltd. HSI, changing its name to Hunting Associated Industries Ltd. (HAIL) and converting to a public company towards the end of the year.

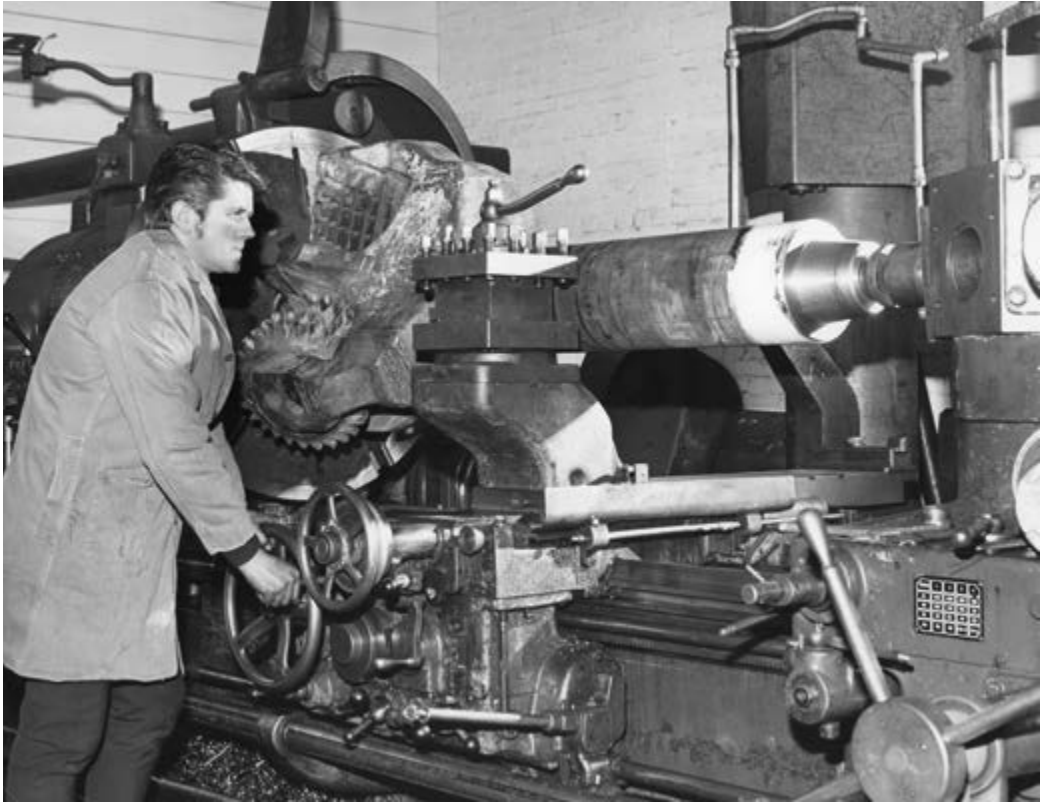
On 15th November, Scottish Industrial Finance Ltd. agreed to buy 330,000 £1 shares in HAIL and then offered them for sale at 24s. per share.

• 1966

Hunting Surveys and Consultants purchased A. H. Leach and Company.



• 1967



The first machine shop to service newly discovered North Sea oil, was opened in Great Yarmouth.

The publicly quoted Northern Petroleum Tank Steamship Company Ltd. was re-named Northern Petroleum and Bulk Freighters Ltd.

Hunting Barnard Oilfield Services was established and later re-named to Hunting Oilfield Services.

1970

The privately-owned ship management, shipbroking and oil distribution interests of the Group merged with Northern Petroleum (NP) and Bulk Freighters (BF) Ltd. to form a new public company, Hunting Gibson Ltd. with an issued share capital of 1,500,000 ordinary £1 shares and 704,700 £1 cumulative preference shares. Brazos Young Corporation in the USA (oil and gas producing), which belonged to NP and BF, was excluded from the sale.

1971

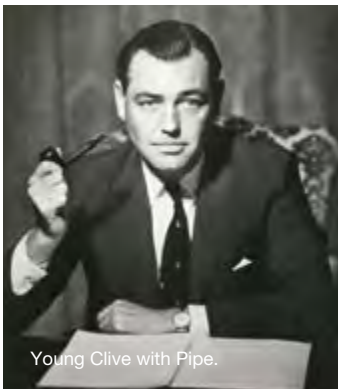
The cargo airline Air Bridge Carriers, based at East Midlands Airport was formed.

1974

The company held centenary celebrations, acknowledging the history of the group in the UK, Greece and in Canada with Gibson Petroleum.

Pat Hunting retired from the chairmanship at the end of the year after 38 years with the firm.

1975



Young Clive with Pipe.

Clive Hunting was appointed the new Group Chairman.

• 1978



In June, Hunting Petroleum Services Ltd. was incorporated to serve as the holding company for various oil and gas interests of the limited companies: Hunting Gibson, Hunting Associated Industries and the privately-owned Hunting Holdings. From Hunting Gibson came Gibson Petroleum Company, Alene Oil Company, Fretoil, and Fuel-Fast. From Hunting Associated Industries came Hunting Oilfield Services and from Hunting Holdings came the Brazos Young Corporation. Out of the total 9,575,000 ordinary shares of the new company, 2,700,000 were offered to the public.

• 1981

The three Hunting public companies changed their suffix from Ltd. to plc (public limited company) as a result of new British Government legislation. They became Hunting Gibson plc, Hunting Associated Industries plc and Hunting Petroleum Services plc.

1983

After 113 years, Hunting shipowning activities ceased.

1985

Hunting Gibson plc changed its name to Hunting Group plc and acquired the whole of the issued share capital of the privately-owned Hunting Group Ltd. issuing 13,871,417 ordinary shares as consideration.

1987

Hunting Surveys Ltd. and Hunting Geology and Geophysics Ltd. ceased trading.



HRH Prince Philip visiting the Hunting HQ on Deception Island, Antarctica, in January 1957. The firm was undertaking a photographic survey of the area using helicopters and amphibious aircraft.

1988

Hunting Group plc changed its name back to Hunting Gibson plc to avoid confusion between Hunting Group plc and the wider Hunting Group of Companies.

1989



HUNTING
P L C

Hunting Gibson plc bought all the share capital and loan stock in Hunting Associated Industries plc and Hunting Petroleum Services plc which it did not already own.

Later, on 7th August, Hunting Gibson plc was re-named Hunting PLC.

150th Celebrations around the world

2024



150th Celebrations around the world

Aberdeen





As part of the celebrations, 150 Easter eggs were given to the elderly residents of local care homes.



China





Sweatshirts and baseball caps with the "150 design" were given to all members of Wuxi staff.



150 packs of essential toiletries were donated to support the local community.





Dubai



A Dhow celebration for the Abu Dhabi team with Hunting t-shirts.



London







A welcome address from
Hunting PLC CEO Jim
Johnson at the National
Portrait Gallery.







Projections of the early chairmen at the National Portrait Gallery.



Jay Glick, past Chair.



Hunting Directors, current staff, alumni, family and guests celebrated at the National Portrait Gallery.





Great care was taken to vet all suppliers for sustainability, for example, all flower arrangements were repurposed through a volunteering group known as 'The Flower Angels'.





Richard Hugh Hunting, past Chair.





Coinciding with the AGM in London, many guests had arrived for the special occasion from overseas.





Stewart Brightman, current Chair.



"Girls just want to have fun"





India



Staff of the brand new Jindal Hunting Energy Services Ltd. joined the celebration in the Nashik threading facility.

Indonesia



Hunting Indonesian employees came together to mark the occasion with an impressive array of 150 cupcakes.









Committed to the local community, 150 hydroponic systems were built and donated to a local orphanage to propagate sustainable food sources.



Batam employees organised an impressive 150 balloon release, demonstrating their team spirit.





A celebratory meal was shared and enjoyed by all employees.

The Netherlands



The Dutch team took to celebrating on the water but with typical North Sea weather.









The Americas









The Subsea team in Spring, Texas, gathered to celebrate the 150th anniversary, enjoying a catered meal and sharing time together. Capturing memorable moments in photos, exchanging stories, and deepening bonds made for a remarkable day of reflection on the journey so far.



Above: In Monterrey, San Leon, the Hunting Energy team gathered to celebrate the big anniversary. The day was filled with engaging conversations and shared moments, honouring the past and looking ahead to what lies ahead.

Below: Amidst the vibrant atmosphere of the iconic Calgary Stampede, the Canadian team came together to celebrate these extraordinary 150 years. Embracing the festive spirit, they donned cowboy hats and boots, sharing laughter and stories that echoed the camaraderie and unity.









These photos, captured at various locations across Houston, radiate the vibrant energy of the respective celebrations. Each gathering served as a testament to the collective spirit, showcasing unforgettable moments of unity and joy while marking this significant milestone.











Teams from diverse locations came together to enjoy a meal and capture a commemorative group photo in honour of the 150th anniversary. This powerful moment of unity and collaboration encapsulated the strength and shared purpose that have been the cornerstone of the success.



Saudi Arabia





Staff in the Saudi Arabia Dammam facility were certainly not going to miss the occasion!

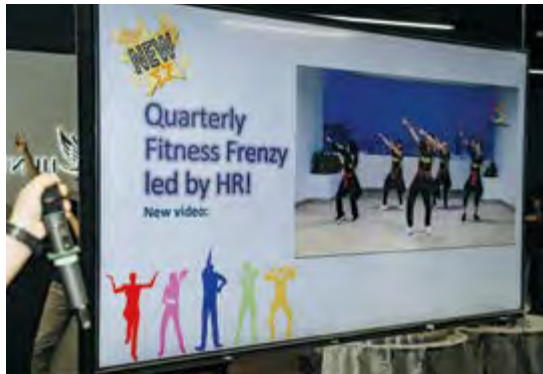




Singapore



The team came together to celebrate with sparkling juice and cupcakes.













Hunting employees competed in a lively "Kahoot" game, testing their knowledge of Hunting's history.







Fun and tradition collide, as employees compete in a lively Batu Seremban (five stones) tournament.









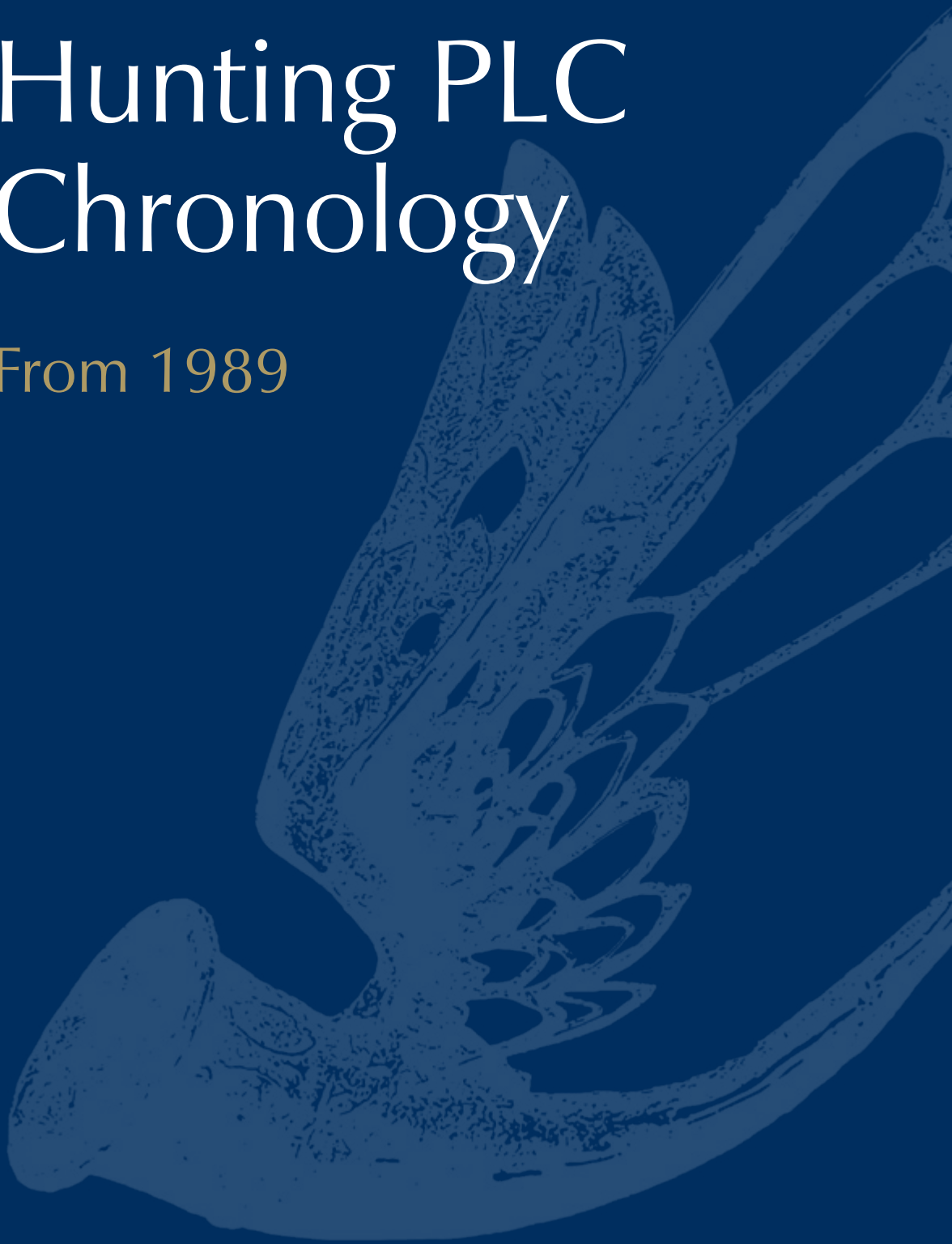
Employees celebrate the anniversary and Hari Raya Puasa (end of Ramadan) in a Singapore "Town Hall" for one festive event!

Cake was eaten and glasses were raised in a traditional “yam seng” to cheer the years ahead.



Hunting PLC Chronology

From 1989



Hunting PLC Chronology

• 1989



The Hunting group acquired renowned parachute company, Irvin Industries. Field Aviation Co, the Canadian aviation support company, was sold to a management buy out team.



Ken Miller, who joined in 1961, was appointed Chief Executive of the newly constituted Hunting PLC.

1990

Gibson Petroleum acquired Canwest Propane, a vendor of LPG.

Hunting Oilfield services appointed Jim McColl to Chief Executive, he later became one of Scotland's best-known businessmen.

His tenure saw HPLC expand further into the United States.



The assets of Lynwood Scientific Developments, an electronics subsidiary, were sold to a management buy out team.

HPLC London HQ moved from Bowater House in Knightsbridge to Cockspur St, overlooking Trafalgar Square.

Hunting Precision Components, a machine shop subsidiary in Kent, was sold to management.

1991

Clive Hunting retired as HPLC Chair but remained on the Board as a non-executive director.



Richard (Hugh) Hunting became the new HPLC Chair at the AGM in April.

The company's stake in New England Properties, first acquired in 1981, was sold.

A substantial, multi-year contract to manage the UK's Atomic Weapons Establishment was awarded to Hunting BRAE – a consortium of Hunting Engineering, Brown & Root, and the Atomic Energy Authority.

1992

A 40% share of the premium joint manufacturing and repair business of Hunting Oilfield Services was sold to the Japanese trading company C. Itoh (later renamed Itochu).

Aviation related companies which had 'Field' in their name had that word changed to 'Hunting', e.g. Field Airmotive became Hunting Airmotive.

Bill Green, who had joined the London-based E.A. Gibson & Co in 1916, died, aged 90. He was the driving force establishing Gibson Petroleum in the 1950's in western Canada and had permanently moved from England to Canada in 1957.



1993

Interlock Technologies, a Houston-based designer and licensor of premium connections for oil pipes, was purchased by Hunting Oilfield Services. Both Dennis Proctor and Jim Johnson (later CEOs of HPLC) worked for Interlock during this period.

Phase 2 of the Hunting BRAE contract to manage the UK's Atomic Weapons Establishment was awarded.

The business of Hunting Specialised Products, which made (amongst many paint and coating products) Hammerite paint, was sold to Williams Holdings.

Pat Hunting, who had been group Chairman from 1962 to 1974, died, aged 82.

After 39 years of service, the Jet Provost RAF's *ab initio* pilot training aircraft was retired, having had its first flight in 1954. The type had been designed, as a major upgrade to the earlier Piston Provost, by Hunting Percival Aircraft in Luton, England.



Tubular Threading Inc. of Marrero Louisiana, was acquired from Vinson Supply Company.

The group's GRP boatbuilding company, Halmatic moved from its longstanding plant in Havant, Hampshire to a new waterside facility at Saxon Wharf, Southampton, UK.



The group's winged horn logo, originally designed in the early 1940s, was restyled into its current form, becoming freer flowing.

• 1994

The company opened a new manufacturing plant and administration facility at Badentoy Park, Portlethen – just south of Aberdeen, Scotland.

1995

Roy Treacher retired from the HPLC board, having been the group's financial mastermind for many years since he joined in 1955.

Hunting Oilfield Services, which had operated in Singapore since 1979, opened new premises at Loyang, doubling its workshop area in the country.

The landmark Executive Jet Centre at London's Heathrow airport was sold to Harrods, the owners of the famous store.



The last Hunting Cargo Airlines Merchantman.

1996

Clive Hunting retired from the HPLC Board.

HPLC sold its oil well construction businesses (including the famous Talon and Merlin conductor pipe joint designs) to Oil States Industries of Texas, receiving as a 25% interest in the latter company. The previous Hunting Oilfield Services plant at Altens, Aberdeen then went to Oil States.

Hunting acquired Petro-Tube Inc. of Houma, Louisiana, a specialist threader of oilwell tubular accessories.



A Vickers Vanguard Merchantman, a large freighter aircraft with four turboprop engines - in the colours of Hunting Cargo Airlines, made its final landing at Brooklands Museum in Surrey. The first flight of the aircraft type had been made from that same airfield in 1959.

A fixed-price contract by the Aviation Division to build noise-cancelling interiors for the Bombardier / de Havilland Canada Dash 8 twin-turboprop airliner experience significant setbacks with resulting impact on the company. Consequently, no dividend could be paid to shareholders.

Gordon Williams, who had joined the group in 1955 after service as a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm, retired from the HPLC Board.

• 1997



Peter Rose, a chartered accountant who had been for 7 years with the UK defence contractor Babcock, joined HPLC as group Financial Controller.

Aerofilms, UK-based air photography company founded in 1919 and acquired by the group in 1943, was purchased by Simmons Mapping.



1998



Returning to familiar territory, Hunting opened a new oilfield machine shop in Baku, Azerbaijan. The company had invested in an oil well there in 1899-1901.

Halmatic, acquired by Hunting in 1960, was sold to defence company Vosper Thornycroft.



Hunting Technical Services, the last remnant of the formerly large Hunting-owned air photography, survey and consultancy activity, was acquired by Genus PLC, a UK agricultural services company.

Hunting Airmotive of Croydon and Farnborough, overhauler and repairer of aero engines, was sold to CHC Helicopter Corp of Canada, which later became Sigma Aerospace.

Hunting Cargo Airlines (formerly known as Air Bridge Carriers) was sold to a consortium of Compagnie Maritime Belge and Safair.



Since 1938, aviation activities had been a crucial component of the group, yet by the end of 1998, the former Aviation Division of HPLC had been divested, with the group instead focusing on Defence and Oil activities.

1999

The photographic side of Leach Colour Group, photographic and printing business based in Brighouse, Yorkshire, was sold back to the founding Leach family. The organisation had been bought by the former survey side of the group in 1966 when it was seeking colour photographic processing expertise. The printing elements were bought by Kirklees Printing Company.

Eric Shawyer retired from Gibson Shipbrokers having joined the company in 1948, aged 16, he stood down as Chairman. In addition to his Hunting responsibilities, he had been Chairman of the Baltic Exchange; Chairman of the Worldscale Association, as well as President of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers.

2000



Iberia Threading, of New Iberia, Louisiana, was acquired. The company specialised in the provision and threading of small-bore tubes used in trenchless drilling for civil engineering applications.

Clive Hunting, who had been the group Chairman from 1975 to 1991, died aged 74. Chief Executive of HPLC, Ken Miller, who had joined the group in 1961 retired, but continued to serve as Deputy Chairman until 2001.

2001



At the beginning of the year, Dennis Proctor, a US citizen who had joined the group with the acquisition of Interlock in 1993, was appointed Chief Executive of HPLC.

Hunting acquired Vinson Supply Company, propelling the company forward as a major player in the provision of OCTG (oil country tubular goods).

Hunting Contract Services, a supplier of technical expertise and management to mainly UK military customers, was sold to Babcock.



Hunting Technical Support, a UK-based provider of aviation-related technical manpower, was acquired by management.



Wardle Storey acquired substantially all of Irvin Aerospace, Hunting's parachute and retarder company.

The company's entry into high-pressure mud-powered drilling tools was signalled by its acquisition of the Performance companies located in Casper, Wyoming.

After starting at Gibson Shipbrokers in 1985, David Hunting joined the HPLC London team in a Corporate Development position having worked in a number of industries both inside and outside of the group.





Hunting Engineering was purchased in a management buy out and renamed INSYS.

A 'special dividend' was paid to shareholders, to reflect the sale of the company's UK defence operations.

The divestment of non-oil interests made HPLC in effect a pure Energy Services Company.

2002

Early in the year, the company acquired Moose Jaw Asphalt, which produced bitumen and other products from the local heavy crude oil in Saskatchewan, Canada.

Hunting Industries Zimbabwe, the holding company for the group's interests in that country, was sold to a management buy out team.



2003

Hunting Energy's Canadian subsidiary brought its three separate Calgary operations together to the Skyline Building. It was formerly occupied by a mobile phone company and located on a major arterial route near the international airport.





The company acquired the remaining 36% of shares from Texaco in Gibson Energy. The shares had previously been owned by the Guinness family from the 1950s.

• 2004

The US tubular casing business of Hunting Energy Services was sold to Sooner Inc. as part of Oil States International.

HPLC cancelled and repaid all its 8.25% cumulative convertible preference shares in order to improve its capital structure and returns to shareholders. Thereafter, the company only had Ordinary shares.



2005

The final London-based Hunting Art Prizes exhibition was held at the Royal College of Art, having run continuously since 1981. By value it had been the largest set of art prizes ever awarded in the UK.



Richard Hunting with the 1992 Young artist winner Ishbel Myerscough.

HPLC raised £44M of new equity via a rights issue.

Hunting Energy in Singapore moved to a new office and workshop facility in Benoi Road. It occupied an area two and a half times larger than the old, shared facility in Tuas Avenue.



Benoi Road was the first dedicated Hunting facility in Singapore.

INSYS, which had formerly been Hunting Engineering, was purchased by Lockheed Martin.

• 2006



HPLC featured in the FTSE 250 index of mid-sized public companies for the first time, following rises in both the number and the value of its shares.

The first Houston-based Hunting Art Prize (HAP) exhibition was held at The Corinthian, a former banking hall.



Most paintings at the HAP were for sale and this is the happy purchaser from the first Houston one.

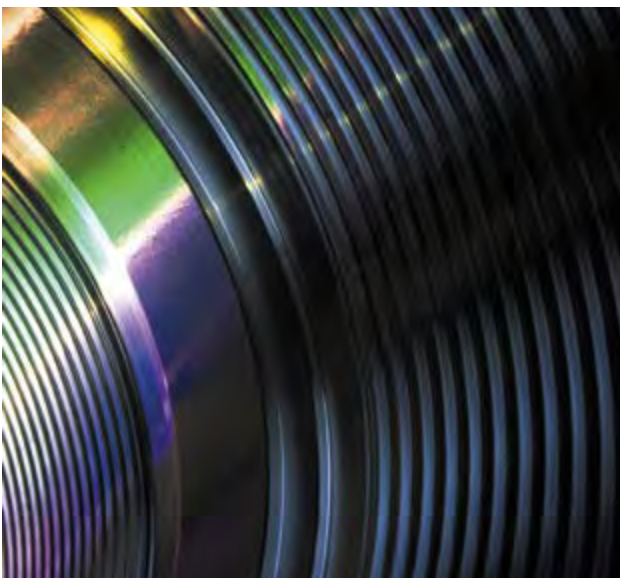
2008

Dennis Clark, who had joined the group in 1972, retired from his position as HPLC Finance Director.

Peter Rose became Finance Director of HPLC. He had joined in 1997 as group Financial Controller and was Company Secretary from 2004.



Hunting Energy's Ramsay Road oil pipe threading facility in Houston was commissioned, producing Hunting SEAL-LOCK™ premium connections.



The group's large Canadian midstream oil company, Gibson Energy, was acquired by private equity organisation Riverstone. It was subsequently floated as an independent organisation on the Toronto Stock Exchange.



• 2009

Hunting opened a multi-capability manufacturing facility in Monterrey, Mexico to target both domestic and international markets.

Hunting acquired the National Coupling Company of Houston, Texas, which became the core of the company's extensive subsea operations.



Hunting Energy commissioned an oil pipe yard, which had been expanded from 12.5 to 34 acres at the former Fordoun airfield in Scotland.



Aberdeen's Hunting team designed and trademarked an exclusive tartan which was used not only for kilts but various other items.



Hunting purchased a premium threading operation, covering 15 acres, on Batam Island, Indonesia – only a short distance away from Singapore across the Straits of Malacca. It allowed the company to address export markets as well as service Indonesian domestic requirements.



Hunting Energy France was sold to the management team. The origins of the company's involvement in this activity dated back until the 1930's.



Richard Haigh Hunting, Michel Kreiss and Pat Hunting at a reception in Hunting Petroleum France's heyday.

The HAP appears on the famous billboard in Times Square, New York.

2010

The WEDGE-LOCK™ range of premium oil pipe connections was introduced, as part of the SEAL-LOCK™ range, optimised for the high torque, high compression requirements of wells accessing deepwater resources.



Innova-Extel, of Houston Texas, was acquired, bringing in a range of harsh environment electronics technology, as well as advanced machining capability now part of the Advanced Manufacturing Group (AMG).



Lindsay John T Hunting, grandson of Clive Hunting and first of a new generation of the family in the business, joined EA Gibson Shipbrokers aged 26.

2011

Hunting opened its largest ever (at 323,000 sq. ft) dedicated manufacturing plant at Wuxi, near Shanghai in China, which was designed to serve the domestic and regional Asia Pacific markets.



Dearborn, a specialist machining company for oilfield, aviation and other markets, based in Fryeburg, Maine, was purchased and forms part of the AMG.

13.2 million new ordinary shares were placed with institutional investors, representing 9.9% of the company's existing share capital.

Texas-based Titan Group, a world leader in perforating systems for shale hydrocarbon deposits, was purchased from the private equity group Riverstone in the largest ever acquisition by Hunting.



• 2012

The final property assets of Field Aviation of Canada were sold. This company had been sold before in 1989, but the group had retained an interest in property assets as security for a loan. This loan did not perform, so the company returned to the group as a subsidiary.

• 2013

HPLC London HQ moved from Cockspur St. which overlooks Trafalgar Square, to Hanover Square, off Oxford Circus.

• 2015

E. A. Gibson Shipbrokers, acquired by the group in 1925, transferred to an employee benefit trust and became an independent entity.

Jay Glick, former President & CEO of Lufkin Industries joined the HPLC Board.





The new manufacturing 'Supercenter' was opened in Houma, Louisiana, to produce equipment for the deep offshore Gulf of Mexico market.



The footprint of the precision machining in the AMG Dearborn facilities in Fryeburg, Maine were expanded by 44% to reduce lead times and meet increased demand.



"Fire" by Houston-based Kevin Peterson, was the worthy US winner of the \$50,000 35th HAP award.

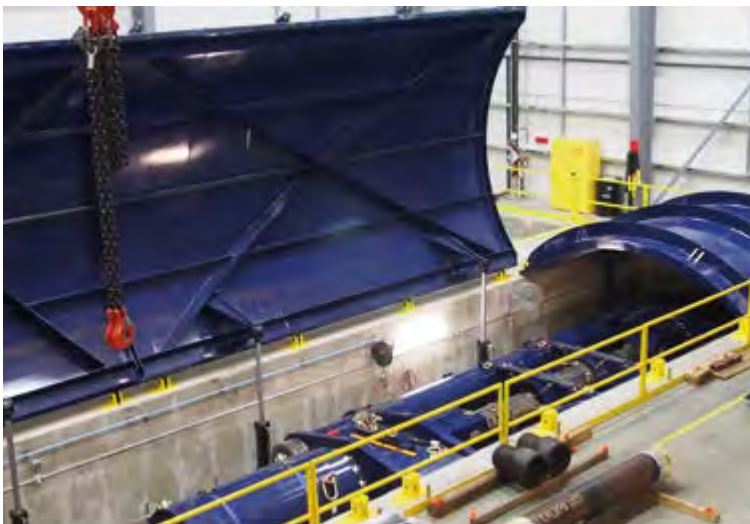
2016

The final Hunting Art Prize was held at the Friedkin Corporate Campus in Houston. After 37 successful years of holding the competition in the UK and USA, it had become the largest art award in America.



Hunting also supported "Patriot Paws", a Texan charity that provides highly trained dogs as companions to both physically and emotionally disabled veterans.

Hunting opened a new large premium connections facility at AmeriPort, South-East of Houston along with a test facility to accelerate the in-house development of new products.



The company placed 14.6 million new ordinary shares with investors.

The new H-1 (Hunting 1) Perforating Gun system was introduced by Hunting Titan, for fracking in shale formations, thus eliminating several previous sources of unreliability.



• 2017

Dennis Proctor, who had been CEO of HPLC from 2001, stood down. He had originally joined with the acquisition of Interlock Technologies in 1993.



Jim Johnson, who had also joined the group with the acquisition of Interlock in 1993, became CEO of HPLC. He had been Chief Operating Officer of Hunting Energy Services since 2011.



Sam McClements, a driving force in the development of Hunting Energy Services, especially in the EMEA and Asia Pacific regions, retired. He had joined from the steel industry in 1980 and had become an extraordinary ambassador for the company's connections with Japanese principals.

Richard Hunting retired as Chair of HPLC but remained a non-executive director.

Later in the year, Jay Glick was elected Chair of HPLC.

• 2018



Hunting successfully launched the TEC-LOCK™ range of semi-premium pipe connections for arduous applications in shale plays at an economical cost, reducing the need for additional couplings while allowing for rapid make-up.

• 2019



The H-2 Perforating System for shale resource plays was introduced by Hunting Titan. The units were shorter than the highly successful H-1, which allowed many more guns per run.

The group acquired RTI Energy Systems of Spring, Texas which specialises in the manufacture of steel and titanium stress joints for offshore developments, which joined the Subsea Division.



2020

After the acquisition of Enpro Subsea of Aberdeen, Scotland, the company consolidated its position as a leader in subsea technology.



Peter Rose who had been HPLC Finance Director since 2008, retired having originally joined in 1997 as group Financial Controller.



Bruce Ferguson became Finance Director after 26 years with the group.

Production started from a brand-new detonating cord manufacturing line at the Hunting Titan plant in Milford, Texas.

The US-based Drilling Tools operation was transferred to Rival Downhole Tools, with Hunting retaining a 23.5% stake in the combined business.

2021

The arrangements with Marubeni-Itochu in the North Sea were withdrawn, having begun in 1992 with C. Itoh. The pipe inventory was then sold to M-I, while Hunting bought back M-I's residual stake in the accessories manufacturing business.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, the company provided around 20,000 ft. of steel casing to a project which provided geothermal base heating to the famous Eden Project, in Cornwall, UK.

2022

Richard Hunting retired from the HPLC Board.

HPLC London HQ moved from Hanover Square to Panton Street overlooking Leicester Square.

2023

A joint venture with Jindal SAW, of Nashik India, commenced operations, with newly constructed premium connection threading lines.

The company disposed of the residual oil and gas production assets in the United States during the fourth quarter, having first begun in the 1930s.

2024

Jay Glick who had been HPLC Chair since 2017, retired.



Stu Brightman, who had been non-executive director since 2023, was elected Chair of the company. He had previously been CEO of the US company Tetra Technologies from 2009 to 2019.

Celebrations for the 150th anniversary of Hunting were held at facilities around the world with every employee taking part.

Ken Miller who had been with the company for forty years, died in August, he had been the first Hunting PLC CEO from 1989-2000.

2030



The Board of Hunting PLC are now committed to a 2030 strategy to deliver long term sustainability through:

- Operational excellence with quality assured, proprietary products and premium services.
- Strong performance by leveraging technology to increase pricing and facility utilisation.
- Environmental, Social and Governance framework to manage and reduce carbon footprint and climate change.
- Growth through entering new markets with research and development to protect the next generation with intellectual property.





This Hunting 150th celebratory book was commissioned, edited and overseen by David Hunting, as were the worldwide celebrations.