



# PELICAN NEWS

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## Blue Skies mourns tragic loss of five people in Egypt

At the end of May a large bus crashed into one of our staff buses on the way to Blue Skies Egypt on the Ismailia road. It resulted in the loss of five of our team-leaders, as well as six injures, one of them serious.

The five people we lost were Karim Ramadan (31 years, joined BS for 3 years), Amira Nasr (29, joined BS for 3 years), Aya Mousa (22 years, joined BS for 4 years), Rana Sayed (24 year, Team Leader, 4 years), and Mousa Mohamed Mousa (35 years, Team Leader, 4 months, but he was an old staff with us previously). Two of them were getting married after the feast, two are a brother and sister, and the two men were married with children.

Blue Skies will forever remember them and their colleagues, and will never forget all the good memories we have with them.

The injured people were hospitalized and released safely apart from Samah El-Sayed who will undergo major surgery. She sadly lost her husband, Karim Ramadan in the accident as well.

Blue Skies wishes fast recovery for each of the injured people.

*Report by Mohamed Abdul Razik, Blue Skies Egypt*



## A difficult time in the history of Blue Skies

The last couple of months have in many ways been extraordinary. We have produced record orders, won numerous awards and received high acclaim for our new dairy-free ice cream. But while we have achieved so many great things, we feel reluctant to celebrate in the face of so much loss. In May we lost a dear friend in Isaac Malikson, our Chief Engineer in Ghana. He will always be remembered for his professionalism and expertise, along with his great sense of humour. And then at the end of May we learned about the tragic loss of five of our people from Blue Skies Egypt, all victims of Egypt's notoriously dangerous roads. Karim, Amira, Aya, Rana and Mousa, were all young and dedicated members of our team, who will all be sadly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families, friends and colleagues at this very difficult time.

Blue Skies will forever remember the friends we have lost. But while we mourn, we must also celebrate. We must celebrate their lives, their successes and the memories that we have of them. And we must also celebrate our successes, because they are successes that they have each helped us to achieve.



# Blue Skies named Best Fruit Juice



Congratulations to our team in Ghana who picked up the Best Fruit Juice award at the Annual Ghana Beverages Awards, held in Accra. We also won Liner Exporter of the Year at the Ghana Shippers Awards! Well done everyone!

# Blue Skies wins two Fresh Awards

Blue Skies received two FPC Fresh Awards at a gala evening on the 5th June attended by over five hundred people at the Tower of London. The awards were hosted by TV actor and presenter Shane Richie and included a Pimms reception on the lawn and entertainment from the British Imperial Military Band.

Blue Skies won 'Supermarket' Supplier of the Year' in recognition of how the business has responded to tough market conditions in the UK, demonstrating its ability to diversify and adapt to change. It also won 'Best Place to Work' for its strong culture of respect for others and confident belief in the capabilities of people.

The annual Fresh Awards are organised by the Fresh Produce Consortium (FPC) and recognise leadership, innovation and business acumen among the UK's fresh produce industry.

# Farewell Sjoerd



This month we say farewell to Sjoerd van der Ouw. Sjoerd will be moving on to another challenge nearer to his home. Sjoerd has been a part of our Blue Skies family for five years, and he played an important role in the early days of accelerating our growth in Europe. Sjoerd has set up an impressive way of forecasting and stock-holding together with Albert Heijn. We will greatly miss Sjoerd's commitment, creativity, drive and passion. We wish him every possible success and happiness.



# Blue Skies Ice Cream impresses at Taste of London Food Festival



On the 13-17 June, Blue Skies parked up its new 'ice-cream bike' at the Taste of London Food Festival at Regents Park in London. Taste of London attracts over 50,000 visitors over the five day event, all with an interest in top quality food and drink. Blue Skies sampled to over 20,000 people who all loved the creamy taste of delicious ice cream.



## Ice Cream comes out top in press reviews

Blue Skies ice cream has received some rave recently. It came out as one of the best in taste tests by BBC Good Food Magazine and Olive Magazine! BBC Good Food described the Chocolate and Orange flavour as "delightfully creamy and rich in chocolate" while Olive said our Mango and Passion Fruit flavour had a "thickly churned texture and was incredibly creamy"



## Record Sales in Europe



This month, Blue Skies have achieved record sales in Europe, with nearly 1 million euros worth of sales passing through Amsterdam in just one week! Helped by the hot, sunny weather, Blue Skies is experiencing a welcome boost to sales across the whole continent.



BLUE SKIES HEROES

# Meet Samuel Anakwah

I am Samuel Anakwah, from Ghana and married to Harriet Ago with a new born baby who is four months of age named Gretel Smith Otu.

I joined Blue Skies in 2013 as a casual staff with the Production Team and then later moved to the Agronomy Department where I was made a contract staff.

During my work experience at Blue Skies, I was fortunate enough to have developed a lot of firsthand experience. I learned a lot when I was introduced to the Agronomy Department. I learned about the many different sides that Blue Skies is into, the

general process of how the fruits are harvested from the farm and processed completely; as well as how the much work and detail goes into every stage. Another valuable lesson I have learned when working with Blue Skies for this year is they always ensure high standards of hygiene from the farm until the products reach the customer, which in turn, have provided me with more insight into hygiene and the roles and responsibilities that I could perform as a staff of the company and my life.

Overall, my work experience at Blue skies is positive. I am very happy with the amount of things that I am learning and experiencing from being part of Blue Skies. I believe that Blue skies should keep the aspect of the hygiene as it does provide to its customers and staff. I am so happy, and proud that I am part of the Blue skies family.



# Calling all Blue Skies Heroes

There are many heroes at Blue Skies. Whether they're growing fruit, cutting fruit, coordinating logistics or dealing with customers, there are heroes in every part of our business. Every day, going above and beyond to skilfully deliver true freshness.

To recognise the great achievements of our heroes, We've introduced this 'Blue Skies Heroes' section in Pelican News and on our Social Media Channels.

We want to celebrate the amazing people who make a difference, regardless of their seniority, role or how long they have been at the business.

So if you know someone who can be considered a true Blue Skies Hero, please let us know by sending a nomination at:

<http://www.blueskies.com/nominate>

## Meet Saleh Mohamed

Nominated by Osama Hassanein, Blue Sies Egypt



**Saleh Mohamed Saad**  
Production team leader

Saleh joined Blueskies Egypt on 2012 and he promoted to be Team leader on 2015, He is responsible for monitoring the cut fruit quality and he did very well as he have good leadership, He can work independently and he is able to follow through to ensure that the job gets done on time and with high quality. He is talented to train new comers in short time to achieve the daily target. In addition he has excellent relationship with all staff levels.

# Celebrating Mums in Brazil



Blue Skies Brazil mothers have been honoured last month with a simple gift and a presentation from HR Department which made them cry and emotional.

# Brazilians get health and safety training



New members of the Health & Safety Committee take over the responsibility after a 20 hours training;



The Fire Brigade and the Health & Safety Committee in Blue Skies Brazil have been recently provided a training on basic first aid procedures.

# Pitsford raise £141 for Alzheimers

Blue Skies Pitsford held a Cup Cake Day on 14 June to raise money for Alzheimers Society. A whole host of delicious cakes and bakes were brought in by people in the office which were enjoyed over a hot drink in exchange for a voluntary donation. In total over £140 was raised for Alzheimers Society. Thank you to Carrie for organising.

# Jess's Ski update



Congratulations to Jess Anderson, a young alpine skier who is sponsored by Blue Skies, on a successful 2018 season so far. Jess achieved podium finishes during the British Championships, winning overall slalom British title and third in the international podium, plus second place in the Super G. She also came second in the slalom race at the Belgium Championships. Jess has been reselected for Team GB for another year and has also been selected for the Ladies Europa Cup Team. You can keep up to date on Jess's progress by reading her blog at: <http://www.jessicaanderson.co.uk/>

# Ghana from the air



Pictured: this photo of the factory in Ghana was recently taken by a drone. It shows how the site has grown with the addition of the new branded factory (bottom left) and the mango stores (middle right)

# Get well soon Brave Bernice



Bernice Asante from our High care team in Ghana was on her way home from the mid-morning shift on the 18th of May when at about 8:50pm she was knocked down by a motorcycle, throwing her in to the road. Unfortunately a vehicle was passing at that time, which drove over her leg. She was sent straight to the government hospital where Dr. Van Ess assessed her and realised she had multiple fractures in her leg. She was then

rushed to St John's Orthopaedic hospital in Koforidua where she is currently responding to treatment after a couple of surgeries. There were a few security staff and managers around where the incident happened who assisted in arresting the rider to the police station. The vehicle driver who also disappeared from the scene was apprehended a week later. We all wish Bernice a speedy recovery. *Report by Ruth Adjei.*

# Blue Skies Baby News



Congratulations to Natalie Kitchener from Pitsford office on the birth of her new baby boy. Alfie Graham Ross was born on the 21st of June weighing 6lbs 10 oz.

# Uniting in support of African Women



Women from Blue Skies South Africa recently came together for a meal. The theme was all black and 'Doek on Fleek'. Black was a symbol of being a black woman, Doek is in respect of being an African woman, and 'on Fleek' means 'cool'. They were uniting in respect of African women on the 4th of June 2018, and also celebrating 'Youth Month'. The aim of the meeting was to support woman all over the world who have suffered human trafficking, abuse against women and children, teenage pregnancy, rape and most recently the sad passing of our South African Queen Winnie Madikizela Mandela. We remember her as women strive to be the best we can in creating a better future for our next generation. Amandla Awethu.  
By Waydu Nhlapo.

# Meet your Exec



Pictured: members of the Executive Committee and guests following a meeting on the 21st of June. Helen Rumsey (pictured centre, next to Stephan) has recently been appointed a Director.



# Blue Print Focus

## Eliminating Plastics

*We need your Big Ideas!*

As part of our Big Ideas process, we will be focusing on a different theme each month, This month it is **plastics**.

One of our Blue Print Commitments is to eliminate all plastics from the Blue Skies branded range by 2025 and to reduce plastics across all our other lines. We are already exploring a number of avenues to help us achieve this, but we would also like to ask you if you have any ideas.

As usual, with our Big Ideas process, we will enter the best contributions in to our annual Big Idea Awards, which will be announced at the end of the year.

So if you have an idea to help us eliminate plastics from our branded packaging, please let us know at <http://www.blueskies.com/ideas/>



## SMETA audit successes



Congratulations to Blue Skies Ghana and Egypt on recent successful SMETA audits. Zero non conformances and a huge list of best practices was achieved in both Ghana and Egypt. Well done to all the teams for their continued work in helping Blue Skies to achieve the highest social and ethical standards at all of its facilities. The audit team at Egypt are pictured above.

## Inspiring the next generation



On 29th of June, Blue Skies exhibited at Kids Country Food and Farming Day at Peterborough Show Ground in the UK. Kids Country attracts over 7,000 pupils aged between 5 and 11 from 69 schools in the East of England. Schools visit to learn about where food comes from and engage with producers from all over the world. Blue Skies exhibited in the African Village which showcases produce from Africa. Many thanks to Jayne, Joe and Adam (pictured) who helped to make the day a great success.



## Showcase Your Success Stories

Have you been involved in a project or an idea that has helped Blue Skies to become more efficient, environmentally friendly, socially responsible or better collaborators? It could be something that helps us to reduce our energy consumption or waste, or something you have done to help local communities tackle some of their challenges. If you have, then we would love to hear from you. We want to be able to share with each-other and the rest of the world, some of the great things that we do, in the hope that others might be inspired to do something similar. We'll put the very best ideas through to our annual 'Blue Print' Awards.

To send us details of your project, please email [simon.derrick@blueskies.com](mailto:simon.derrick@blueskies.com).