

## Dhamecha sales up £15m

Dhamecha Foods increased pre-tax profit from £13.9 million to £14.1 million in the year to 31 March 2016 on turnover up from £669 million to £684 million. The number of staff was 531 (up from 497).

Directors of the eight-branch C&C operator, Philip and Manish Dhamecha said that they considered the results satisfactory.

"We intend to pursue strategies that will enhance our growth and result in improved performance."

They added that, although



remaining cautious about the economic climate, they feel the coming year should show further steady growth in sales.

"We hope to demonstrate the strength of our business

model with the continued support of employees and successful relationship with suppliers and customers."

► Dhamecha Foods 020-8903 0181

## Two wine events

Following its craft ale 6 beer event held last month, Spar is now midway through the first of two wine promotions, which runs until 5 April in stores across England, Scotland and Wales.

It features such brands as Hardy's, Castilero del Diablo and Mud House, as well as varieties of the symbol group's own-label range.

Hardy's VR and Anakena Birdman are priced at £5, Yellow Tail ES, Castilero del Diablo 06.50 and Mud House sauvignon blanc £7.

The second Spar wine event takes place from 27 July to 5 September.

► Spar UK 020-8426 3700

## Third depot for CRG member

Creed Foodservice opened its new depot at Woodburn Green, near High Wycombe, Bucks, at the end of last month. The 27,000 sq ft building, previously a branch of Bidfood (Bidvest), is the company's third.



The head office of the Country Range Group member is at Staverton, Cheltenham, (linked with Churchdown, Gloucester), where the 35,000 sq ft depot specialises in frozen food, fresh produce, speciality foods and dairy products. The wholesaler also has a 55,000 sq ft unit in Ilkerton, Derbyshire, which handles frozen,

chilled and ambient lines.

The Woodburn Green building has been let on a 10-year lease at £8.50 per sq ft from LC Industrial.

The operation currently has a staff of 31. Deliveries of about 5,000 items daily (frozen, chilled, grocery, fresh produce, meat and non-food), using 13 vehicles, are made to locations in

Essex, Kent, Herts, Beds, Greater London, Bucks, West and East Sussex, Norfolk and Suffolk. The 300 customers include care homes, educational establishments, hotels, restaurants, cafes and leisure outlets.

Creed's turnover last year was almost £53 million.

► Creed Foodservice (01159) 441926

## Double please!

The number of visitors to Matthew Clark's Drinks Emporium, held at London's Tobacco Dock last month, was nearly double the amount of those attending last year's event.

As well as new wine varieties on offer, the show featured champagne, beer, gin and bourbon, including Jim Beam, Jack Daniel's and Booker's Kentucky Straight.

► Matthew Clark (01275) 851400

## Spanish foods seen to best effect

Mevako, importer of premium Spanish foods, has unveiled a new livery for its fleet of vans supplying the UK hospitality sector.

Over the past year, the Avonmouth-based company has more than doubled its customer base, reflecting

food as tapas and smoked oil. Managing director David Menendez said: "There is a big market for premium Spanish foods that are unique and made by artisan producers, enabling UK chefs to drive further innovation into their menus."



## Backing for booze scheme

Bestway Wholesale has pledged its support for the Government's Alcohol Wholesale Registration Scheme (AWRS), which comes into force on 1 April.

The scheme will put the onus on customers to prove they are purchasing alcohol from approved C&C wholesalers.

Managing director Martin Race said: "The fraudulent trade in alcohol has been a major problem for many years. The cash & carry/wholesale sector and our customers have suffered as 'white van man' and other less scrupulous 'wholesalers' have flooded the market with bootleg booze."

"The AWRS will clamp down on this supply and also provide customers with the confidence that they are operating within the legal framework."



"We welcome the new scheme and are grateful for the work of the Federation of Wholesale Distributors in lobbying for the legislation. We are proud to be among the first to register."

Government statistics show that the amount of alcohol sold illegally in the UK has reached its highest-ever level this century, with fraudulent sales of beer alone now measured at 15%

of the total UK market. In 2014-15, non-duty-paid spirits accounted for 12% of the total - double the previous year's percentage.

"Retailers now have no excuses," Race pointed out. "They either buy from a registered wholesaler or potentially say bye-bye to their alcohol licence."

"Other penalties include seizure of stock and massive fines. It's a statement of how far the problem has escalated over the past few years that these severe measures have been introduced."

Posters and point-of-sale material showing the company's AWRS registration numbers will be available in branches of Bestway and Hatleys. The numbers will also be printed on customer invoices.

► Bestway Wholesale 020-8453 1234



## Selley to deliver

Andrew Selley (pictured), chief executive of Bidfood formerly trading as Bidvest Foodservice and FWD chairman, will address the Arena Savoy Lecture in London on 20 March.

He will tell foodservice and hospitality executives about the company's vision and strategy and how the wholesale trade must face current and future changes, including Brexit.

The event will also include a panel discussion on 'the opportunities and challenges ahead' for those with interests in contract catering, casual dining, pubs and hotels.

► Arena (07803) 853618

## Customer-focused drivers

JJ Food Service is training its squad of more than 130 drivers to be more customer-focused and has also launched a new fleet of smaller high-tech vehicles.

The company has also disclosed that it is now serving the public as well as the foodservice sector.

Group general manager Terry Larkin said: "Quality and service are absolutely key, so we are responding by investing in a first-class delivery experience."

"Gone are the days you could simply drop goods off from A to B. Our new customer service drivers are knowledgeable and can offer advice and support."

Drivers who qualify at the



A new uniform and higher pay for JJ's 130 drivers.

have new CCTV camera systems which enable drivers to manoeuvre more precisely and be fully aware of their blind spot. The transport is also cycle safe."

The introduction of smaller vehicles is in line with JJ's decision to make more local deliveries, including those to households.

"While most of our customers are foodservice outlets," said Larkin, "we are also getting increased interest from consumers shopping for households due to our competitive pricing on essentials, like washing-up liquid, bottled water and fresh chicken."

Investment has also been made in more than 20 new 7.5-tonne Isuzu multi-temp vehicles - accounting for around 30% of the fleet, most of which presently comprise Volvo 18-tonners.

## Meat dishes

Brakes has launched a range of meat products for Easter, including Welsh boneless lamb leg, rolled and tied, ready for the oven, and lamb shanks, slow cooked in red wine or lightly marinated in mint and rosemary.

Beef options include Birchstead British 21-day aged rib-eye roll, a beef top-side, featherblade steaks and slow-cooked beef feather-black.

Among the other lines are venison haunch medallions, oven-ready whole duck, pork loin and slow-cooked belly of pork.

► Brakes Group (01233)