

# Newsletter

TIMBER TRADES'  
BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

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## National President's autumn message



Above: National President, Paul Snape

**A**s I am now well into my second term of office, I should be looking forward to a very busy period as normally there are several dinner dances in October and November, followed by the busiest time of year, the Christmas lunch season. Sadly, one by one each has had to be cancelled due to the ongoing Covid-19 virus situation.

For us in Liverpool and the North West, we have had to cancel both our Liverpool

events – the Gala night which is held in November and our Christmas lunch. Both these events have run without failure for well over 40 years and have always raised magnificent sums for the Society, but more importantly they have always managed to bring the trade together, being always extremely well supported.

I am well aware many events were cancelled earlier in the year in the hope there may be a chance they could take place later on in the year, however, the second wave of Covid-19 cases and recent Government restrictions have meant any thoughts of rearranging anything have gone out the window.

Many major industry events tend to take place towards the year end and one of the most enjoyable is the Shipper's luncheon, which usually takes place the day before the NPPD annual dinner in London.

Sadly this too has fallen foul of the virus and I know this will disappoint many in the trade, as it is an excellent event for networking and meeting up with many of our customers and having a social drink or two! It has for the past few years been a sell-out as well, which must make this doubly frustrating for the organisers.

I know from all my years supporting trade functions that the timber industry greatly enjoys the functions and the opportunity to network. I suspect with all events being cancelled since March and the outlook through to the early part of next year not looking to good, it means there will be many sad faces within our industry.

As I mentioned in the spring newsletter, the Society was likely to lose all of the income generated from the various regional functions usually held during most of the year. Sadly this has happened and one of the first casualties was the TTBS National Golf day, which is probably our major fund-raising event of the year.

On top of this, as most of the markets we invest in have reduced or cancelled payment of any dividends for this year, this

has put further pressure on our resources. However, in the recent months there has been a reasonable improvement in most of the share prices, so it is not all doom and gloom.

Once we can get back to normality, we will endeavour to replace the money we are now having to use from our investments, to get them back to the level required, and I know we will receive the full support of all our friends and supporters in the trade to help us achieve this.

We had to postpone the Society's AGM which takes place every May at the magnificent RAF Club in London and initially it was hoped we could hold it later in the year, but that has not been possible.

We decided to hold our October Board meeting on Zoom, which for those of you who don't know is a platform which allows video based conferencing. This technology has come on in leaps and bounds in the past few years and in view of all the issues surrounding the Covid-19 virus, I don't know how we would have been able to do many of the things we have in the past few months without it.

I know all of you will hope that it will not be too long before you can get back to a normal life, not having to worry about wearing a face mask, travelling on a bus or train and hoping nobody gets too close. However, until the medical world finds a safe vaccine, we are stuck with all these new regimes and we will just have to follow whatever rules apply.

As usual in this autumn newsletter, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all our supporters for their efforts in the past year, and to wish them and all our beneficiaries a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year and most importantly this year, I would also like to wish you all good health and please stay safe.

**Paul Snape**  
National President

# TTBS general manager celebrates milestone



Ivan Savage

TTBS general manager, Ivan Savage reached a milestone of 60 years unbroken service in the timber industry this October.

Born in November 1943 in Hove, Sussex, the youngest son of Ronald and Yvonne Savage, Ivan was educated initially in Hove and subsequently Bognor Regis, where he moved due to his father's transfer within the Rank Organisation. After 11 plus, he

completed his education at Chichester High School, a highly respected grammar school in the heart of Chichester.

He started work in the timber industry in October 1960 as a management trainee with A Olby & Sons Ltd at their main softwood depot in Bognor Regis (now part of the Cover Group) and in 1976 he moved to Staffordshire to join Cox Long Ltd (now part of the Walker Group) until 1983.

Following a short period as senior training officer at the Timber Research & Development Association (TRADA) in High Wycombe, he returned to the Midlands to join ex Cox Long colleagues at S Jackson (Walsall) Ltd and was appointed as their sales director.

In August 1993, S Jackson was purchased by the Carver Group in Wolverhampton and in 1994, Ivan was appointed as the Carver Group sales director, the first non-family director in nearly 100 years, a position he held until his semi-retirement in November 2008, when he continued as a director of ETS Ltd until 2011, when, with his appointment by the Trustees he took up the position of general manager for the "timber trades' own charity".

During his years at Carvers, the Wolverhampton group increased sales to over £33m and expanded into timber engineering with design and supply of engineered timber joist sets, trussed rafter manufacture with their subsidiary Engineered Timber Solutions Ltd, Rodington and timber framed production

with Timber Kit Solutions Ltd, Shrewsbury.

Throughout the 1980s and 90s, Ivan was a prolific distance runner and triathlete and competed in 29 marathons, including Amsterdam and five London marathons and over 130 open water triathlons as well as many other long distance road races and fell running events.

He was secretary of Stone Master Marathoners veterans athletic club and also secretary of the North Staffordshire Triathlon club for many years and a member of the British Triathlon Association. He was also a keen walker, completing the 192 mile Wainwrights Coast to Coast in 1993, together with many other UK long distance pathways.

Together with the late Roy Carver, in 1998 Ivan revived the Wolverhampton City Marathon, supported by the Carver Group, which has continued for over 20 years and has raised over £400,000 for local Wolverhampton charities – sadly the Covid-19 pandemic has put an end to this event this year.

Outside of his full time TTBS work and industry responsibilities, Ivan is a member of Stone Golf Club in Staffordshire and continues to enjoy competitive golf with his playing partners.

Sixty years of unbroken service within the timber industry has been an exceptional achievement and Ivan has indicated that he will continue with the TTBS for some while yet before considering retirement, subject to continued good health.

## North East & Cumbria TTBS Golf at Hartlepool Golf Club

The event raised £1,056 for the North East & Cumbria Region TTBS.

Special thanks to Peter Kershaw who, despite current Covid-19 restrictions, arranged an extremely successful day once again.

Weather:

Windy and some intermittent rain,

Individual Stableford competitions – 20 players

### 2ND SEPTEMBER 2020 PRIZE ALLOCATIONS

TROPHY	NAME	PRIZE	NOTES
15 & under Trade only Summersby Salver	Rayner Kennedy Taylor Maxwell	Trophy and Wine	34 pts
16 & Over Trade only Wilson Cup	J Abbott	Trophy and Wine	34 pts
1st prize Best Score o/all	Chris Wood	Prize	38 pts
2nd prize, next best prize o/all	J Abbott	Prize	34 pts on c/back
Veteran 50+ Trade only Jack Thompson Salver	Alan Preece	Trophy and wine	
Nearest pin	David Cook	Wine	
Longest Drive	Rayner Kennedy	Wine	

# TTJ Awards go online to recognise excellence



The TTJ Awards were held online

Howarth Timber Group was named *TTJ* Timber Trader of the Year 2020 at this year's *TTJ Awards* on Friday September 25.

The Awards, a virtual event this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, is the timber industry's annual awards event, rewarding companies across the sector for customers service, product quality, product range, deliveries and value for money.

This year the event also featured a Covid-19 industry response film, a focus on new campaign Wood Co<sub>2</sub>s less and a short film on the American Hardwood Export Council's Connected project about designing furniture for working from home during the pandemic.

It also featured a film of National Timber Group directors, Peter Howarth and Richard Jarvis completing the Timber Trade Corona Cut Challenge. They encouraged other people from the timber

sector to donate their unspent, lockdown haircut money to the TTBS and Cancer Research UK.

Peter and Richard raised £5,003, which was split between the two charities.

A lively online networking lounge and fund-raising for the Timber Trades' Benevolent Society – during which £838 was raised – also featured at the event, which saw Combilift as the Headline Sponsor.

Glennon Brothers won Softwood Trader of the Year, James Latham scooped the Hardwood Trader of the Year and Falcon Panel Products was the winner of the Panels Trader of the Year.

English Woodlands Timber won Small Timber Business of the Year, while Howarth Timber & Building Supplies was voted the best in Timber Merchant of the Year and Dale Joinery scooped Joinery Product Supplier of the Year. Howarth Timber Engineered Solutions won the Structural Timber Systems Supplier of the Year.

Neil Donaldson was awarded the *TTJ* Lifetime Achievement Award (see right).

"It was great to unite together in a different, virtual way this year," said Stephen Powney, *TTJ* editor. "This year has been a difficult time for many businesses, so it was all the more important to come together and celebrate something positive in the industry."

## Neil Donaldson wins *TTJ* Lifetime Achievement Award



Neil Donaldson won the *TTJ* Lifetime Achievement Award

Neil Donaldson's long career in the timber industry has been recognised with a *TTJ* Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr Donaldson retired from James Donaldson & Sons in the summer, after 45 years with the business, and handed over the reins to the sixth generation.

Mr Donaldson took over from his father as managing director in 1985 and during his tenure, he has overseen the expansion of Donaldson's from a small business in Fife, Scotland, to a national company, operating from 31 sites across the UK.

In 1988 he became the first Scottish chairman of TRADA. He was also president of the Scottish Timber Trade Association from 2004 - 2006 and president of the Timber Trade Federation from 2006 - 2008.

## Important information for all TTBS beneficiaries

We hope you are all keeping well and staying safe during these most difficult times.

Despite the severe financial implications that the pandemic has had on our Investment portfolio and the income from all our 2020 Regional events, together with fund-raising at the national timber industry events, all of which have been cancelled this year, we wish to assure all our beneficiaries that we are continuing to provide our grants and allowances as normal.

We would also remind you that unless you are receiving State benefits that still allow you to obtain a free TV Licence for over 75s, we will pay your annual licence for you on receipt of your renewal paperwork, which you should

send to the TTBS office directly you receive it.

Any beneficiary who has any concerns or needs additional specific assistance for consideration by the Trustees (or perhaps is feeling lonely and just needs a chat with the General Manager?) should contact the TTBS HQ Tel: 08448 922205 Email: [info@ttbs.org.uk](mailto:info@ttbs.org.uk) or by post to TTBS 19 Church Lane, Oulton, Stone, Staffordshire ST15 8UL and we will refer your request to your local Committee before obtaining Trustee approval.

Wishing you the happiest festive season possible and we hope for a much better 2021.

Ivan Savage | General Manager

## TTBS Board goes online due to Covid

The TTBS Board of Management team has been forced to face the immediate future online, having had to cancel the AGM and numerous other meetings, which would normally involve travel on public transport to meet in Birmingham or London.

October saw the first Board of Management Zoom meeting, following two others with the investment management team based in Birmingham.

"Zoom meetings were a new experience for many of us and whilst an opportunity to see each other on screen, hopefully the pandemic will be over in 2021 and we can enjoy each others company again," said Ivan Savage, General Manager.

# TTBS Events

## (including details of cancelled & postponed events)

*The TTBS Events webpage [www.ttbs.org.uk](http://www.ttbs.org.uk) is regularly updated with changes, so please check for latest details.*

**17/04/20** Scottish TTBS Clay Pigeon Shoot - **POSTPONED**

**23/04/20** Yorkshire & Humberside TTBS Curry Night – **POSTPONED**

**23/04/20** Midlands TTBS Sodra Wood Clay Shoot – **CANCELLED**

**29/04/20** Bristol & Western Counties TTBS Karting – **POSTPONED**

**07/05/20** TTBS AGM & Lunch, the Royal Air Force Club, London cancelled & again in October. Scheduled for Thursday 6th May 2021

**May 20** North East & Cumbria TTBS Spring Golf – **CANCELLED**

**12/05/20** London, Home Counties & East Anglia TTBS Golf – **CANCELLED**

**15/05/20** Midlands TTBS Spring Golf – **CANCELLED**

**19/06/20** Scottish TTBS Golf, Elie – **CANCELLED**

**20/07/20** North East & Cumbria TTBS Chinese Banquet – **POSTPONED**

**09/07/20** TTBS National Golf, Breadsall Priory – Cancelled & rescheduled for Thursday 8th July 2021

**02/09/20** North East & Cumbria TTBS Golf organised by Peter Kershaw went ahead at Hartlepool GC and raised £1,056.00 for NE & C TTBS.

**03/09/20** London, Home Counties & east Anglia Bowls Competition. – **CANCELLED**

**11/09/20** Midlands TTBS Autumn Golf – **CANCELLED**

**24/09/20** Bristol & Western Counties TTBS Golf – **CANCELLED**

**Sept/Oct 20** Midlands TTBS Full day Clay Shoot – **CANCELLED**

**24/10/20** Scottish TTBS Woodchoppers Ball – **CANCELLED**

**Nov 20** South Wales TTBS Woodchoppers Ball – **CANCELLED**

**14/11/20 or 21/11/20** North West TTBS Dinner & Dance – **CANCELLED**

**27/11/20** Southern TTBS Christmas Lunch – **CANCELLED**

**04/12/20** Bristol & Western Counties TTBS Christmas Lunch – **CANCELLED**

**04/12/20** Midlands TTBS Christmas Lunch & Golf – **CANCELLED**

**09/12/20** North West TTBS Christmas Lunch – **CANCELLED**

**11/12/20** Yorkshire & Humberside TTBS Christmas Lunch – **CANCELLED**

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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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**