

Newsletter

TIMBER TRADES'
BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

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National President's autumn message



Above: John Taylor

We have all had to live through an unexpected and difficult 20 months since the Covid-19 pandemic struck the United Kingdom. All businesses have been massively affected, with our own timber industry facing particular issues with timber supply shortages, logistics and price increases.

Having been trained as a chartered accountant I know that businesses like a

stable market when they can plan forward, but all we have had is uncertainty arising from lockdowns, a struggling National Health Service, social distancing, empty offices and a plethora of other restrictions. I hope that our many supporters from the industry have survived and are now beginning to see some stability and a return of volumes, and not just prices.

When I took over from Paul Snape as National President of the TTBS in May, 2021, I hoped that our fund-raising and social events would be able to start up again. Unfortunately, this has not been the case and most of our events have had to be cancelled.

Cancelled events included our National Golf Day at Breadsall Priory, plus a number of regional committee golf days, the Midlands Committee clay pigeon shoot, bowls competitions, Chinese banquets and curry nights.

All these events provide a chance to network, offer lively social opportunities and raise funds for the TTBS. These events are being rescheduled so please take a look at the schedule of Regional Events and updates on the TTBS website (www.ttbs.org.uk).

We have held our first live Board of Management meeting since February 2020, having had only Zoom meetings during Covid. In the UK at present the news is dominated by social care problems, the withdrawal of the Universal Credit supplement, higher taxation and fuel costs.

I am delighted to announce that the TTBS Trustees have agreed significant increases in all benefits to our beneficiaries. These increases will start from the end of this year and will average about 25%. Our winter fuel grant, payable in early March, will go up from £300 to £400 and we hope this will enable our beneficiaries to help keep warm during the coldest winter months.

It is always a delight to read the letters sent to our Chief Executive Officer, Ivan

Savage, from beneficiaries on receipt of their payments which we know bring great comfort to them during the year.

In current times, it is surprising that even with better State pensions, Universal Credit, the National Health Service, rent and rates support available and many other facilities, we still regularly come across people living in extreme circumstances. This may be widows of former timber industry employees living off very basic pensions – in some cases less than £7,000 per year – or younger employees who have suffered injury or severe illness and are unable to work, but need to support a spouse and children.

Others may be just about coping but when a refrigerator or washing machine or another critical household item breaks down they do not have the reserve funds to replace these items and this is when we can step in and provide emergency grants. Others may just need to have someone to help them understand their situation and point them in the right direction.

In our Regional Committees we have beneficiary visitors who aim to visit beneficiaries every two years. All new applicants are visited at home before we decide what support to offer them. This is a very important role and one greatly appreciated by beneficiaries and I would like to thank these members for their time and the help which they give.

Unfortunately, during the pandemic we have had to cancel these visits but we have tried to maintain contact with our beneficiaries by telephone or other means. It is our intention to reinstate these visits early in 2022 subject to Covid progress and Government restrictions.

Talking of our Regional Committees, we do need some new and younger people to come on board. It is not an onerous task and I know everyone gets a lot of satisfaction from being able to help those who are less well off.

Most of our Regional Committees meet three times per year – in the Midlands we

President's message (continued)

meet at 6pm and have a social chat over a drink and sandwiches before discussing the agenda, which relates mainly to beneficiary visits and recommendations and the organisation of social events such as golf and clay pigeon days plus an annual Christmas lunch. We are normally finished and away by 7.30pm.

Once a year, the committee meeting also covers the Regional AGM when we dispense with the sandwiches and pop to a local pub for a meal. If you would like to be more involved in organising events you can, but you don't have to. Please consider this and contact our CEO, Ivan Savage, for the appropriate regional contact details.

All our financial support for beneficiaries and our overheads, which are minimal, have to be funded. Luckily we have a good financial base, due to wise governance over many years and our investments having performed well over the past decade. Perhaps, more on this in the next Newsletter.

However, we do need to raise funds each year from events, donations and help from timber companies. Directors of companies reading this Newsletter who do not already contribute to the Society or who may wish to enhance their contributions, may like to consider whether they could donate £2 per year for each of their employees. This is just 4p per week per employee and this would enable us to help our beneficiaries to an even greater level. Please contact our office for further information or help needed. Please also inform us of any employee or former employee who you feel may be struggling and needs some help.

Over the next 10 weeks or so, I look forward to our Midlands clay shoot, being a guest at the London TTF/ TDUK dinner and joining a number of Regions at their Christmas lunches. In Spring, I hope to be able to report that our activities are back to normal, if not at improved levels and we continue to give our beneficiaries a high level of much needed support.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our supporters for their efforts over the past year and to wish them and all our beneficiaries a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

John Taylor
National President

London and Home Counties TTBS Golf Day Summer 2021



Above left: The winning four ball team, the PT Group Predators



Above right: The winning three ball team, the Peri Pros

"The London and Home Counties (L&HC) Golf Day [held at Mill Green Golf Course, Hertfordshire] was a very successful day with fine weather and a very good turnout of nine teams, which was excellent, especially in the current circumstances," reported Mike Cater, L&HC organiser.

"It has been a strange year, but we got back to a bit of normality and had a fun day out. The early signs are that we will hopefully be able to make a very reasonable contribution to the TTBS funds thanks to the sponsors and all who attended. Roll on next year's golf day, which we think will be in May."

The amount raised from this event has now been confirmed as £2,047 – a magnificent contribution to the Society's funds

RESULTS.

1st (individual):

Keith O'Connor - 41 points (count back)

2nd (individual):

Paul Cousins - 41 points

3rd: (individual):

Joe Tungate - 39 points

1st team four ball:

PT Group Predators (139 points)
(Mark Harrod, Carl Wright, Barry White and Phil Saver)

2nd team three ball:

Peri Pros 1 (115 points)
(Paul Cousins, Keith O Connor and Mike Perry)

Nearest the Pin Par 3 Mark Harrod

Nearest the Pin in 2 Par 4 Charlie Stockwell

NORTH EAST & CUMBRIA TTBS Spring Golf at Hexham

The North East & Cumbria TTBS Spring Golf day was played on the Hexham course in excellent condition and in fine weather.

David Morrison (Bothwell Timber) was the winner of the Belmont Cup, while

James Southern (MH Southern & Co Ltd) was the winner of the AJ Barr Silver Salver.

All profits were in aid of the Timber Trades Benevolent Society (North East & Cumbria Region).



David Morrison (left) and James Southern

Accsys team walks 16,346km for well-being and charity

Accsys, the fast-growing and eco-friendly company that combines chemistry and technology to create high performance, sustainable wood building products, recently completed a charitable employee initiative called 'Step out, to help out!'. This saw colleagues across the organisation collectively walk over 16,000km over two months in the summer to promote well-being throughout the company and in wider society.

Recording their walks online and sharing photos and anecdotes along the way, the Accsys team walked a distance to cover the journey between Accsys' global office locations: a round trip from Arnhem in the Netherlands, where Accoya is produced, to Hull in the UK, where the world's first Tricoya plant is under construction, via its head office in London and on to its North American sales office in Dallas, US...and

then back across the Atlantic to Arnhem again.

The initiative formed part of Accsys' focus on people and well-being and society and communities. The challenge was set up to boost employee well-being particularly during the pandemic, which has affected daily life over the past year.

As colleagues passed each milestone stage of the journey, this also triggered Accsys to pledge donations to three charities, which were chosen due to their focus on improving well-being in Accsys' communities.

A total of €10,000 was donated to Dimence Groep in the Netherlands, and Mind and the Timber Trades' Benevolent Society (TTBS) in the UK.

Mind and Dimence Groep are mental health charities which offer support and strong, positive impacts in society, and the TTBS is focused on specifically helping

people from the timber industry and their families that are in need of support.

'Step out to help out' is a part of the 'Accsys in Action' programme, an ongoing series of campaigns and activities that have a positive impact on the lives of the people and communities close to Accsys.

"We are very proud of the efforts made by our colleagues and delighted to contribute to such worthwhile causes," said Natalia Bikkenina, Accsys chief people officer.

"Physical and mental health and well-being are so important and should not be taken for granted.

"The engagement and support for this initiative from all our colleagues throughout Accsys shows how, with shared purpose and values, we can achieve great things, make a real, positive impact in the world – and have fun doing it."



The walkers shared photos and anecdotes along the way

TTBS Events confirmed for November & December 2021

Please check www.ttbs.org.uk Events for all updates & event contacts

18th November North East & Cumbria TTBS Chinese Banquet Newcastle upon Tyne

26th November Southern TTBS Christmas Lunch Southampton

3rd December Bristol & Western Counties TTBS Christmas Lunch Bristol

3rd December Midlands TTBS Christmas Lunch & optional 9 holes golf Hagley GC nr Stourbridge

8th December North West TTBS Christmas Lunch Liverpool

10th December NETTA/Yorkshire & Humberside TTBS Christmas Lunch Hull

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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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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.

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

Contact the TTBS at: Masons Croft, 19 Church Lane, Oulton, Stone ST15 8UL Tel: 08448 92 22 05 Email: info@ttbs.org.uk