

Newsletter

TIMBER TRADES'
BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Above: Tony Shelton

Is there ever a dull moment in our wonderful timber industry?

Over the last four hectic years we have experienced a roller coaster ride of takeovers, pricing, profit and loss.

Those in the trade who are older, and possibly wiser, will no doubt argue that they've experienced similar trading conditions in the past, and that some have also been at the extremes.

They're right of course, but on each occasion there have been completely different sets of circumstances in play, with no single dominant factor.

Fundamentally, it comes down to supply and demand – it is always supply and demand! As Adam Smith stated in 1776, "Consumer demand for an item decreases as its price rises. As prices rise, producers manufacture more to gain more profit."

And, of course, a rise in fortunes is invariably followed by a decline. What the industry has been through over the last few years has and continues to be a shock to the system, as well as a strain on resources. Activity levels in both good and poor markets have increased pressure on us all – buyers, sellers, even accountants!

Whatever the reason for change to our business plans, we continue to adopt a flexible and pragmatic approach, it keeps our timber industry fluid and healthy... we cannot be accused of having dull moments!

So why are we writing about trade when this article is an update on the work of the TTBS?

Well, in a sense it is self-evident, the two are inextricably linked.

We should all take a step back and ask ourselves what effect this period has meant for our former timber colleagues, those who were not part of the demand boom. Those who have retired and fallen on hard times, have been made redundant, or have had to drop out of the workforce through ill health or misfortune?

How have they coped with booming inflation in food and energy, higher interest rates, increases in mortgage and rental rates?

The cost of living crisis has undoubtedly impacted us all, but many of us have seen some help in wage inflation and have been able to gear our lifestyles to suit circumstances.

For those who had nothing to start with, those who were already beyond the 'breadline', how have they managed and how are they going to cope in the future?

It should give us all some solace that as part of our great timber industry, we have inherited the Timber Trades' Benevolent Society, inaugurated over 125 years ago with the single aim of helping those in need.

It's our own industry charity, run on a voluntary basis by a small group of trustees, all with long-standing timber trading experience. Nationwide, we rely upon eight regions working on the society's behalf, organising fabulous social events that have now become part of the industry's calendar. Local regions take responsibility for their beneficiaries, regularly visiting and reacting to needs where necessary. The work started all those years ago continues.

Early in 2023, the trustees made the

decision to make a 'one-off' payment to each of our 102 beneficiaries to help during the financial crisis and from the ensuing correspondence, we can report that this gesture was exceptionally well received.

Our overall spend this year will be close to £200,000 and is expected to increase further for 2024.

We continue to help with winter fuel allowances, TV licences, Christmas hampers and incidentals, of which there are many.

And so, the charity moves on; for 2024 you will see changes in communication, changes to the website, simpler ways to make donations and opportunities to become patrons of the society. More importantly, potential beneficiaries will find it easier to apply for grants.

All this takes time, energy and money. We're delighted to be partnering with David Hopkins and Karen Sussex at Timber Development UK (formerly the Timber Trade Federation), both of whom are injecting a great deal of their time and considerable experience into the future of our marketing and national fund-raising.

The energy comes from within the regions and the innovative events that we all attend. However, there's always more that we can do, and we can if more people help us. We need creatives to join local regions and to bring fresh ideas to the table. We need to appeal and be relevant to the staff in the yard as well as those in the office.

Finally, the money. It comes from us all, through donations, legacies, raffle ticket sales and your continued support and attendance at TTBS events. It comes from investments built up over decades, for that we're grateful, every year we spend more than we raise.

Without your help and support, the last few years would have been so much tougher for our beneficiaries. We want to ensure that their futures are as comfortable as possible.

Your support is very much appreciated by them all, and on their behalf, we thank you.

London & Home Counties and East Anglia



Above: The winners shield presentation

London & Home Counties and East Anglia, held its annual Keith Davies Memorial Bowls Tournament at Braintree Bowls Club on Thursday September 7. One of the hottest days of the year, the gruelling programme of the tournament thankfully saw no casualties despite the high temperatures of 32°C.

The photograph shows regional

president, Malcolm Cowley awarding the winners shield to Boxford A team members. Organiser Malcolm said "We are very pleased with the success of the day, raising circa £440 for the Society's funds. The assistance of Dave Francis, Sharon Cushen, Jim Chambers and especially Jackie Cowley, whose magic in the kitchen, helped to make the day extremely successful."

Midlands TTBS clay shoot



Midlands TTBS held its annual full day clay pigeon shoot on September 29 at the Hereford & Worcester Shooting Ground.

Thankfully, Storm Agnes did not disrupt the day and the sun shone on the guests.

A super layout of individual traps, together with simulated flushes gave plenty of shooting practice before the somewhat challenging afternoon competition.

Over £3,000 was raised (including a very generous donation from Koppers) on the day.

Brian Crowdy took first place, whilst William Thompstone took second place.

Special thanks go to Vida, Sodra, Jordesons, Crendon, Wyckham Blackwell and Ubangi Timber who all entered teams.

Top left: The Jordesons Timber team, from left: Ray Giddins, Stephen Farr, Ben Twaites, Mark Hougham, Kevin Lester and Mike Saez

Bottom left: The Sodra team, from left: Brian Skilton, Paul Cave, Simon Orrells and Simon Henry

Left: Part of the Vida team: Rebecca Thick and Brian Crowdy

TTBS West and Wales golf



Above: The West and Wales golf event raised more than £3,000

Yet another great TTBS West and Wales golf event was held this year on September 21 at the Bristol and Clifton Club.

More than 50 players enjoyed some good weather, food and a well-kept challenging course.

This year's team winners were Arbour Forest Products. The individual trophy was secured by Shaun Matthews, also of Arbour.

A huge thanks to all those who attended and helped the TTBS raise over £3,000 for our own timber charity.

We look forward to seeing you all next year ... dates and venue to be announced.

TIMBER TRADES BENEVOLENT SOCIETY NATIONAL GOLF THURSDAY JULY 6, 2023

Sponsored by MH Southern & Co Ltd in memory of the late Robert Bruce and held at the prestigious Northumberland Golf Club, High Gosforth Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, the TTBS National Golf Day saw 70 players tackle the testing championship course with a nine-hole morning greensomes competition and an 18-hole afternoon individual stableford.

Other sponsors were James Jones, LDT, Katherine Bruce, Grayson Bruce, Tri Construction, NHG Timber, Stora Enso UK, SCA Products UK, Timbmet, CSI (Specialities), Robbins Timber, Kullick Gill & Robinson, W Howard, Timber Connection, Glennon Brothers and Ecochoice.

The weather was dry all day, but with a stiff breeze, which added to the testing conditions. However, some excellent performances were produced by the golfers, who were competing for the splendid collection of the regional and overall winners trophies.

The trophies were presented by Mrs Katherine Bruce at the presentation dinner held at the club and the Bruce family members also manned the afternoon halfway house refreshments sponsored by

Jack Bruce's company Tri Construction Ltd.

TTBS special guests included Ivan Savage (recently retired TTBS CEO), Christella Golby (the new TTBS general manager), Tony Shelton (TTBS national president for 2023 and 2024) and two of the TTBS trustees, Barbara Cartwright and John Taylor.

James Southern thanked all the players, the sub-sponsors, the Bruce family and all the other special guests for supporting the event in memory of Robert Bruce, who died in September 2022 aged just 63 following a short illness.

Robert Bruce, sales director at MH Southern & Co Ltd had been a stalwart supporter of the TTBS for over 30 years, having been north-east regional president, national president in 2015 and 2016 and subsequently a TTBS trustee.

Mr Southern also thanked Ivan Savage for his help in organising the 2023 event and for all his excellent work on behalf of the TTBS and wished him a long and happy retirement.

The event raised just over £10,000. We look forward to seeing everyone again at next year's event in 2024.



TROPHY WINNERS NATIONAL GOLF - NORTHUMBERLAND GOLF CLUB - 6 JULY, 2023

TROPHY	FOR	NAME
CALDERS LTD CUP & JAMES LATHAM CUP	GREENSOMES COMPETITION	PATRICK MURRAY
JAMES LATHAM CUP	GREENSOMES COMPETITION	TIM WILSON
THE HUCKMAN PLATE (shared trophy)	VISITORS GREENSOMES	CRAIG FOX AND PAUL HEATH
TIMBER TRADES JOURNAL CHALLENGE CUP	BEST STABLEFORD SCORE	TIM GABBAT
Wm MALLINSON & SONS LTD CUP	BEST SCRATCH SCORE	DEAN TAYLOR
ALSFORD HOME GROWN TIMBER TROPHY	MEMBER OF THE HOME GROWN TRADE	GRAHAM BLYTH
PRICE & PIERCE LTD CUP	LONDON & HOME COUNTIES	GEORGE POWELL
HANDS SILVER SALVER	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, OXFORDSHIRE & BERKSHIRE	WILL ROYLE
VINCENT MURPHY & CO LTD	LIVERPOOL & NORTH WEST COAST	IAN CARTWRIGHT
JOHN H ASHTON LTD CUP	MANCHESTER REGION	PETER WINTER
BROWNLEE & CO LTD CUP	SCOTLAND	MIKE DONALDSON
WN HILLAS & CO LTD	YORKSHIRE	NICK KERSHAW
RICHARD WADE, SONS & CO LTD CUP	NORTH EAST COAST	JACK PAYNE
RUDDERS & PAYNES LTD CUP	BIRMINGHAM & MIDLANDS	BRADLEY HURST
WM BROWN & CO LTD CUP	EASTERN COUNTIES	TIM WILSON
ROBINSON, DAVID & CO LTD CUP	WESTERN COUNTIES & SOUTH WALES	MARTIN SANDISON
JT SYDENHAM & CO LTD CUP	SOUTHERN COUNTIES	NOT PLAYED FOR
FOY MORGAN & CO LTD	VETERAN (55 years and over)	TIM WILSON
CARVER GROUP TROPHY	BEST LADIES STABLEFORD SCORE	BARBARA CARTWRIGHT
No trophy (Prize awarded) X 4 CHAMPAGNE	NEAREST THE PIN	
ALAN WHEAT MEMORIAL BOWL	LONGEST DRIVE	MARK HUDSON
NEAREST THE PIN		
5TH HOLE		CRAIG FOX
7TH HOLE		GRAHAM BLYTH
10TH HOLE		PETER KERSHAW
14TH HOLE		MARTIN CLARKE

TTBS Events for 2023/24 notified to date

Events information is constantly being updated on TTBS website www.ttbs.org.uk as details become available.

16/11/2023 Robert's Big Night Out Newcastle
Nov 2023 Southern TTBS Christmas lunch (Date to be confirmed)
01/12/2023 Bristol & Western Counties TTBS Christmas lunch
01/12/2023 West and Wales TTBS Christmas lunch
06/12/2023 North West TTBS Christmas lunch
08/12/2023 Midlands TTBS Christmas lunch
08/12/2023 NETTA/Yorkshire & Humberside TTBS Christmas lunch
March 2024 Yorkshire & Lincolnshire Brazilian night (Date and venue to be confirmed)
02/05/2025 – TTBS Annual General Meeting and lunch
07/05/2024 North East TTBS Brough Golf 2024
16/05/2024 – London, Home Counties & East Anglia TTBS Golf day

At this time of year the Timber Trades' Benevolent Society wishes 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.

Messages from our beneficiaries

Mrs C from Scotland: May, 2023

This letter is to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the grants you have sent me.

These make a huge difference to me using my heating more and keeping warm. It's nice to be able to phone some friends for a chat as well on the cold wet days. Thank you all.

Mrs N from Newcastle upon Tyne: May, 2023

To everyone at TTBS I cannot thank you enough for the funds you have granted me over the past year. Life was hard when my husband died and the last thing I needed was to be worrying about money. The funds you provided have eased that burden.

Mr S from Liverpool: June, 2023

I worked for the timber trade for over 40 years. Thanks for all the support TTBS have given me over the years My wife and I really appreciate it and don't know how we would have got by without your generous support. Many thanks.

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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Don't miss out on the latest news and fund-raising events from the Timber Trades' Benevolent Society

TIMBER TRADES BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, PROSPECT HOUSE, FINLARIGG DRIVE, EDGBASTON, BIRMINGHAM, B15 3RH
TTBS dedicated mobile number: **07767 723666** Email: info@ttbs.org.uk