

Newsletter

TIMBER TRADES'
BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

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National President's autumn message



Above: John Taylor

The Timber Trades Benevolent Society was founded in 1897 and will be holding its 125th Annual General Meeting in May, 2023.

The number of beneficiaries we have helped over 125 years and the total amount of the distributions made is not known, but it will be a few thousand beneficiaries and several millions paid out. What is interesting today and important to us, is that there still remains a role for the TTBS charity even though we have moved from Victorian times to the welfare system we have today.

It is the nature of life that we lose beneficiaries every year but there remain a lot of people who need our help. The number of active beneficiaries has remained at around 120 per year for the past 10 years. The support we can offer is both financial

and friendship. To give specific financial or social advice puts us in the role of professionals for which we are not qualified nor insured. We are reviewing whether we can do more in this field and are actively discussing this with other charities and private services.

The Trustees and Committee members are very grateful to those who founded the TTBS in 1897 and to those who have dedicated their time to help promote and raise funds over the last 125 years. We also thank all the National and Regional industry organisations who have held raffles and table collections at events they organise – generously donating these amounts to the TTBS. Over the years we have also received a number of legacies in favour of TTBS from some of our supporters.

In 2021 the TTBS provided over £166,000 in regular allowances and one-off grants to our beneficiaries. These included quarterly payments, Christmas and spring payments, TV licences, telephone allowances and luxury Christmas hampers depending on the individual agreed allocation to each beneficiary. At the beginning of this year the Trustees approved a substantial increase to the regular allowances and the total annual payments for 2022 is budgeted to be in excess of £190,000.

Further to this, the Trustees have approved an additional one off 'cost of living crisis' payment of £250 to be paid in January 2023 to accredited beneficiaries, before the first quarterly allowance in February, the March £400 winter fuel grant and the April spring payment. On top of the generous State assistance recently announced, we hope all beneficiaries will be able to keep warm and eat well this winter.

The letters, emails and telephone calls we receive are proof that our help is greatly appreciated and that we need to continue with our support.

In September, 2022 we had to report the tragic death of one of our Trustees and Past National President 2015 and 2016 –

Robert Bruce – at the age of 63 after a short illness. Robert was a vigorous supporter and promotor of TTBS and a good friend to us all. He will be greatly missed by all at TTBS, as he will by his family and former employers MH Southern & Co Ltd.

So what are the areas we are trying to concentrate on?

1. Get the message out at every opportunity that TTBS support is available to all former employees of the timber industry who run into hard times, either in retirement or through long-term sickness.
2. We hope that now that the worst of Covid is over (fingers crossed!), to visit as many of our beneficiaries as possible over the next few months – not just to identify their current needs, but to give them support and friendship – they really appreciate our visits, which have been seriously curtailed with the pandemic. I'm sure that visits or contact from their former employers would also be appreciated.
3. Strengthen our Regional committees and help organise more fund-raising events. We currently have Christmas lunches, dinners, dances, golf, bowls, clay pigeon shooting, curry nights and raffles. Can we do more perhaps with go-karting, auction nights, day at the races, etc? Covid has caused many cancellations, but we must get these events going again otherwise they have a tendency to disappear for ever.
4. Keep TTBS (the timber trades' OWN charity) in the forefront of the minds of our industry and maintain the necessary focus to ensure we continue to 'sell' the principles of the TTBS to all sectors of our ever changing industry.

With the world market turbulence, our investments will almost certainly show a loss for the financial year to the 31 December, 2022. We have not panicked and believe our well diversified portfolio will

President's message (continued)

pick up again once the world economies recover from Covid, Ukraine and some poor decisions by Government.

I am entering the last six months of my two-year National Presidency and in May 2023 I will be handing over to Tony Shelton. It is true that 'time flies when you are enjoying yourself'. I have very recently been to the Timber Development UK annual dinner and our Chief Executive

and Trustees have attended many other timber trade events. I am looking forward to attending as many of our regional Christmas events as I can. A busy few weeks in late November and early December, but very enjoyable meeting many former colleagues and friends from the industry.

My thanks to our Trustees for all their guidance and wisdom, our Chief Executive

Ivan Savage for his help and advice and to all our committee members and supporters for their efforts during 2022.

I also take this opportunity to wish them and all our beneficiaries a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

John Taylor
National President

Obituary – Robert Bruce



Above: Robert Bruce

Robert Bruce, sales director for MH Southern & Co Ltd, Timber Trade Benevolent Society (TTBS) Trustee and a well-known figure in the UK timber trade has died aged 63 following a short illness.

His career started in the plumbing trade but he soon switched to timber and before joining MH Southern he worked for JT Dove, Jewson and R&J Ince. He left a significant legacy in all of his employments; driving sales onwards, opening new doors, increasing revenue and thereby helping to futureproof the businesses he worked for.

Mr Bruce was an ardent supporter of the TTBS becoming local President, the National President and more recently Trustee, a significant responsibility. He

devoted considerable time and effort to the TTBS for over 30 years and attended functions in every region during his national presidency.

He was very well known throughout the UK timber trade and left a positive impression wherever he went. Outside of work his passion was music where his knowledge was encyclopaedic. He'd enjoy discussing any bands and was a regular at concerts and gigs. He'd seen Status Quo in excess of 100 times...surely their biggest fan.

He is survived by his wife Katherine, sons Jack and James (who himself works in the timber trade), daughter-in-law Ghazal and grandson Grayson and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

NE TTBS autumn golf

The North East TTBS autumn golf outing took place at Hartlepool golf club on 7 September in warm, sunny weather.

The results were:

Hillas Trophies (Morning Greensomes):

Alan Preece & Daryl Jackson

Summersby Salver (1st overall):

Mark Hudson (38 points)

(for handicaps <16) Wilson Cup:

Peter Kershaw (30 points)

(for handicaps >15):

Jack Thompson Salver

Alan Preece (31 points)

(for veterans 50+)

Nearest pin 7th:

Alan Preece

Nearest Pin 12th:

Martin Wilkinson



London, Home Counties & East Anglia TTBS Bowls competition – the winning Upminster Bowls Club, receiving the Keith Davies Memorial Shield from L,HC & EA TTBS Region President, Malcolm Cowley at the Bowls event on 8 September 2022. The competition was closely competed for by seven teams with Braintree B Bowling Club being the runners-up. Over £430 profit was raised for local TTBS funds.

TTBS National Golf: Back on the course

The TTBS National Golf Day took place in July

After a two year break due to the Covid pandemic, 40 players attended the 2022 TTBS National Golf Day, which was held at the Breadsall Priory golf complex at Morley, near Derby, on Thursday 7 July. The event was sponsored by Taylor Maxwell Timber.

Played in exceptional weather, the golfers enjoyed a morning nine-hole Greensomes on the Moorland course, followed by lunch and an 18-hole Individual Stableford on the Priory Championship course. Both courses were in splendid condition and proved to be a stern test for the participants.

The evening presentation dinner held in the Pavilion suite was attended by John Taylor, TTBS national president who presented the trophies to the overall and regional winners.

Organised by the TTBS chief executive officer, Ivan Savage together with the Breadsall Priory golf team and event management, the return to Breadsall after a gap of 14 years, proved to be a great success.

Following the presentations, a raffle in aid of the Society, supported by



numerous generous sponsors and with some exceptional ticket purchases by the attendees raised £1,110 to assist the less fortunate from the industry.

The 2023 event has been moved from Slayley Hall and will now take place on Thursday 6 July at the prestigious Northumberland Golf Club, High Gosforth Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, fund-raising for the TTBS and in memory of the late

Robert Bruce – details on www.ttbs.org.uk National Golf page.

We would like to record our grateful thanks to Taylor Maxwell Timber as main sponsor for the last two years of the staged National Golf event in 2019 and 2022 and also to its very generous supporting sponsors.

The event sponsors included: GP Wood Ltd; Murray Timber Products Ltd; Composite Prime Ltd; Scott Pallets Group; WJ Treatments; Sodra Timber; and Carlstrom / TBI Glimakra AB.

The hole sponsors included: Carver Group; Pine Products Ltd; James E Smith Ltd; EA Stephens Ltd; Timber Specialist Huddersfield Ltd; Evans Bellhouse Ltd; JG Anderssons Soner AB; FW Morgan Ltd; Bjernareds Sagverk AB; Discount Landscaping South West Ltd; Timberlink Ltd; Nuneaton Roof Truss Ltd; KPT(SW) Ltd; James Jones & Sons Ltd; Forest Sawmills Ltd; North Yorkshire Timber Ltd; PTG Treatments Ltd; East Ferry Timber Ltd; Crendon Timber Engineering Ltd; and Severn Valley Woodworks Ltd.

TROPHY WINNERS NATIONAL GOLF BREADSALL PRIORY THURSDAY 7TH JULY 2022

TROPHY	FOR	NAME
CALDERS LTD CUP & JAMES LATHAM CUP	GREENSOMES COMPETITION	JASON & PHILLIP PREWITT
THE HUCKMAN PLATE (shared trophy)	VISITORS GREENSOMES	PATRICK MURRAY
TIMBER TRADES JOURNAL CHALLENGE CUP	BEST STABLEFORD SCORE	NICK KERSHAW
Wm MALLINSON & SONS LTD CUP	BEST SCRATCH SCORE	JASON PREWITT
ALSFORD HOME GROWN TIMBER TROPHY	MEMBER OF THE HOME GROWN TRADE	PATRICK MURRAY
PRICE & PIERCE LTD CUP	LONDON & HOME COUNTIES	ANDY NICHOLLS
HANDS SILVER SALVER	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, OXFORDSHIRE & BERKSHIRE	NOT AWARDED IN 2022
VINCENT MURPHY & CO LTD	LIVERPOOL & NORTH WEST COAST	IAN PIRRIE
JOHN H ASHTON LTD CUP	MANCHESTER REGION	ANDREW JACKSON
BROWNLEE & CO LTD CUP	SCOTLAND	ALEX MOFFAT
WN HILLAS & CO LTD	YORKSHIRE	SHAUN GADSBY
RICHARD WADE, SONS & CO LTD CUP	NORTH EAST COAST	JAMES SOUTHERN
RUDDERS & PAYNES LTD CUP	BIRMINGHAM & MIDLANDS	RICHARD WEST
WM BROWN & CO LTD CUP	EASTERN COUNTIES	TIM WILSON
ROBINSON, DAVID & CO LTD CUP	WESTERN COUNTIES & SOUTH WALES	CLIVE BRITTON
JT SYDENHAM & CO LTD CUP	SOUTHERN COUNTIES	PHILLIP PREWITT
FOY MORGAN & CO LTD	VETERAN (55 years and over)	ANTON CRADDOCK
CARVER GROUP TROPHY	BEST LADIES STABLEFORD SCORE	NOT AWARDED IN 2022
No trophy (Prize awarded)	NEAREST THE PIN	ALEX MOFFAT
ALAN WHEAT MEMORIAL BOWL	LONGEST DRIVE	WILL ROYLE

TTBS forthcoming Events for 2022/2023

Please refer to www.ttbs.org.uk Events page for full details and for further updates

24/11/22 Robert's Big Night Chinese Banquet evening (in memory of the late Robert Bruce)

25/11/22 Southern TTBS Region Christmas lunch

02/12/22 Bristol & Western Counties TTBS Region Christmas lunch

07/12/22 North West TTBS Region Christmas lunch

09/12/22 NETTA/Yorkshire & Humberside TTBS Region Christmas lunch

09/12/22 Midlands TTBS Region Christmas lunch & optional 9 holes golf

04/05/23 TTBS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & LUNCH, LONDON

06/07/23 TTBS NATIONAL GOLF Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne (in memory of the late Robert Bruce)

DEAR NEWSLETTER READERS

The TTBS Board have approved an additional one off "COST OF LIVING CRISIS" payment of £250 to be paid in January 2023 to all accredited beneficiaries receiving regular allowances, before the February start of the quarterly allowances and the March £400 winter fuel grant and the April spring payment.

None of this would be possible without the dividends from our investments or the generous donations from our nine Regional Committees, individuals and from the numerous industry events who fund-raise with table collections, raffles and auctions. On behalf of the

Society, I thank you for your ongoing support so that we can continue our work with the retired, sick and less fortunate members of the timber industry.

This newsletter will be distributed a little later than normal this autumn, so may I take the opportunity wish all readers a very happy festive period and a healthy and successful 2023.

Kindest regards Ivan Savage

*TTBS Chief Executive Officer (Past National President 2017 & 2018)
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STOP PRESS

An auction, organised by Ben Francis DHH Timber and hosted by Chris Sutton TDUK Chairman at the Shippers Lunch held on Tuesday 1 November at the De Vere Connaught Rooms raised £8,000 for the TTBS. The following evening, the TDUK Dinner raised £3,421 for

the TTBS with a table collection organised by Karen Sussex and her team.

On behalf of the Society and the UK beneficiaries, the TTBS would like to thank the organisers and everyone who donated for their most generous support for both these fundraising events.

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

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