

Firm at the sharp end for 40 years

For 40 years Precision Engine Services in Inverness has offered a top-quality, professional service, writes Susan Welsh

A strong friendship, formed when Andrew and John Morrison were starting out on their careers, is ensuring a well-established Inverness business continues to go from strength to strength. Precision Engine Services (Inverness), a family-run business, celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. The business was started by Andrew's parents, Lenny and Helen Morrison, after Lenny spotted a gap in the machining workshop market in the Highlands. Fast forward four decades and the business is not only still going strong but expanding the number of services it offers. The present owners are John and Andrew Morrison who, despite sharing the same surname, aren't related. However, their connection does go back years. "I was born and bred in Inverness and spent much of my childhood at Precision, watching my father at work and learning," said Andrew. "After I left school I did a mechanical apprenticeship with Shell in Aberdeen.

"My formative years were spent out west on North Uist from where I took the same route, going straight from school into the mechanical apprenticeship with Shell so that's where, in 1992, I first met Andrew" said John. "We spent three years together on the apprenticeship and even shared the same digs."

After completing their apprenticeships, Andrew worked for 16 years as a senior engineer in the offshore oil industry before taking over the family business in 2009. John took a slightly different route.

After completing his apprenticeship, he worked for 17 years as a senior engineer in the offshore industry in maintenance, operations and planning disciplines.

"It had always been an aspiration that one day I'd be running my own business," said John.

Andrew and John have interests which they can also apply in their working life.

Andrew is a keen motor sport enthusiast, following in his father's footsteps and



■ Directors (L-R) Nicola Morrison, Nicki Morrison, John Morrison and Andrew Morrison outside their Inverness workshops.

competed in karting as a teenager and forest rallies in the more latter years.

Meanwhile, from his upbringing on the Western Isles, John's interests are particularly agricultural and marine – both of which feature heavily in Precision's daily life.

After spending 20 years growing the business, Lenny Morrison retired and the

business was taken over by his daughter Carole and her husband, Andy Horne.

Andrew Morrison and his wife, Nicola, then took over the business in 2009.

It meant a great deal to Lenny to see the company continue within the family and see the company diversify into new fields and continue to grow and mature.

Bringing additional expertise, John, along with his wife Nicki, became co-owners a year later.

Together, Andrew and John have now been at the helm successfully steering the business in continued and new directions for five years.

The firm delivers a high-quality engine reconditioning service to customers across the whole of the north of Scotland, stretching from Uist in the west, to Aberdeen in the East, Shetland in the North and Oban in the south.

Precision works very closely with the various delivery companies that serve this huge area. This ensures our customers can get their jobs to us but, more importantly, we can get their finalised job back to them in the quickest time, minimising vehicle down time.

"As Precision's business has expanded more and more into the Aberdeen area, we have always been on hand to ensure both customers and Precision are pleased with the service we deliver," said Steven McLeod, manager, Mac's Express Deliveries, Aberdeen. "We help localise Precision's extensive range of services into yet more parts of the North of Scotland."

While it is a modern, well-equipped family-run company, it still retains the old-fashioned principle of total dedication to its clients, in terms of quality, workmanship and keeping to strict time schedules. It is the only reconditioner in the north to hold membership of the Federation of Engine Remanufacturers, conforming to the technical specifications laid down by this organisation (BS UA 257 : 2002), and is held in high regard by those who use its services.

Located at 48 Seafield Road on the Longman Industrial Estate in Inverness, the firm has expanded the services it offers.

"The industry we are involved in doesn't stand still so we

have diversified greatly to meet its needs," said Andrew. "We continually offer new services, such as the introduction of the radiator service two years ago following the closure of Inverness based Highland Radiators.

"At Precision we can repair or supply new copper/brass and plastic tank radiators and radiator cores covering automotive, commercial, industrial, agricultural, generator/gen-set, heater and marine applications."

"I have dealt with Precision for approximately 30 years, said Calum Fraser, Kilmorack Plan Services.

"I use them for all my engine machining work and radiator recovers. It is vitally important we each support our local businesses and they have such services here in the Highlands is to be welcomed."

"Because both of us have an offshore background, we also started supplying support for the offshore industry as, uniquely, we can understand what companies need," said Andrew.





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Offshore

"Having worked offshore for 16 years working and operating in the field, we can understand the frustrations when things aren't delivered on time or people don't know the systems," added John Morrison who co-owns Inverness-based, Precision Engine Services with Andrew Morrison. "What we offer is an on-shore workshop facility for offshore companies," said John.

Andrew said: "As a result of that we have secured work from multi-national companies carrying out jobs such as power pack and engine refurbishments, air starter refurbishments and parts supply. "We have also just completed contracts on a jack up rig that was in for refit and on a brand new production platform currently under construction." With experience in complete skid refurbishment Precision Engine Services can offer: Strip, assessment and pricing of unit refurbishment; Diesel engine strip, assessment and remanufacture; Protection devices recalibration (over temperature, over speed etc);

Skid corrosion protection replacement (painting, galvanising as required); Whether it is a diesel-driven hydraulic power pack, cement pump, diesel driven generators, fire pump or portable air compressors, one call can meet all your requirements. Aberdeen is the established oil industry hub for Europe, along with Invergordon and Nigg where floating drilling installations are stored and serviced. "With the expansion developments at Nigg and Invergordon, we are seeing an increase in freight traffic between these locations and Aberdeen," said Andrew. "We are well-positioned on that route to serve both." As UK distributor for Startmaster and Pow-R-Quik Precision has access to extensive support and back-up from the manufacturers allowing problems to be rectified within the customers time requirements. Air starters are predominantly used in the offshore oil and gas industry and heavy commercial applications, where the risk of electrical sparking would cause significant issues. Precision stocks an



■ Engineer Frank MacDonald at work on an engine.

extensive range of spares for both turbine and vane starters. "We have also received feedback from customers that they find our rates more affordable and our timescales more accommodating than some of the companies in Aberdeen. A wealth of experience While Andrew and John Morrison are at the helm of this long-established business, there's a superb team behind them. Keeping an eye on the lads, and the focal point for all administrative enquiries are Hazel, Nicola and Nicki. Other team members include: Frank, a well-served mechanic with more than

40 years experience in the automotive industry and a well-recognised Saab specialist. Ally has been involved in diesel pump and injector repairs for more than 40 years. He has a keen interest in stationary engines and historic tractors. Bringing a wealth of machining knowledge and skill to Precision is Jan who hails from Poland and spent 30 years working in its boatyards. Brian has worked for 15 years, largely in the commercial industry, bringing well-regarded expertise in commercial engineering. Between them all they have more than 150 years of experience.

One-stop shop

Precision Engine Services, currently celebrating its 40th year in business, offers a wealth of engine and engineering services

"We use Precision for all our engineering requirements," said Nigel Fuller, manager, Mercedes Benz Commercial Vehicles Highland...

"They understand our need to minimise vehicle down time and are always helpful and efficient. It is easy to see why they are still going strong after 40 years."

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Would like to congratulate John, Andrew and team on their 40th Anniversary of business and wish you continued success.

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At Precision we can rebuild all petrol and diesel engines, including car, commercial, industrial and marine. Recent builds include Detroit, Perkins, Cummins, Volvo Penta, Nissan Navara, BMW, Gardner, Lister, Vetus diesel and Ford D series and many more. Classic builds have included Commer, Perkins 4107 and 4108, Ford Pinto, X Flow, BDG and Holbay Warrior engines. Each engine build can be tailored to individual customer requirements and budget.

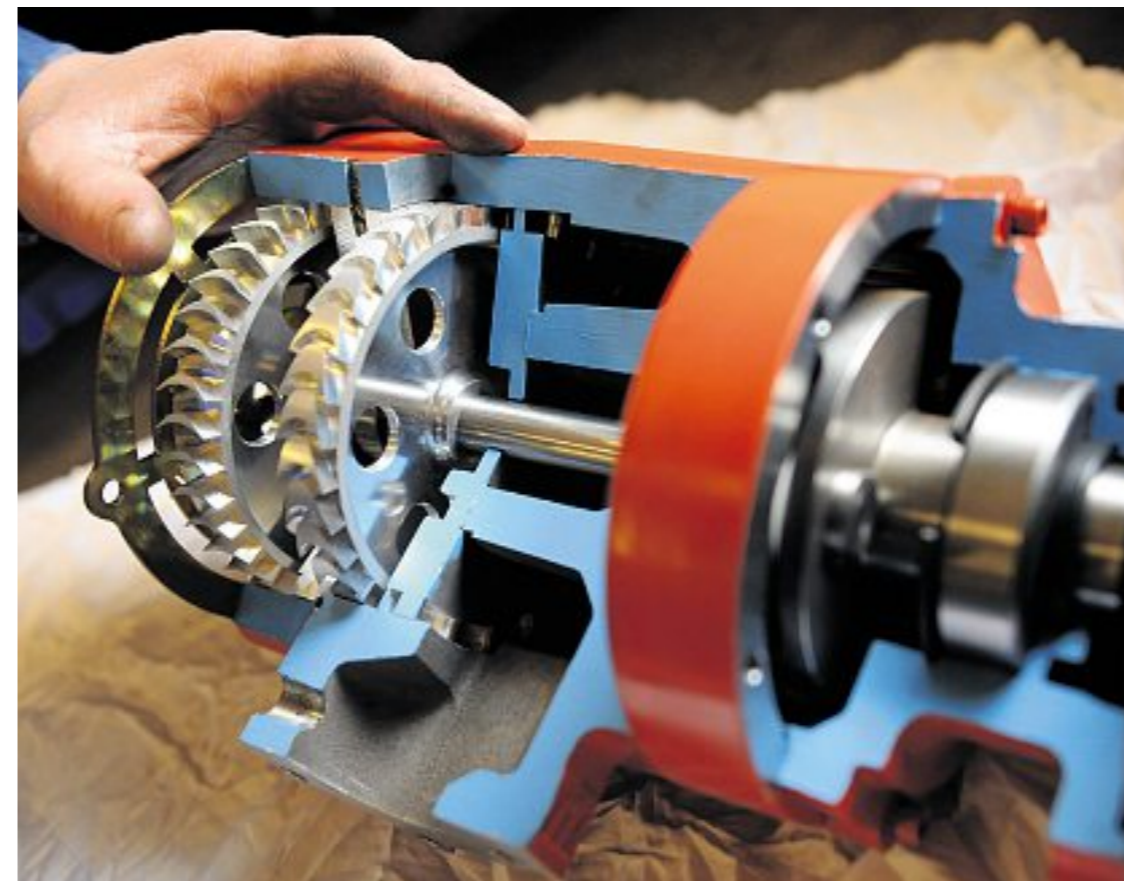
Precision's team of experienced engineers also recondition cylinder heads, including pressure testing and refacing, valve seat inserting and valve refacing. They also offer an extensive range of new and reconditioned cylinder heads and supply all necessary gaskets, head sets, bolts and other components. "Precision also offers a Propshaft service and stocks an extensive range of new universal joints and complete propshafts for automotive, agricultural and

commercial applications," said Andrew. "We can also competitively manufacture one-off propshafts to customer's requirements." Precision can also overhaul, test and balance all makes of turbo on-site, including Garrett, Holset and Triple K, offering a fast turn-around time on the old unit and a significant cost saving. It can also offer new and exchange units where repair is uneconomical. Precision can repair manual gearboxes

and differentials with automotive, marine or industrial units all catered for. The machine shop can carry out a variety of work including boring and honing, from the smallest bushes and bores up to 8" diameter, milling, turning, brake disc skimming, crankshaft and cylindrical grinding, manifold skimming, surface grinding or fly cutting of cylinder blocks and heads, re-facing or surface grinding flywheels and brake drums. "We are able to repair



■ John Morrison at work on a radiator.



all types of diesel engine vehicles using the very latest technology, from vintage tractors to modern common rail systems." said John. "We also repair, recondition and comprehensively test diesel pumps, diesel injectors, diesel lift pumps and diesel rotary inline pumps from all the major manufacturers such as Bosch, Lucas, CAV, Delphi, Simms, Stanadyne and Zexel." Celebrating 40 years in business is a great achievement for Precision but for those 40 years the company's aim has never altered – they always provide the same high quality, specialist service that has simply grown with them over the years.

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