

Juniper can today announce that it has acquired the assets of **JJ Blackledge Ltd.**

Over recent weeks, Juniper has been in discussion with the Bodgers family to ascertain whether a viable production unit could be maintained at the Middleton site. However after much deliberation, the financial evaluation and the distance between the two factories meant a decision to not proceed was taken.

Juniper has since acquired the assets, and is in the process of transferring machinery and stock to our Wellingborough factory. Commenting on the situation, Juniper Managing Director, Andrew Langley said,

“Like many people in the trade I was genuinely saddened to hear of the problems that befell Blackledge, a family company for whom I had always held in high regard. The Bodgers family have served our industry exceptionally well for many years, and I am sure many people in our industry will wish John, Steve and Alan well for the future.”

John Bodgers, former Managing Director and owner of JJ Blackledge has welcomed the development this week. He said,

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the distributors and colleagues from the trade that have supported us in the past. We were obviously very disappointed that we couldn’t sustain the production in Manchester. I am sure that Juniper will be able to maintain the Blackledge quality of service and product and I personally wish them well for the future.”

John Bodgers has agreed to help Juniper on a consultancy basis. The task of integrating the two companies has begun and Juniper will be updating the industry with details of that process and future product ranges over the coming months.

Juniper is a committed trade only supplier of PU and leather goods. Juniper maintains large stock holdings of finished goods at its 23000sq ft factory in Wellingborough, and all branding is done in house. Overseas production takes place in China and India. Juniper is currently acquiring ISO9001 and ISO14001 accreditation for its UK factory, as well as being able to provide audit accreditations for its overseas production. The integration of the Blackledge production facilities will compliment its existing products and complete the full spectrum of materials and products for stitched leather and imitation leather promotional items.

It is not anticipated that Juniper will replicate the entire Blackledge range, for reasons of duplication. Susanne Langley, Marketing Director of Juniper explains.

“We are confident by concentrating on key sellers and products where UK manufacture has an advantage, we can successfully integrate our existing leather products and be able to provide a comprehensive service for all of your leather goods enquiries.”

Please contact Juniper on 01933 222495 or sales@juniperproducts.co.uk should you have any questions regarding previous orders, produced by Blackledge, or any new enquiries.