



## Best of two worlds at Rebellion Beer Company

Rebellion Beer Company, Marlow, Buckinghamshire, UK

Case story

### **Ambitiously conservative brewing**

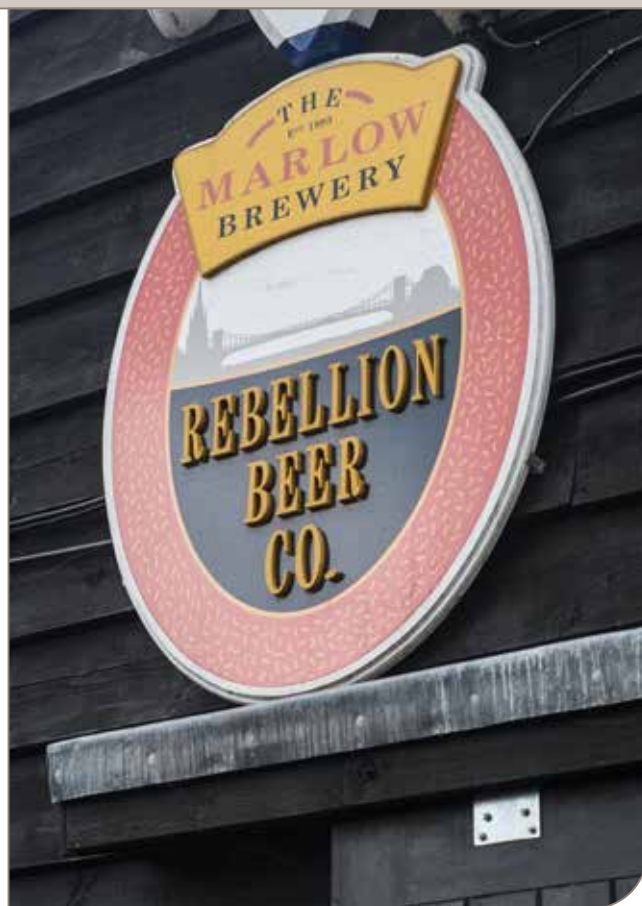
Rebellion Beer Company Ltd. in Marlow, Buckinghamshire is part of a game-changer groundswell of new craft breweries that have been emerging in the United Kingdom ever since the 1980s. Rebellion Beer was established in 1993, and moved to its current site at Bencombe Farm in 1999.

As part of the company's policy of reviving and renewing a high-quality local brewing tradition in Marlow, pretty much all their initial equipment came from other local regional breweries that had shut down. As a result, according to co-owner Mark Gloyens, "we're pretty much a working brewery museum", combining key equipment from multiple now-defunct brewing operations to provide results that comply with the Rebellion mindset about beer quality. The company has experienced steady growth over the last 20+ years, and now has a staff of about 50. "That's the size we want to be at," says Mark Gloyens.

### **Technology transitioning**

In 2014/2015, Rebellion Beer began a programme of major development and changes, following on from a new 20-year lease that made it possible to secure the company's long-term future on the unique farm site.

This included a three-stage plan to consolidate their remarkable commercial success by using the latest technology to boost production capacity and flexibility while at the same time focusing on sustaining and improving product quality and consistency, in order to maintain the levels of crafts-



BREW 80 separator module.

manship and prize-winning quality for which Rebellion Beer has become renowned. The plans included new brewhouse equipment, a new fermentation tank room equipped with new fermentation vessels, and a new on-site retail outlet.

### **Aiming for consistency**

Rebellion Beer had previously adopted the traditional approach to beer clarification, using the combination of finings and time to settle the yeast in the beer. However, this resulted in substantial beer losses and the settling process took a long time, thus becoming a production bottleneck. Rebellion Beer also wanted to improve the consistency of the company's output, to help ensure both better marketability and maximum customer satisfaction.



Co-owner Mark Gloyens.

The company therefore selected a BREW 80 separator module from Alfa Laval as a modern-technology solution to its craftsmanship-focused requirements. Built around a high-speed centrifugal separator, this solution is well-suited for quickly and effectively clarifying beer after fermentation and before maturation and filling, and for Rebellion the compact configuration and small footprint of the BREW 80 made it ideal.

Rebellion Beer reports that the BREW 80 separator provides good control of the downstream yeast count and has also made it possible to recover greater volumes of beer from the fermentation vessels, resulting in yields of 95% or better.

The new centrifugal separator ensures consistent beer quality, with minimal oxygen pickup, and prevents loss of volatile aromas or carbon dioxide. The brewery chose to customize the separation module to its particular needs, with turbidity triggering, capacity control and a solids receiving unit.

### Improving and tweaking

Rebellion Beer also adopted several other items of up-to-the-minute equipment to help optimize the operation of the brewery's meticulously stitched together legacy equipment setup.

- Alfa Laval M6-MBASE heat exchanger for wort cooling
- Scandi Brew Type 1 pressure regulation valves for carbon dioxide pressure control of fermenters
- Scandi Brew membrane sample valves for product sampling.

"I believe that craft brewing on a relatively small scale as we do, is still a traditional art creating distinctive characterful beers using the time-honoured brewing methods but coupled with elements of modern technology, such as the Brew 80 that enhances the quality and consistency of the beers we produce," says Mark Gloyens.

[www.rebellionbeer.co.uk](http://www.rebellionbeer.co.uk)

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