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paintball Industry

From the publishers of Paintball Games International & What Paintball Gear?



JT 2003
LAUNCH

INTRODUCING THE FX-10

SHOCK
COMEBACK

2003 SHOCKER UNVEILED

FULL
THROTTLE

DYE'S NEW AIR SYSTEM

VOL 1 issue 3



JT 2003 Launch

Always looking to keep at the cutting edge of Paintball, JT has revamped all its products for 2003. *Pi* was lucky enough to be treated to a preview of the updated gear and latest new releases, all of which look very impressive indeed. As well as restyling their apparel to provide a fresh look for the new season, several previously unseen products have been added to the JT product line.

The most striking new item is the FX-10, a goggle system that is likely to become extremely popular with all levels of player. A modern look is coupled with a modification that represents a big step forward in goggle evolution; a quick-release lens ejector. Lenses on the FX-10 can be replaced by simply

moving a lever on the side of the mask.

Another addition that will prove invaluable to recreational players and referees is a two-way radio that can be incorporated into a JT mask system. Using ear- and mouthpieces, Paintballers and referees can use the radio to communicate easily with each other without having to remove their masks.

In addition to the new Paintball gear, the 2003 JT range also now caters for other sports such as skate and BMX.

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Website: www.jtusa.com

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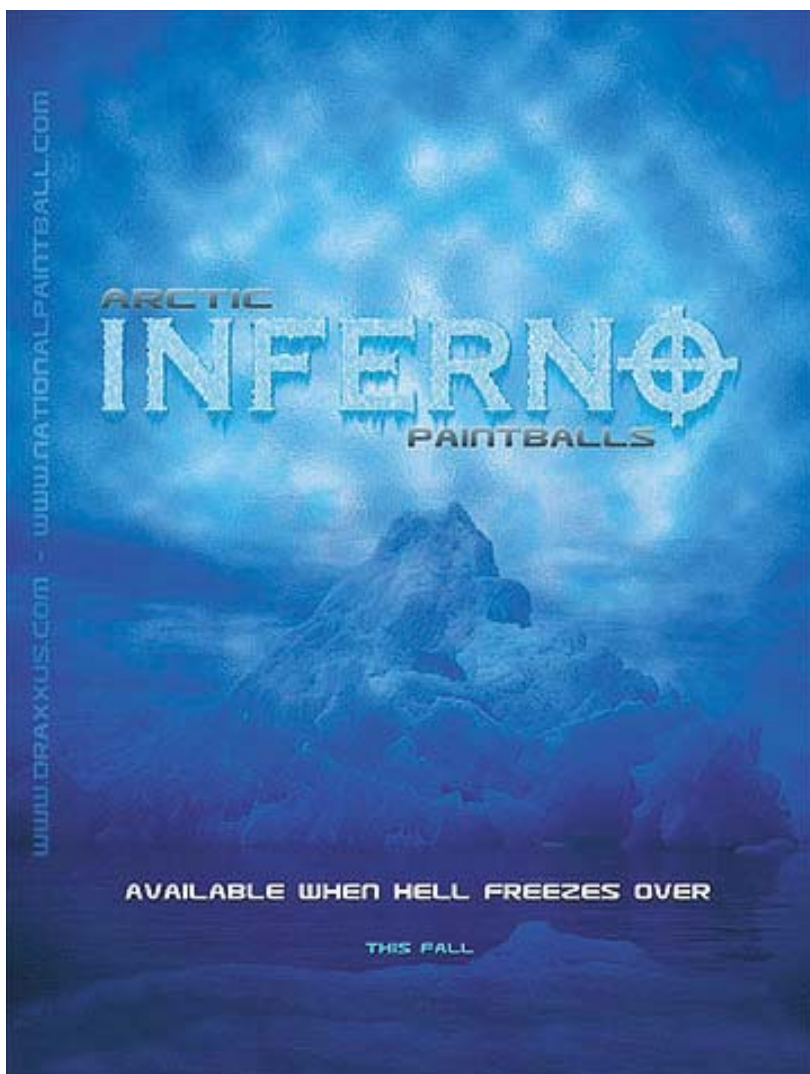
Having the right quality paint is a very important factor in player satisfaction. In colder conditions, paint can become brittle and more prone to breaking. To help solve this problem, Draxxus has released its new Artic Inferno brand of paint.

Tested in Canada, Draxxus claims that the Artic Inferno paint delivers the best cold weather performance that money can buy.

The shell formula is said to be less likely to break, even at high rates of fire; it is also glossy, which reduces friction as the ball feeds to help prevent any jams. And, as with all Draxxus paint, the fill is non-staining so it won't ruin players' clothing.

Call: 800 346 5615

Website: www.nationalpaintball.com





Shock Comeback

A Paintball marker that had faded from the limelight in recent times, the Smart Parts Shocker, is making a grand return onto the Paintball scene. A long time favorite of many players, the Shocker has been overshadowed by Smart Parts' other big hitter, the Impulse.

At the beginning of 2003, the new Shocker was revealed in all its glory to *Pi*. As well as having a complete cosmetic overhaul, the 2003 Shocker is smaller and lighter than before, featuring closed-bolt operation and no external moving parts.

The gun operates off a 9-volt battery and has an innovative new trigger job that uses reverse polarity magnets to provide a RT effect. The new Shocker should be available to dealers in spring this year.

Call: 724 539 2660

Website: www.smartparts.com

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Full Throttle

To complete the range of Paintball gear they have on offer, Dye Precision is now producing their own line of air systems. The new Throttle range has a more refined appearance than many of the other air systems currently available. The bottle itself is covered in a shiny black lacquer, as apposed to the traditional raw gray, and the highly polished titanium reg at the front is a nice finishing touch.

Dye tell us that the fully adjustable range of operation and balanced uniform air movement provided by the Throttle system will supply consistent shots at low operating pressures, and it should remain consistent even at 30 cfm.

Call: 858 536 5183

Website: www.dyeprecision.com



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*The Throttle 4500
PSI Preset Air System*

91 cubic inch



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70 cubic inch





MARKED MEN

Tournament organizers are now being offered the chance to use a computerized player identification system originally tested and developed within the Pan Am tournament series. The custom built program is a database that enables users to track the tournament history of every individual entered into the system.

The organizers of the Pan Am say that now, after six years of development, the program has morphed into a very clean and efficient package. The system enables tournament promoters to pull up a file on an individual player that shows their picture, address, emergency phone number, first year they competed in a tournament, and a list of all the events they have played that also participate in the program.

Now, the system has reached the stage where it has become its own independent entity, the IPPI. Joining the IPPI is free, although there are two levels of involvement. They are:

1) Roster Share - you give the Pan Am your rosters and they will give you theirs. They will also send a blank copy of their ID program to help track your own players.

2) Complete IPPI Program - This involves becoming a full partner with the IPPI. They will produce identification cards for players to purchase at your events, you will also receive a complete copy of the IPPI database, complete with all information from all participating circuits. You will receive database updates and have access to the IPPI website for the length of your partnership.

A demonstration of the program will be available on the website www.paintballid.com from the end of January. Contact Planet Paintball 503 370 8749 or email danbonebrake@aol.com

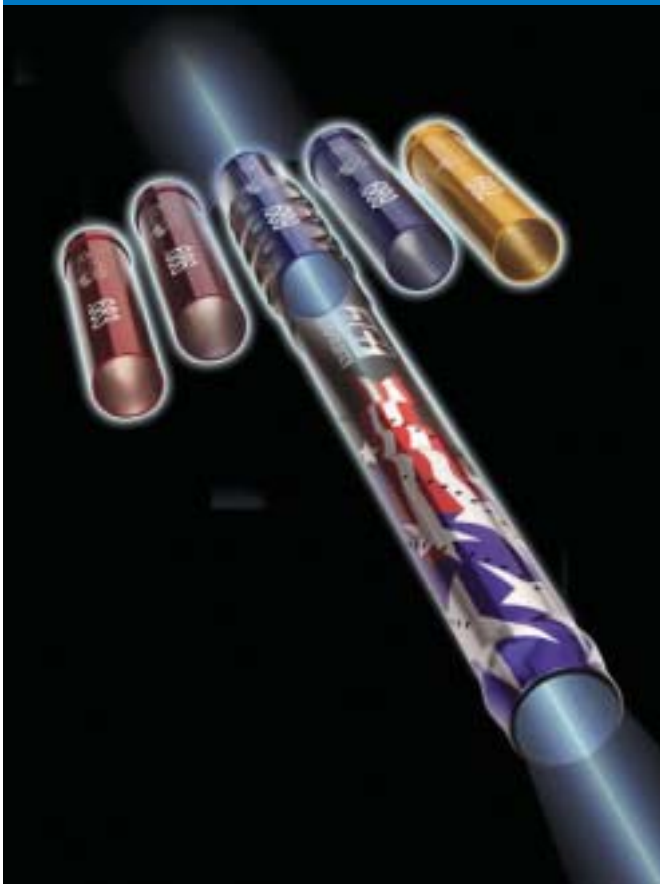
Affordable Angels

WDP have brought their highly desirable Angel markers within the reach of more players by reducing the price on a revamped, limited edition LCD model. The LCD was one of WDP's earliest versions of the Angel. Now, with many modifications to correct earlier glitches in the LCD's performance (a new, more resilient board has been added), it has been brought bang up to date - and at \$800 it is a very attractive offer.

The limited edition marker has been fitted with a gated feed system, chain frame, custom trigger and the IR3's smaller, more efficient 14-way valve and supra-glide ram as standard.

Call: 0121 328 2228

Website: www.wdp-paintball.com



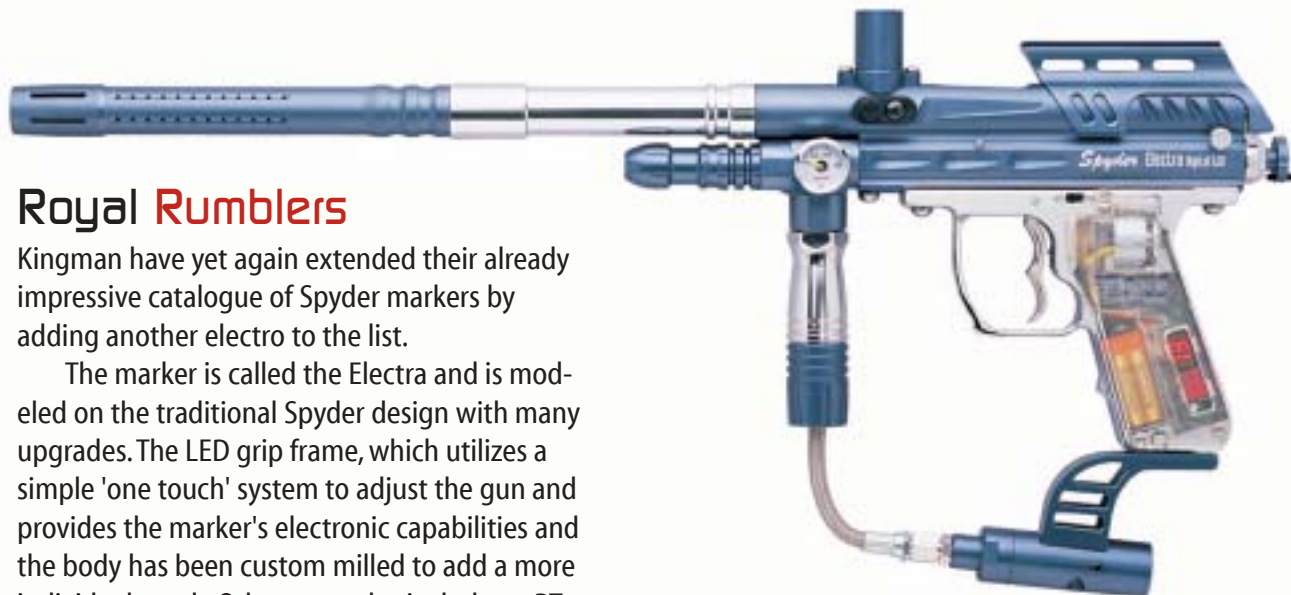
Phat of the Land

ACI Sports has recently signed a deal with PHAT Performance to exclusively carry and distribute their PHAT equipment line for the 2003 season.

"We feel this partnership will succeed in both expanding the ACI Sports name and getting the high class PHAT Performance products out to as many players as possible," commented Greg Sullivan of ACI Sports. PHAT products will include PHAT Guns, PHAT pipe barrel systems, PHAT Gel grips, PHAT drop-forwards, and much more.

Call: 909 390 2323

Website: www.airconcepts.com



Royal Rumlbers

Kingman have yet again extended their already impressive catalogue of Spyder markers by adding another electro to the list.

The marker is called the Electra and is modeled on the traditional Spyder design with many upgrades. The LED grip frame, which utilizes a simple 'one touch' system to adjust the gun and provides the marker's electronic capabilities and the body has been custom milled to add a more individual touch. Other upgrades include an RT trigger, new low pressure chamber and tournament style velocity adjustment. The gun also comes with its own battery and charger.

Call Kingman on 626 430 2300
visit www.kingmanusa.com



Who's Your Daddy?

Joining the entry-level gun market is an attractive prospect for many companies because of the scale of demand generated at the beginner level, and Crosman recently made their bid to bite into this market by releasing the Bone Daddy, part of the company's Game Face range.

Perhaps the main difference between the Bone Daddy and many of the other entry-level guns is the fade anodizing, a cosmetic detail usually reserved for high-end guns. The other specifications are more commonly seen, but there is still an impressive range: raised sight rail, foregrip,

expansion chamber, angled bottom line and a double trigger 45-frame.

Call: 585 657 3177
Website: www.gamefacepaintball.com

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Group **D**ynamic

Peter Irizarry, who previously worked for Sheridan as products manager, has now struck out and set up his own company, Syndicate Paintball. Syndicate is targeting entry-level players and offers different product sets that are graded via the use of color-coding.

The markers are split into five ranks, the most basic being a standard blow back with a vertical set-up, the most advanced, an electro marker. Other products include clothing and padding, but these were still in the development stage when we last spoke to Mr Irizarry.

Call: 630 833 7696

Website: www.syndicategear.com

PARADOX MF1



BY **X**SYNDICATE

On-Line **G**eneration

Generation E Sports has unveiled its new website, located at www.GenEow.com, and it's a looker. Matrix dealers and owners can view the specifications of the gun and also download the Matrix manual in Adobe PDF format. As revealed last year, Generation E Sports is now the exclusive distributor of Toxic Performance gear, which can be viewed and purchased at www.toxicperformance.com.



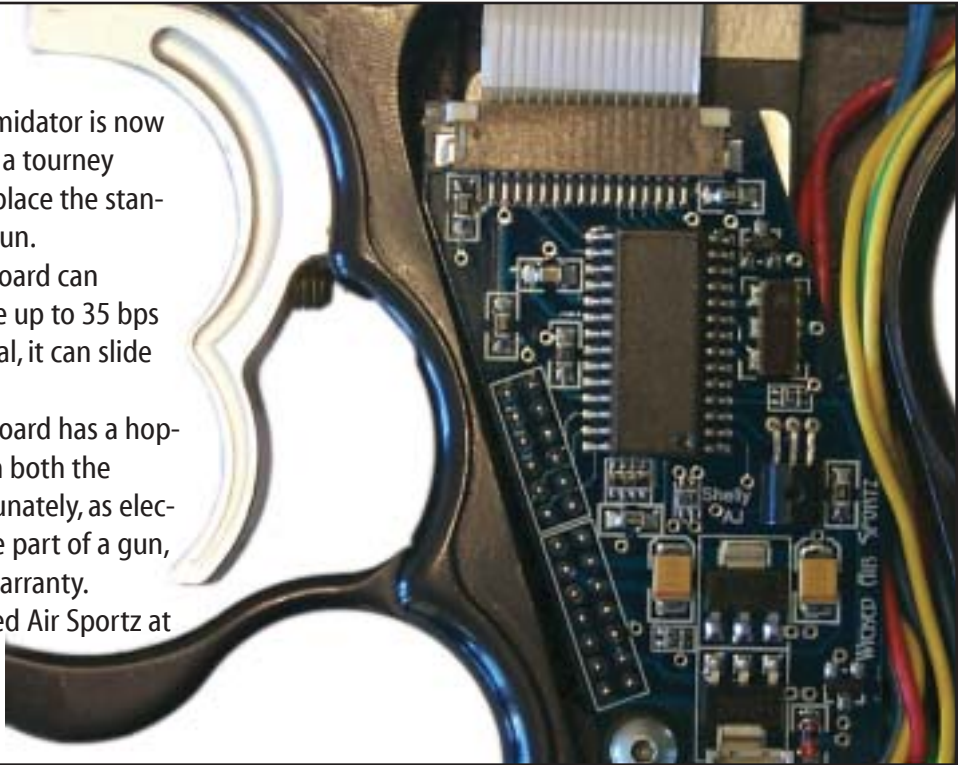
Generation E Sports is also now distributing Bunker King products. Headbands, T-shirts, woolie caps, sweat shirts, baseball caps, bandanas and visors can all be browsed and bought from their new website. Dealers should contact Generation E at 631-580-4377 and they are open 9am-5pm Monday thru Friday, Eastern standard time.

Silicon Implants

An electronic upgrade for the Intimidator is now available from Wicked Air Sportz - a tourney legal, semi-firing-only board to replace the standard model that comes with the gun.

The company claim that the board can potentially allow the marker to fire up to 35 bps and, being smaller than the original, it can slide neatly into the GZ style frame.

Amongst other features, the board has a hopper output that is compatible with both the Intellifeed and the Warpfeed. Fortunately, as electronics can be the most vulnerable part of a gun, the board comes with a lifetime warranty. Interested dealers can email Wicked Air Sportz at sales@wickedairsportz.com



Steel a Glance

It wasn't that long ago since Titanium Paintball came onto the market with their high-end brand of titanium barrels. The company's line has now been extended with the introduction of stainless steel barrels, dubbed the Longbow SS, that will add to the existing titanium versions.

Save for using a different material, the stainless barrel will not differ greatly from their predecessor. The barrels internals will still feature Titanium's Hardbore finish and the only real differences will be in the weight and price.

The new barrel will have slightly different milling, a polished external finish rather than satin one and will be \$30 cheaper. Both versions of the barrel are interchangeable with the aluminum front ends.

The MSRP for the barrel is \$109



Call: 973 412 1300

Website: www.titaniumpaintball.com

Winner takes all

The results of the inaugural P8ntballer.com Awards, as voted for by the readers of the website, were published in issue #167 of *Paintball Games International (PGI)* Magazine. As far as the industry was concerned, honors were split between several different companies. Diablo Hellfire picked up the award for Best Paintball, with the Angel IR3 scooping the award for Best Marker. Smart Parts picked up

two awards, Best Retailer and Best Barrel (for the Freak System), with JT and Planet Eclipse also garnering awards.

Field-wise, California's SC Village was awarded Best Field, whilst Challenge Park Xtreme was nominated Best Venue.

A full list of the results is available at www.p8ntballer.com

NPS Gets Crossfire

In a surprise move, *Paintball 2Xtremes* Magazine has acquired *Crossfire* Paintball Magazine from Digest Publications. *Paintball 2Xtremes'* President, Gino Postorivo, commented:

"For those that have followed the growth of *Paintball 2Xtremes* since we (National Paintball Supply) acquired the magazine about three years ago, our plans are to grow and improve *Crossfire* Paintball Magazine in that same way,"

"There is an obvious niche that has not been filled by any Paintball magazine to date. Although many of the Paintball magazines touch on the recreational side of Paintball, none make it their total focus. We believe *Crossfire* Paintball Magazine would be best suited doing just that -- covering the overlooked scenario, rec-ball and outback portions of the game. New products, outback games, tech articles, playing tips, big games, scenario games, backyard play, and other rec-ball subjects will be covered regularly in the new *Crossfire* Paintball Magazine," Postorivo continued.

Paintball 2Xtremes' executive editor, John Amodia added, "Having a second publication gives us great flexibility. Being able to dedicate an entire publication to the rec-ball community will fill a void that is, in reality, the largest segment of the sport. We look forward to serving the player and the industry in an even more focused way. *Paintball 2Xtremes* will continue to cover all aspects of the sport including the rec-ball side."

Both *Paintball 2Xtremes* Magazine (www.pb2x.com) and *Crossfire* Paintball Magazine (www.crossfiremag.com) are available at bookstores and paintball stores and fields worldwide, as well as by subscription at their respective websites.

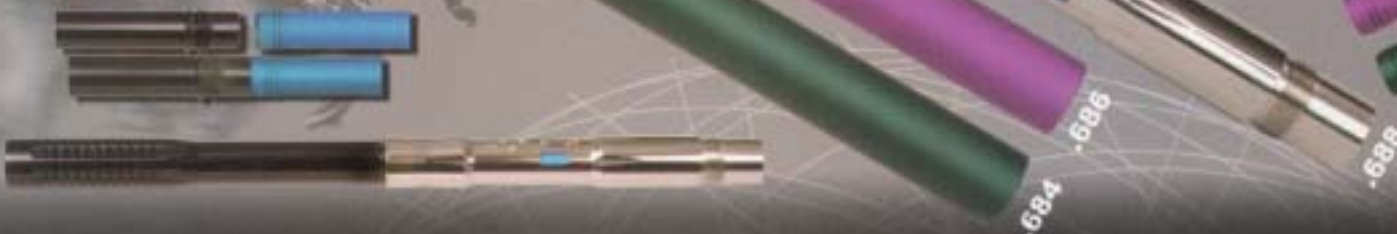
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Total Eclipse



After several years of creating high-end niche products, 2003 looks like being the year Planet Eclipse goes global. *Pi* talks to co-owner Anthony 'Ledz' Leadbetter about the company's rise to fame

Pi: Tell us a bit about the history of Planet...

Ledz: We started in 1992 buying an existing Paintball store in Manchester, England, that was not doing very well, a couple of years later we invested in a local Paintball site and then a second outlet in the south of England. In the beginning our main goal and focus was to supply players with the best and newest equipment from around the world, whilst trying to avoid having a real job so we could loaf about and play paintball. After a few years of banging our heads against a big wall we decided to start making our own products, the Eclipse range. We still have a store in the head office in Manchester, which is very well stocked with products from around the world, and it's still a pleasure to see the new gear turning up. We have moved part of the company over in the last couple of years to a more manufacturing stance and now create more and more of our own products, including Jacko Eclipse Packs, Planet Bags, Planet Pods, Field Jacko Packs, an array of Eclipse aftermarket products and of course the Eclipseblade Frame.



Pi: First of all you were Paintball Planet and you manufactured the Eclipse range of guns and accessories, then you changed your name to Planet Eclipse - why rebrand in such a way?

Ledz: Thinking of a name is very hard and it took us ages to come up with Paintball Planet; when we turned the corner and became a much more professional company we wanted to re-brand as we grew, encompassing the retro Planet and the new Eclipse. One of the major reasons is that we knew that the Internet was going to take off and Paintball Planet had already been taken, so we went for planet-eclipse.com.

Pi: You set-up Planet Eclipse USA in 1999 - what drove that decision?

Ledz: We always had a problem with our customer service in the States due to the time difference. There are a lot of stores on the west coast of America that don't open until lunch time, which is in the middle of the night here. Being in the US helps us to better service our customers and provide better back-up. The office in Rhode Island is only a warehouse, we do not sell to the general public from there. It is where the products are shipped from the UK and distributed to the many Eclipse Outlets around the States.

Pi: Onto Eclipse products themselves... where does your inspiration come from?

Ledz: Beer and Pizza! No really it does... many of the things that get made are born from a drunken slur, we just get pissed off with crap products. Nine of our staff play on a very regular basis, four are actually Pro players, so there is no shortage of inspiration. When you are so involved in the game it's hard not to have new ideas. We are constantly looking to improve what we use and create new products that will help us win. From the basic idea, we build prototypes and then we try to break them... most of the stuff gets used for a long time before it's launched. It's all a bit cloak and dagger really but that's the way of the world these days, let someone see your idea and it's

stolen, copied and on sales in about two seconds. We had the Eclipseblade electronic Cocker frame on test for nearly a year before we launched it.

Pi: Your senior airsmith, Jack Wood, is highly regarded in the industry: does Jack have a hand in every Eclipse product?

Ledz: Very much so, if the idea doesn't come out of Jack's head the first place, then he is the major designer - nothing gets built unless Jack gives it his stamp of approval. We also have Steve 'Flash' Monks working for us now. He is an expert in the electronics field; his first project was the Eclipseblade Frame and I think he did a pretty good job.

Pi: It's fair to say that, although guns such as the Eclipse Angel and Impulse have always been well received, you've never been a household name in Paintball. Now, the E-Blade looks set to change all that - how did the product come about?

Ledz: We've always loved shooting Cockers and had been thinking about creating an electro frame for a long time. Jack is a great engineer with Paintball in his veins, but electronics was something that we had very little knowledge of and Flash joining the company really brought us up to speed. At the time Flash joined we had several projects on the drawing board, the Eclipseblade being one of them. After a heavy brainstorming beer and pizza session, we decided the Eclipseblade would be the ideal project for Flash and Jack to start on.

Pi: Given the universal acclaim the E-Blade has received, coupled with the sheer number of Autocockers on the market, demand looks set to be very high indeed. Will you be focusing all your efforts on the E-Blade for the coming year?

Ledz: No. I think if you put all your eggs into one basket you can come unstuck very quickly. The frame is a great success for us but we have lots of different ideas to revolutionize the Paintball industry.

Pi: Care to share them with us?

Ledz: What do you think?



Pi: Fair enough...In addition to producing stylish ads for the consumer press, Planet has always seen teams as a very effective marketing tool - will you be using any specific teams to promote the E-Blade?

Ledz: There are several teams that we are talking to at the moment that want to shoot our guns. We have the Ugly Ducklings shooting the Eclipse Impulse in 2003 and Team Nexus shooting the Eclipseblade Cockers. Jacko's team has now changed their name to Eclipse Factory and they will also be shooting the Eclipseblade Cockers in 2003. We also have Naughty Dogs, Camp Tigers and the Brass Eagle All Stars using the Eclipseblade frames on their WGP Orracles. There are other teams that are going to shooting the frames and guns such as K2, Nitro and Gambino's, and I'm sure you will see many more out there this year!

Pi: Planet has long worked with both Smart Parts and WorrGame Products, which other companies do you work with?

Ledz: The main one is the village chip-shop...without those girls Planet would grind to a halt! As for Paintball, pretty much everyone, we don't have an axe to grind at all. It's all one big happy family as far as we're concerned.

Pi: How does someone become a Planet Eclipse dealer?

Ledz: If you contact us (USA planetecclipse@aol.com Rest of the World info@planetecclipse.com) and you meet our dealer requirements we will get you set-up straight away. We are always looking for outlets that can offer the players a great customer service and a

good range of products.

Pi: Planet Eclipse is a manufacturer and a retailer - which is the most important side of your business?

Ledz: Both. They complement each other quite well; my personal baby is the retail stuff while Jules sorts out the manufacturing side of things.

Pi: You obviously set a great deal of store by your website; does it generate much direct business or is it a promotional tool?

Ledz: It's both. We have opened a lot of doors to people outside of the UK with the website and we get a lot of orders from it. The web is great for everyone to get information from anywhere in the world. We have a new website in the final stages of build at the moment. We will hopefully have a better looking and more functional site, there will be a technical forum, wallpaper downloads, video clips and much more. We wanted to launch it on the 1st Jan but that seems to have come and gone. Hopefully it will be online soon.

Pi: What's next for Planet Eclipse?

Ledz: At the moment we are so busy it's hard to work out what I'm doing the next day. We have lots of things in with the R&D Guys and hopefully some cool stuff will be coming out of there. We have a new kit bag being finished right now as well as the new Eclipse Jacko Packs. We have been looking into some cool Eclipse clothing, which you should see quite soon. Apart from that I'm afraid I can't tell you much...well I could, but then I'd have to kill you.

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