

Newsletter

TIMBER TRADES'
BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

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National President's autumn message



Bruce Sales & Marketing Director for MH Southern & Co Ltd and also our newly appointed Trustee.

This event was a sell out and I had a most enjoyable evening. I saw a few old faces as it is a few years since I have been up to Newcastle and I am going to make sure I go back again for next year's event.

Both of these major TTBS annual events rely on just two individuals in organising everything, from booking the venues, organising the sale of tickets and sourcing raffle prizes. Like many functions that are run up and down the UK, most of which are firmly fixed in the timber trade calendar of "must go to events", having in some cases run for decades, they are organised by just a handful of people who give of their time year in and year out for the benefit of all.

I am not just talking about TTBS events but those of all local industry associations or the industry clubs that organise lunches or dinners throughout the year for the trade to enjoy and most importantly to provide opportunities to network. It seems nowadays most areas of the industry struggle to find anybody prepared to give up some of their time to join committees and get involved. I know that everyone complains of there not being enough hours in a day, however I for one can say you do not give up a vast amount of time, you do not need to attend every meeting and a lot of the organising of events can be done via a variety of formats, texting, skype and email, for example.

Having been involved in organising events in Liverpool since the late nineties, not only has it been very enjoyable and many lasting friendships made, but for me it is putting something back into an industry that has helped me make a living for over 45 years. It saddens me to think in years to come we might lose an event not because of lack of support or because it lost money, but because there was no one to organise it.

One of the benefits of becoming National President is that you get invited to various lunches and dinners, and it gives you an opportunity to meet with TTBS supporters around the country and thank them for their support and discuss any important matters. I was warned by a few past Presidents that it gets very busy towards the end of the year and trying to keep in trim may become difficult, so it might be a good idea to put a gym membership on my Christmas list.

On the subject of keeping healthy, I am pleased to report that the Society is in good health, our investments are doing well and despite the current situation on the stock market where the slightest comment seems to have a major effect on world markets, our portfolio is doing well. All this is down to our investment managers at Smith & Williamson in Birmingham and also to Pippa Latham and John Taylor, who is also TTBS National Vice-President in 2019 and 2020. Their expertise in looking after the Society's interests is second to none, and I would like to thank them on behalf of the Society for doing such a good job for us.

Having sat on the Board of Management for over 20 years I am well aware of trade gossip regarding the growth in value of our investments. However, as we have seen in the past few months how jittery the stock market can be over the slightest comment, one hopes that in the event of a rainy day when we may need to draw on these funds, that we will be gratified that our portfolio has done so well.

One must not forget that these funds have been built up over 120 years and are needed to guarantee the long term support from the Society, as I believe in the future the help provided by the TTBS will be needed even more.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our supporters for their efforts during 2019, and to wish them and all our beneficiaries a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Having taken over the reins from Ivan Savage at our AGM at the Royal Air Force Club in London in May, I am easing myself gently into the role of National President.

I attended the National Golf day at the Marriott Forest of Arden in Warwickshire, which again this year was another glorious day weather wise. The event is organised by Ivan, who basically does everything in his role as General Manager and I know from comments made to me by many of the golfers that it is one of the most enjoyable golf days in the timber trade calendar, and despite numbers being slightly down this year, there is a determination from all the golfers to get the numbers back up again for next year.

Added to this we have already secured sponsorship from Taylor Maxwell Timber who have agreed to support us again for the second year in succession. Their generosity for this National Golf event and many more of our Regional events knows no bounds and on behalf of the Society I would like to put on record our appreciation for all that they do.

A couple of weeks after the National Golf day, I was up in a very sunny Newcastle upon Tyne for their Chinese Banquet evening organised by Robert

London, Home Counties & East Anglia Braintree bowls



All the competing parties

The gratuitous use of Braintree Bowling Club as a venue for the Timber Trade Benevolent Society's annual Keith Davis Memorial Shield competition, organised by Malcolm Cowley, was a great success in raising funds for this worthy charity and for the second year running proved to be a convivial but competitive bowling atmosphere for all the teams concerned.

The 10 competing teams which covered areas of Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex, were as follows: Avalon Forest 'A', 'B' and 'C', Aveley, Boxford 'A' and 'B', Braintree 'A' and 'B', Upminster and

Timber Trade Benevolent Society

These 10 teams were divided into two leagues of five teams playing matches over nine ends, with two points for a win, one for a draw and nothing for a loss. The winners of each league then played in the final. Unfortunately, time was not on the players' side as it was deemed that there would not be enough time to play the actual final game due to bad light. This then involved a managerial decision to take into consideration how many games were won, drawn and lost and points scored.

The result was a win for the Avalon Forest 'A' team with the runners-up spot taken by the Braintree Bowling Club 'B' team.

Neither of these teams lost any of their games but the Avalon Forest B C took the memorial Shield trophy on a technicality.

However, the real winner in this annual benevolent event was the worthy contributions to the TTBS charity, with a total sum which amounted to a donation of £330 by all the participating players and supporters.



The Keith Davis memorial Shield being presented by Malcolm Cowley: finalists Avalon 'A', left, Braintree 'B', right



All Competing Avalon players - 'A', 'B' and 'C'. The Avalon Forest B C took the memorial Shield trophy on a technicality

NORTH EAST AND CUMBRIA CHINESE BANQUET A SELL-OUT SUCCESS

The North East & Cumbria TTBS's Chinese banquet evening in Newcastle upon Tyne on the 18th of July was a huge success.

As mentioned in the National President's message on the front page of this newsletter, the event was a sell-out, with 60 people attending the Landmark restaurant in Newcastle city centre on the night. It was an excellent evening raising

£1,290 for the Timber Trades' Benevolent Society.

The organiser, Robert Bruce, sales and marketing director from MH Southern & Co Ltd and a TTBS trustee, wishes to say thank you to everyone who attended, donated raffle prizes and prizes for the auction.

Right: Two happy winners on the night



TTBS national golf success

More than 50 timber traders enjoyed the annual TTBS national golf day in July

The annual Timber Trades' Benevolent Society National Golf day was held at the Marriott Forest of Arden, Maxstoke, Warwickshire on Friday, 5th July. The main sponsor was Taylor Maxwell Timber and the event was organised by Ivan Savage, TTBS general manager, together with the Forest of Arden golf team.

The event attracted over 50 players on the Aylesford course for the morning Greensomes and the championship Arden course for the afternoon Individual Stableford competition.

The weather was exceptional and the courses were in fantastic condition, which resulted in some fine performances.

As expected, the Marriott Forest of Arden hotel facilities were splendid and the presentation dinner in the Aylesford Suite provided an excellent menu to complete the day's events.

The trophies were presented by Paul Snape of WS Logistics Ltd, the recently appointed TTBS national president for 2019 and 2020, together with Ivan Savage (immediate past national president 2017 and 2018).

A raffle for a selection of generously donated prizes raised £680 and an auction including four ball vouchers for Lanhydrock, Cornwall and Gleneagles in Scotland raised a further £770. In total £1,450 was raised for the Society.



Left: Winners from the day

Below: Conditions were perfect

Ivan Savage thanked Taylor Maxwell and its sub-sponsors for supporting the National Golf once again and announced that it had agreed to do the same in 2020. The venue will be confirmed in due course, in agreement with Taylor Maxwell and will be held on Thursday 2nd July, moving from the traditional Friday as a trial, hopefully to attract additional players from the industry to attend.

Mr Savage also thanked the Forest of Arden golf team and corporate staff for their efforts to provide such a successful day and, most importantly, all the company and individual players, who had attended to enjoy the day.



2020 details will be posted on www.ttbs.org.uk later this year and the 2019 trophy winners will receive priority notification.

TROPHY WINNERS NATIONAL GOLF THE FOREST OF ARDEN 5TH JULY 2019

TROPHY	FOR	NAME
CALDERS LTD CUP	GREENSOMES COMPETITION	Norman Sketchley
JAMES LATHAM CUP	GREENSOMES COMPETITION	Simon Richmond
THE HUCKMAN PLATE (shared trophy)	VISITORS GREENSOMES	Not contested in 2019
TIMBER TRADES JOURNAL CHALLENGE CUP	BEST STABLEFORD SCORE	Craig Turner
Wm MALLINSON & SONS LTD CUP	BEST SCRATCH SCORE	Jason Prewitt
ALSFORD HOME GROWN TIMBER TROPHY	MEMBER OF THE HOME GROWN TRADE	Graham Blyth
PRICE & PIERCE LTD CUP	LONDON & HOME COUNTIES	Ben Goodwin
HANDS SILVER SALVER	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, OXFORDSHIRE & BERKSHIRE	Patrick Guest
VINCENT MURPHY & CO LTD	LIVERPOOL & NORTH WEST COAST	Not contested in 2019
JOHN H ASHTON LTD CUP	MANCHESTER REGION	Andrew Jackson
BROWNLEE & CO LTD CUP	SCOTLAND	Alex Moffat
WN HILLAS & CO LTD	YORKSHIRE	Tony O'Brien
RICHARD WADE, SONS & CO LTD CUP	NORTH EAST COAST	Steve Harris
RUDDERS & PAYNES LTD CUP	BIRMINGHAM & MIDLANDS	Richard Hawkins
WM BROWN & CO LTD CUP	EASTERN COUNTIES	Nigel Ward
ROBINSON, DAVID & CO LTD CUP	WESTERN COUNTIES & SOUTH WALES	Neil Bowler
JT SYDENHAM & CO LTD CUP	SOUTHERN COUNTIES	Luke Bell
FOY MORGAN & CO LTD	VETERAN (55 years and over)	Andrew Jackson
CARVER GROUP TROPHY	BEST LADIES STABLEFORD SCORE	Not contested in 2019
No trophy (Prize awarded)	NEAREST THE PIN	Graham Cragg
ALAN WHEAT MEMORIAL BOWL	LONGEST DRIVE	Neil Flanagan

Remaining TTBS Events in 2019

(Please check www.ttbs.org.uk Events for full event details and updates, which are posted regularly)

11th October

Midlands TTBS Autumn Clay Pigeon Shoot

8th November

South Wales TTBS Dinner & Dance (Woodchoppers Ball)

23rd November

North West TTBS Gala Ball

29th November

Southern TTBS Christmas Lunch

6th December

Midlands TTBS Christmas Lunch & optional Golf

6th December

Bristol & Western Counties TTBS Christmas Lunch

11th December

North West TTBS Christmas Lunch

13th December

Yorkshire & Humberside Christmas Lunch

TTBS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 7th May 2020

The Royal Air Force Club, Piccadilly, London

At this time of year the Timber Trades' Benevolent Society would wish to remember all those connected to the timber trade who have sacrificed their lives in the service of their country.

We would also wish to remember their families and friends and also their service colleagues who have been wounded and continue to inspire us.

This newsletter is produced with the help of *TTJ* magazine.

The following companies have generously sponsored production of the president's newsletter and the support of all sponsors is gratefully acknowledged. Why not join our list of newsletter sponsors?

For a contribution of only £50 you can help the TTBS to keep in touch with both supporters and beneficiaries and help us to raise money at the same time.

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