SPRING 2022

CUTTING EDGE

UK GASKET & SEALING ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER OF THE UK GASKET & SEALING ASSOCIATION



UKGSA Becomes a Partner of CHEMUK2022

The UK Gasket & Sealing Association (UKGSA) has become a partner of the National Chemical Industry Expo, CHEMUK2022.

The CHEMUK 2022 EXPO returns on the 11 & 12 May 2022 at the NEC in Birmingham. The event, now established as the UK's only major expo for the UK chemical industries, will showcase 300+ specialist exhibitors and 100+ expert speakers across two co-locating shows: 'The Chemical, Process & Plant Engineering Show' and 'The Chemical Industries Supply Chain Show'. *(Continued on Page 2)*

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THIS ISSUE:

New Member • Ukraine Fundraising • Investment • Member Highlights

UKGSA Becomes a Partner of CHEMUK2022



(Continued from Page 1) Show organiser, Ian Stone, comments: "We are delighted to confirm the UKGSA as an official supporting industry partner to the show. Chemical, Process & Plant Engineering is a core component to the CHEMUK EXPO and the UKGSA, through their specialist member network, provide visitors with the opportunity to discuss specific requirements for their process operations. UKGSA members already confirmed for CHEMUK 2022 include J A Harrison, Gee Graphite and Flexitallic."

The Chemical, Process & Plant Engineering Show will showcase the latest technology and specialist services to attending UK plant, process, control and engineering professionals across the chemical and wider process industries.

CHEMUK 2022 takes place on Wed 11 & Thu 12 May 2022 at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham.



Register for your FREE entry badge at:

https://www.chemicalukexpo.com

Message from the Chairman



Simon Winfield
Chair, UKGSA
Director, MacLellan Rubber

A warm welcome to the Spring Issue of Cutting Edge, which is bursting with news about Member's successes, investment in expansion and new developments.

Congratulations to all of our Members who are seeing increased activity in ever more challenging market conditions, validating our belief that 'Quality and Service Sells'.

I hadn't planned to comment on the war in Ukraine and the horrendous actions of Russia's military on civilians. The images and stories have impacted on all of us, but it is truly heart-warming to see so many Members raising funds and donating items to help charities and support services working there, as noted in several of the articles in this issue, and we can only hope for a rapid end to the hostilities.

As I write this, the sun has finally see fit to join us and spread some much needed warm across the UK. Just when we thought there were only good times ahead with Covid restrictions coming to end, UK PLC and the nation as a whole are about to be hit by some of the most significant cost of living and tax increases in a generation:

- Increases in energy and fuel costs
- Increases in National Insurance and dividend taxes
- Drops in R&D tax incentives

This is a further burden on UK Industry, coming so soon after the difficulties presented by Covid lockdowns, and at a time when raw material and shipping costs continue to increase pressure on input cost prices and as a result fuelling inflation.

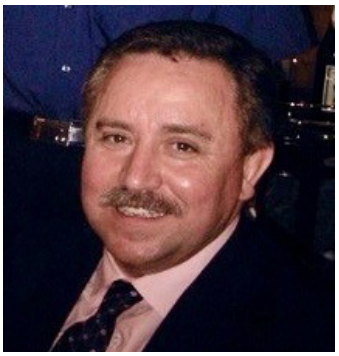
How this will play out is anyone's guess, but we implore Rishi Sunak and the UK Government to be thinking about better direct support for manufacturers and workers in the short term, and longer-term solutions investing in the broader UK manufacturing base - which to be clear is not going to happen funding more business consultants - and reducing the administrative and financial burden on businesses, which despite ministers comments to the contrary, is not happening.

We start 2022 with an expanding membership and renewed focus on increasing the support and opportunities provided to Members. Increased promotion of Member products and services through partnerships such as CHEMUK 2022, have global reach and potential to create new opportunities in new markets; adding new services and disseminating technical information which all Members can access with ease is something we are passionate about; and after two years of deferring and re-scheduling we are committed to delivering a full year of networking and technical events. I look forward to seeing you all throughout the year.



Obituary





Fernando Larena Martinez

4/1/2022 – Aged 75
Sales Marketing Manager
Trelleborg Industrial Laminates SAU

After a long illness we sadly report the passing of Fernando Larena, a well-known figure in the European Rubber Industry who had a career spanning over 35 years.

Fernando held sales, marketing managerships, and directorships with Dunlop Iberica SA, Ibercaucho SA which subsequently became Trelleborg Industrial Laminates SAU up to his retirement in 2008.

The support given to the UKGSA by Fernando and his peers has been very significant over the years and included both instructional seminars on rubber technology and manufacturing as well as regular financial support for golf days and prizes.

A well respected gentleman who made many friends in the UK with his friendly and enthusiastic nature.

It was always a great pleasure and honour to work with him over so many years.

R.I.P.

Paul Fenton
Chairman
J.P.Polymer Sheetings Ltd.

Cutting & Converting Machine Supplier Joins the UKGSA

Cutting Systems UK, suppliers of the well-known ATOM FlashCut knife cutting system and ATOM Cutting Presses which are used by many Members of the UK Gasket and Sealing Association (UKGSA), joined the association in December 2021.

John Howe, Managing Director of Cutting Systems UK, says: "We have a vision to supply the best quality British and European produced cutting machines and systems to the soft material cutting and conversion industries. Many UKGSA Members have the ATOM FlashCut knife cutting system and many also have historically had the ATOM range of die cutting presses that we have also supplied, so it makes sense to join and add our voice to this very important trade association."

The company is still a family-owned business and originally started as John Howe Services over two decades ago, then as ATOM UK before becoming Cutting Systems UK.

They supply and provide full aftersales support for ATOM FlashCut knife cutting systems, ATOM Die Cutting Presses and systems, CMS Waterjet Cutting Systems and IMESA Roll & Sheet Converting Systems as well as leather processing machines such as the CAMOGA range of splitters; this is all on top of manufacturing their own Taurus range of die cutting systems from their Northamptonshire base in Rushden.

Simon Winfield, Chairman of the UKGSA and Director of MacLellan Rubber, says: *"We are delighted to welcome Cutting Systems UK as the newest member of the Association. John Howe and his team have been developing and supplying world-class cutting systems to many of our Members since their inception. I'm sure our Members will benefit from their technical knowledge and innovative ideas."*

For more information about Cutting Systems UK visit:
https://cutting-systems.co.uk



HITEK raise money for the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal

HITEK Electronic Materials Ltd recently held a charity event for the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal that helps DEC charities provide much needed food, water, shelter and healthcare to refugees and displaced families.

A total of £367.16 was raised by staff through cakes baked at home and brought into the office. However, HITEK has **quadrupled** this donation taking the grand total raised to a massive £1835.80!

HITEK would like to give special thanks to Rachael Sakal and Louise Clee for making this event happen.

Further donations can be made at: https://donation.dec.org.uk/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal



Silicone Engineering's Ukraine Donation Appeal



To support the victims of the war in Ukraine, Silicone Engineering has been gathering donations to provide help to those displaced by the war. Our donation effort has been coordinated by Dariia Shepel, Head of Commercial & Marketing at Silicone Engineering.

Dariia, who is Ukrainian herself said: *"Everyone at work have been so supportive and generous and it means a lot to know that even being far away, we can do a little to help those escaping the atrocities of the war. We specifically focused on helping displaced women and children, as we focus our efforts on providing comfort, sanitary and hygienic items, and some basic food items. The van with the first part of our donations left for the Transcarpathian region early this morning [3 March 2022] and will be reaching Ukraine this weekend."*

Our thoughts are with the people of Ukraine and everyone affected. We share a common humanity, and all conflicts near and far affect us all. What we can collect will be forwarded to the Ukrainian House in Manchester which will then depart to Western Ukraine soon after.



Silicone Engineering Ltd

Kewell Converters Ltd



This is probably not the platform to air political opinions but our thoughts go out to everyone that is suffering so needlessly.

It's finally starting to feel like spring is in the air. The days are gradually getting longer and despite the ongoing uncertainties with inflation, pricing and fuel costs, we continue to move out of the pandemic at an encouraging pace. The understanding and support provided by our peers and clients during this turbulent period is very much appreciated.

Since Christmas in particular, we've noticed a significant increase in activity and many industries are becoming more buoyant which is ultimately good for everyone. A lot of the projects that had previously been put on hold seem to be starting up again; as a result, January and February have been the busiest months of our fiscal year and the pipeline leading into Summer is looking strong.

During February we attended our second trade event since lockdown – The Southern Manufacturing Show in Farnborough brings a multitude of organisations together and we had an extremely busy few days meeting suppliers, existing clients, and new prospects. Once again, a major talking point was sustainability and our flooring which is made from our recycled waste material was extremely popular – please see our Linked-in page for a closer look [Read the show write up later in this issue].

Over the next few months, we are looking to expand the team even further. Due to increased workload and some internal promotions, we have positions available in pre-sales/estimating, maintenance and the factory floor – please spread the word or check the news pages on our website for more details.

Finally, the new government plastic packaging tax come into force in April. It's been a bit of a minefield for a lot of people so if you need any advice or guidance on how you or your clients might be impacted, please get in touch.

KCL KEWELL CONVERTERS LTD

Flexitallic UK relocates to larger service centre as part of North East expansion

Flexitallic UK Ltd has moved into larger premises in the North East to meet a growing demand for its comprehensive range of specialist industrial gaskets and sealing solutions.

The new 650 sq. m Teesside service centre enables Flexitallic to expand its gasket manufacturing, stockholding, and workshop capabilities, which is underpinned by a dedicated ECITB accredited training facility, delivering competency in the flange assembly process.

With the largest stock and range of sealing solutions in the region, the centrally located facility also offers a gasket cutting service together with a local delivery service for North East clients.

The facility is capable of manufacturing pipeline gaskets from a range of soft materials, including fibre, PTFE, and rubber, but also has the ability to produce semi metallic gaskets including spiral wound gaskets. Furthermore, the service centre offers bolted connection engineering review and design services. The Flexitallic team in Teesside can be reached 24/7 for support with both commercial and technical requirements.

The new centre will host workshops including ICHEME approved courses and industry discussions on flange management and bolted joint integrity, together with calculation software demonstrations.

Specialist and bespoke training include accredited gasket installation and identification, with mobile rigs delivering onsite training as part of a 'one stop shop' for sealing solutions.

Located on Tees Advanced Manufacturing Park (TeesAMP), the centre is operated by an experienced local team of joint integrity professionals, supported by an applications team that works closely with clients on a range of specialist projects, including design reviews, gasket redesigns and industry compliance.

Part of the global Flexitallic Group, the Teesside centre is part of a network of branches established in industry-focused regions including Aberdeen, Merseyside and the South West, along with its UK headquarters and manufacturing base in West Yorkshire.



The branches act as a distribution arm for the Flexitallic portfolio of specialised sealing products including its range of gaskets designed and manufactured to meet the requirements and safety-focused operations of sectors including chemical, oil and gas and power generation.

Sam Bradley, UK Sales Director at Flexitallic, said: *"We have opened this new and much larger facility in direct response to the growing demand from clients across multiple sectors in the North East.*

"Our Teesside centre provides a one stop shop which compliments and enhances the comprehensive range of products with technical expertise, support, and training, all under the same roof.

"Flexitallic is dedicated to providing both best in class and cost-effective sealing solutions and this investment underlines our long-term commitment to the region."

Gary Milne, Academy Training Director and Technical Lead for the North East, said: *"It is a hugely exciting time to open our new centre at TeesAMP, offering on site application engineering and approved training courses aligned to the process industries'.*

"The region is already feeling the benefit of investment in the form of major engineering projects and Flexitallic is well-placed to contribute and support to the ongoing economic transformation."

Significant Milestone at William Johnston & Company Limited

In 1981 the first London Marathon was run from Greenwich Park in south east London to Buckingham Palace – effectively over 26 milestones – but stick with this...

In that year William Johnston & Company Limited were operating from railway premises in Mauchline Street on Glasgow's south-side, had just begun renting and fitting out large modern premises at the end of the same street and our new factory in Inverness was being prepared for our branch move from Thornbush Road in the town. All part of the Company's high ambitions and subsequent rapid growth in this new decade.

The 1980's saw turbulent times in British industry, but the Company thrived due to our vision, strong leadership and loyal workforce so, despite the uncertainties and difficulties we faced at the beginning of the decade, we emerged from it as strong and confident as ever.

Our director in Inverness, Billy Hardie, has completed something of a marathon himself since joining the Company in Glasgow in 1981. Fortieth anniversary celebrations being curtailed due to the restrictions we faced in 2021, we finally had the opportunity to officially recognise Billy's forty-year service with William Johnston & Company Limited this month.

Challenged on the marathon analogy, a suitably embarrassed Billy commented, *"I've not even hit 'the wall' yet! There are rumours circulating in the company that this factory was built round me, which isn't true of course but I do feel I am part of the fabric of this place and the firm. Perhaps not the keystone but certainly one of the bricks."*

Worth noting that 1981 is as distant in time from today as it was from the Battle of Britain! Anyway, very hearty congratulations to Billy on his impressive stamina and, more importantly, his commitment, diligence, effort and dedication to our customers resulting in his steady elevation from quasi-apprentice gasket cutter in 1981 to a key member of the board of William Johnston & Company Limited 40 years later– almost without breaking sweat.

Sandy McEwen
Managing Director
William Johnston & Company Limited



To mark his 40 years' service with William Johnston & Company Limited, Director Billy Hardie, the oldest member of the Inverness Branch team receives a bottle of his favourite Highland malt from the youngest team member Brodie Sandison

WILLIAM JOHNSTON
& COMPANY LIMITED

‘Thank You’ from Macmillan Cancer Support

Michelle Campbell, Relationship Fundraising Manager, South & West of Scotland at Macmillan Cancer Support got in touch recently to personally thank us for our support.

Michelle shared with us an Impact Report which shows how money from fundraising is used to support local services.

Since we chose Macmillan Cancer Support as our nominated charity a few years ago, UKGSA Members have raised an amazing **£10,650.00!**

Much of this fundraising takes place at our Annual Golf Day and Charity Dinner – and this year it will be held on **7 July 2022.**

Read more about our Golf Day on page 18

Thank you, UK Gaskets and Sealing Association!

It's thanks to the dedication and generosity of people like you that we can continue to do whatever it takes for people living with cancer. Here are just a few examples of the impact the incredible £9940.22 you've donated could have had:

Paid for a Macmillan Nurse for **332 hours,** helping people living with cancer and their families receive essential medical, practical and emotional support.

or

Run our Online Community forum for reaching and providing, on average, **80,000 people** with a space to give emotional and practical support to each other on anything to do with cancer.

or

Provided 30 people living with cancer a Macmillan Grant. These can help cover some of the costs cancer brings, for example, travel to and from hospital appointments.

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Thank you again for your incredible support.

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). Also operating in Northern Ireland.

Food Quality Assured Materials





MacLellan rubber

All raw materials used in the manufacture of MacLellan Rubber's Food Grade Rubber Sheeting's are selected to comply with the most stringent standards relating to foodstuff contact and the control process to avoid cross contamination.

EC 1935/2004 Regulation
This European regulation establishes the need of limit on the migration of constituents into or onto food.

All our rubber sheeting qualities for foodstuff contact pass rigorous migration tests.

EC 2023/2006 Regulation
This European regulation specifies the rules on good manufacturing practice for the materials and articles intended to come into contact with food.

Our manufacturing processes fully comply with this regulation.

Federal Drug Agency (FDA)
The materials are in compliance with FDA 21 CFR Part. 177. Indirect Food Additives: Polymers. Sec177.2600 (USA), positive list and migration test.

REACH
No substances on the current SVHC candidate list are in our food grade compounds.

PROP 65
Our food grade qualities do not contain chemicals included in the Proposition 65 list.

All of our Food Grade Materials are:
ADI free
Phthalates and Bisphenol A free
Nitrosamine

With Batch Traceability guaranteed throughout our processes.

For more information or to get a quote, please contact your account manager or our sales team on 01903 307711 or email sales@maclellanrubber.com

Midlands Technology Centre Visit by Members



On 17th March, a delegation from the UKGSA travelled to Coventry to tour the Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC).

Despite several attempts to hold this event in 2020 and 2021, positive COVID tests the day before and M6 congestion reduced original numbers, but a determined and enthusiastic group made it to the first technical visit of the year and thoroughly enjoyed the day. It was a pleasure to see and speak to colleagues face to face; especially to meet new members for whom this was their first event.

Nigel Knapp, Senior Business Manager at MTC, gave a presentation about the organisation interspersed with videos of SME case studies.

For over 10 years they have been part of the UK's high value manufacturing catapult programme, bridging the gap between academia and industry, with 800 employees based in their five buildings on the business park in Coventry. They are one of seven catapult centres across the UK each of which specialise in different technical areas.

MTC's manufacturing support services cover:

- Improving operational efficiency
- Technology transformation
- SME support

Their aim is to help British manufacturing become more competitive on a global stage. In particular, supporting the digitisation of UK manufacturing such as manufacturing informatics - gathering shop floor data to help transform traditional manufacturing practices.

They work in all industry sectors with all sizes of company. And with access to a REACH fund contributing up to 50% of the consultancy fee, it can be an affordable solution when cost-savings and efficiencies are realised.

The MTC excels at what they call *'bridging the valley of death'* - the applied research phase where many SMEs struggle. It occurs between experimental research (often undertaken by academia) and technical implementation (which MTC also support). Case studies shared involved improving efficiencies of production lines, reconfiguring a factory layout and embracing new technologies.

A complementary Line Walk, where MTC consultants visit onsite to understand all aspects of the business (not just the manufacturing operations), leads to a follow up meeting at MTC to discuss possible support and access to REACH funding.

Engineering upskilling and their apprenticeship programme was also highlighted during the presentation.

The presentation was followed by a tour of one of their manufacturing facilities which held impressive tooling, fabrication and machines. Examples of 3D printing particularly caught the eye of our Members, as did the construction testing area and the intelligent automation which houses the biggest robot.

Over lunch we took the opportunity to discuss potential areas of support from the MTC and catch up with fellow Members.

If you missed out on the visit, but would like a copy of the presentation, please contact the Secretariat.

Look out for future technical visits during the year!



Conversation with...
Mark Kelly, Flemings Seals & Polymers Ltd



For this issue we caught up with Mark Kelly to find out what his plans are for 2022 and beyond.

You bought FSP three years ago when most people might be thinking about slowing down.
I'm not ready for a cardigan, pipe and slippers just yet! I was looking for a new challenge, something I could spearhead and Flemings was the perfect fit.

How did FSP cope through COVID?
Despite the pandemic itself we saw a 5% growth and a growth of over 50% since I bought the business back in 2018! March 2022 is forecast to be double that of March 2021.

Has FSP been effected by Brexit or the current issues in Ukraine?
From day one we've been on-shoring, working with customers who buy from China and increasing what they buy from FSP. We're expecting raw material cost increases as our material is petroleum based. Due to extended lead times, our strategy has been to increase our stock by 25%, maximising our 15,000 sq ft warehouse to minimise impacts on our customers.

We're also lucky because 75% of our business is UK-based, 20% is in Europe and 5% is the rest of the world.

Tell us about your developments.
We have created two divisions and are currently rebranding with a new logo, brochure and website. Our new divisions are:

- **Sealing solutions division** – offering the full package for OEM customers to improve their productivity by making it faster and better.
- **Engineering Plastics division** – our interchangeable tooling system means we can offer SME sized OEMs specialist quick change solutions for injection moulding.

We've also introduced new technology throughout the business and we're trialling 'lights out' manufacturing.

Continued on next page...

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Conversation with... Mark Kelly, Flemings Seals & Polymers Ltd



What are you investing in?
Over the last 18 months we're invested £250k in plant. We've sold some old, unused machines which will be transported abroad. This has created space so we can expand our machinery with two new injection moulding machines, a Hurco CNC machine, a Citizen Cincom A20 sliding head lathe and Mazak milling machining centre enabling us to offer full machining capability in-house.

We've recruited a new production manager who brings a wealth of experience and ideas who has introduced iPads for all staff on the shop floor so they can access the production software; and we've got a new sales office team. The whole team is now focussed to deliver the company strategy.



I hear you've gone green.
That's right – we're now recycling waste products from manufacturing and reusing them in-house to manufacture our own economy FSP brands.

Do you work with UKGSA Members?
Yes, about 20% of our business comes from working with Members so being part of the Association is key. Attending events is important, like the recent visit to the Manufacturing Technology Centre which I found very informative; and I'm looking forward to finding out more about Members through the planned site visits you're arranging.





For more information about FSP, contact Mark Kelly on 01484 718391 or visit http://flemings-seals-polymers.com

FLEMINGS SEALS & POLYMERS

Round up from SJG International





The past couple of years have certainly brought many challenges, including the COVID pandemic, periods of lockdown for the whole country, BREXIT, material shortages and price increases to name a few.

SJG continued to operate during the pandemic servicing critical contracts and are proud we were able to do this with the long serving and loyal staff we are exceptionally proud of.

The pandemic still prevents some challenges, but as a company we are managing this well, and our key priority is protecting our workforce.

Material supplies
As with many businesses, the key challenge at present is about managing raw material supply into the business and limiting the impact of price increases.

SJG International are in a strong position with the ability to hold a reasonable level of stock within the main factory and the additional warehousing within our site. The ability to hold stock means that we can respond to customer demands quicker and keep the level of price increases to a minimum.

Out and about
Now that many of the COVID restrictions have been lifted, it has meant that we have been able to get out and about more and invite a small number of people to the business to showcase our capabilities.

In the last few weeks we have welcomed some new customers on site, all of which were very impressed at the level of investment in all areas such as machinery and the factory environment. We have also been able to visit a number of trade shows such as Southern Manufacturing and the Future Build show.

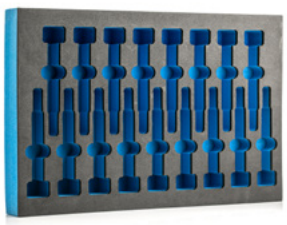
Looking ahead
The next few months are already looking busy with continued investment in many areas of the business. We will also be visiting more tradeshows, suppliers and customers.

We will also be taking the time to have some more company get-together's with nights out planned such as go-karting and curry nights.

We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank all our fantastic employees, customers and suppliers. We look forward to seeing many of you at events such as the UKGSA Annual Golf Day.

sales@sjginternational.com
01789 763721







SJG International Ltd

Highlights from the Southern Manufacturing Show 2022



It was great to be back at the Southern Manufacturing show following a two-year absence. The show ran 8th– 10th February and was extremely busy each day.

It was really encouraging to see so many people from such varied industry sectors getting out and discussing future projects. We discussed everything from sheet material and inserts to seating, gym equipment and even puppets! The versatility of foam is staggering!

The most popular topic on our visitors' agendas was sustainability! Lots of people commented on our flooring which is made from our waste material – it is proving to be a very adaptable product suitable for multiple applications. Additionally, the foam recycling/ waste management discussions that we've had with many clients and new prospects have been extremely productive.

As it was close to Valentine's Day, we ran a "guess how many hearts" competition which also received a lot of love. The winning guess was one short of the 428 total and we had lots of very close attempts – well done to everyone who took part!

Overall, it was an excellent few days and we look forward to attending again next year.

Kewell Converts have produced a video which summarises their time at the show.



Click here to watch it

KCL KEWELL CONVERTERS LTD

Save the Date - Annual Golf Day, 7 July 2022



You are invited to attend the Annual Golf Day and Charity Dinner on Thursday, 7 July 2022.

This year will be a bi-annual return to Shrigley Hall Hotel and Country Club in Macclesfield in the glorious Peak District. This is always a popular venue for the UKGSA and the hotel has spent millions on refurbishments and golf machinery.

The 18-hole, par-71 golf course is set in 262 acres of countryside weaving its way through woodland and parkland. The course was designed by Donald Steel and enjoys some of the finest views of any course in the north-west. Download the event booking form.





With prizes such as 1st Place Best Individual Round and 1st Place 4 Ball Team Event as well as on course challenges such as Beat the Pro, it's a great day of golf and networking.

Relax in the Spa

Shrigley's new outdoor infinity pool and BAZAAR Spa is a must for non-golfers and this year we have added the Spa as a package on the event booking form. The package includes spa access from 1.30pm – 5.30pm, 1 x 25 minute treatment and lunch.

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Save the Date - Annual Golf Day, 7 July 2022

Choose from:

- Gold Facial
- Back Cleanse Smoothie
- Face & Body Re-energiser

Spa bookings need to be made by 29 April, so download our booking form today!

Black Tie Charity Dinner

The evening is spent networking and raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support at our Black Tie Dinner. It is always an entertaining social event comprising our Golf Awards and raffle.

Table top displays are available during pre-dinner drinks for those who would like to showcase their products or services.

You can attend the whole day or just the evening – the choice is yours!



If you are interested in sponsoring any of our golf awards, donating a raffle prize or would like more information about the event, contact the Secretariat: info@ukgsassociation.co.uk

As an authorised distributor and converter of the complete range of Garlock products, including Gylon™, we aim to offer some of the best prices in the marketplace, whether it be full sheets or cut gaskets.



Benefits of dealing with Munsch/PTM

- **Experienced technical knowledge of the full Garlock range**
- **Full or part sheets available**
- **Cut gaskets, priced using our aggressive centreing out policy**
- **Welded gaskets to save you money**
- **Over £50,000 of stock at any one time for rapid delivery**

For prices or advice simply call us on 01625 573971 or e-mail Sales@epdm.co.uk

Munsch & Co "Keeping You Working"

PTFM SEALING YOUR FUTURE

William Johnston & Company Limited appointed as Flangeguard's Scottish Distributor



ALARP – As Low As Reasonably Practicable

Risk of fire, life altering or even fatal chemical or steam burns are a major concern for any process company. Heightened awareness and safety measures are essential for those operating COMAH sites. Health and safety regulations regarding *"Emergency Isolation"* and the TMD (Technical Measures Document) are concerned only with the emergency isolation of plant following a breach of containment. The operator of a COMAH site has a duty to ensure that residual risks are made ALARP. From a flange connection perspective these residual risks are many - particularly where regular maintenance periods are extended as seen due to personnel shortages during the Covid pandemic.

There are multiple reasons why flanged connections can fail and **Flange Guards**, AKA spray shields, offer the first line of defence. They are not designed to contain a leak indefinitely, but to prevent harmful spray outs that could result in personal injury, fire or explosions causing considerable plant down time, capital expenditure and H & S scrutiny.

From the original 'bag style' in PVC & PTFE with litmus indicator patch or clear centre band through to the more advanced, safer and simpler to fit/re-fit Sureband® with clear ECTFE outer and multi-layered PTFE mesh and stitching or the all-metal 316 stainless steel version; there is a **Flange guard** for every application and budget.

Scottish Distributor, William Johnston & Company Limited are uniquely placed to offer unrivalled technical advice on **Flange guards** and welcome your enquiries.

Visit **https://williamjohnston.co.uk/flangeguards.html** to find out more or book an appointment to discuss your needs more fully using the following contact details:-

Craig Edwards, Director, William Johnston & Company Limited, Glasgow - for UK wide applications
0141 6201666 - craig.edwards@williamjohnston.co.uk

Billy Hardie, Director, William Johnston & Company Limited, Inverness - for applications throughout Scotland
01463 238673 – billy@williamjohnston.co.uk

WILLIAM JOHNSTON
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BVAA Supplier Day a success for Gee Graphite Ltd



Rebecca Pringle and Darren Pearson attended the BVAA Supplier Day on 1 and 2 March which was a great success for Gee Graphite.

Darren tells us more…

The event provided us with an opportunity to meet face-to-face with suppliers during the exhibition and hold mutually beneficial appointed meetings with buyers from valve and actuator manufacturers on a 1-2-1 speed-style basis.

As always, great interest was shown in the Gee product range and we had many visitors to our stand.

The desktop exhibition itself was limited to Members, but was very well attended. Becky and I had some great meetings with customers, potential customers and Members.

The Monday night dinner delivered an excellent and lively guest speaker, world famous Olympic Ski Jumper Eddie *'the Eagle'* Edwards. He described his remarkable rise to fame and to the very top of the slopes. His down to earth nature and self-deprecating humour however was a hit.

Following dinner, we had Hal Cruttenden who is known for his appearance on shows such as *'Live at the Apollo'* and *'Have I Got News For You'* to name a few. His quick wit and sharp humour provided a whole lot of laughter and had many of us in stitches.

GEE GRAPHITE

Kewell Converters Marks 50th Anniversary with Victory in Longest-Running Application Category at Zotefoams Centenary Awards



As one of the UK's leading specialist converters of industrial and commercial batch produced foam products, the team at Kewell Converters are used to success. But they received the news that the company had won the Zotefoams Centenary Award for Longest Running Application — a flotation device for disabled children and young adults — with rather more emotion than usual, as commercial director and joint managing director Marcos Kewell explains.

"It just seemed appropriate that in the year we celebrated our 50th anniversary, we won with a product that my father Colin, who started the business, designed way back in 1993. Sadly, he died in 2019, but he would have been as proud as we all are."

Marcos describes his father as *"an engineer to his fingertips, who built the business on solid engineering principles and an insistence on attention to detail and quality within the manufacturing process. We stick to the same philosophy today, so the award is a fitting tribute to our past as well as our present."*



The winning product is one of a range of custom-designed flotation aids that also includes swimming collars, head and neck supports. Fabricated from Zotefoams' Plastazote® LD24FR polyethylene and Evazote® VA35 EVA co-polymer foams, the buoyancy devices absorb impact, are kind to skin, and safe for children. They are also water- and chemical-resistant and easy-to-clean — key factors in their longevity.

Plastazote and Evazote are part of the AZOTE® polyolefin foams range and are themselves worthy of a long service award: introduced in 1962 and 1968 respectively, these are durable, lightweight, consistent and pure, setting the standard for technical foams the world over.

Making a real difference

Says Marcos: *"We're over the moon with these products, because they're not only functional but over the years they've made a real difference to thousands of children and young people with complex neuro-disabilities, who face challenging additional needs. Many are in wheelchairs, have visual or other sensory impairments, or struggle to communicate verbally. Hydrotherapy and swimming give them a wonderful freedom and genuine joy, and our device helps give them greater independence in the pool and more choice in developing effective mobility and communication skills."*

Close to a double

Kewell Converters almost *'bagged'* a second Zotefoams Centenary Award, earning a special mention in the Most Innovative category for a remarkable customisable clutch bag produced for Stitchsmith. Kewell applied an adhesive backing to Plastazote LD45 so that customers can recover the bag using new or upcycled fabric, making it an exciting, versatile and sustainable product. In addition, a high-quality foam insert adds the important soft touch and premium luxury feel. Says Marcos: *"It's yet another example of polyethylene foam's versatility, and how it can enhance any application."*

KCL KEWELL CONVERTERS LTD

Round up from TSEC



Since The Seal Extrusion Company moved to larger premises in Acton, Suffolk, we have taken advantage of the extra room by increasing our product range even further.

We are now stocking larger quantities of door trims and boot seals and have thousands of metres of stock, ready for delivery.

Stuart Bulbeck, our managing director, has been working tirelessly recruiting new staff to cope with the increase in sales, as well as organising warehouse storage racking following the introduction of a new stock system. This is in addition to overseeing the day to day sales, managing imports and exports as well as streamlining our IT!

Finally, we have our first accreditation to ISO9001 at the end of March. This highly recognised quality standard supports our commitment to strong customer service and bolsters our ambitions to sell to major OEMs.

Don't forget to follow us on social media:

Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/sealextrusions

Twitter
https://twitter.com/TSEC101

Pinterest
https://www.pinterest.co.uk/stuartbulbeck/rubber-trim



Gee Graphite 10k Challenge



Staff from Gee Graphite are in training to run 10k to raise money for a local hospice.

Tiffany, Rebecca, Ryan and Shaun will be running the Leeds 10k on 3 July 2022 in support of Forget Me Not Children's Hospice.

Every year more children are diagnosed with life-shortening conditions and more families are living with loss. With only around 4% of their income coming from government sources, the hospice need the support of the whole community to help them continue to be there for local families who desperately need their help.

- **£10** will give a complimentary therapy session for a mom or dad
- **£20** will give medical supplies for a day
- **£50** covers the running cost of the hydrotherapy pool for a day

Visit their website at **www.forgetmenotchild.co.uk**

Please donate what you can; every donation is greatly appreciated and makes a difference.

Donate at:
www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Geegraphiteltd10k



Claim Your FREE Advert

Claim Your FREE Advert

The UKGSA offer existing Members one FREE colour half page advert to appear in one issue of Cutting Edge e-newsletter per membership year.

Many UKGSA Members already take advantage of the free news editorial in the e-newsletter to share their company updates, product developments, staff news etc, but the addition of the free advert provides Members with even more opportunity to promote their business across the Association and to our wider contacts.

Non-members can also place adverts in the e-newsletter for a nominal charge. And new Members will receive a free half page advert when they sign up! To book your advert contact the Secretariat (info@ukgsassociation.co.uk).

Rates

	Members	Non Members
Full Page	£350	£440
Half Page	£200	£250



Member Offcuts & Offers



Members of the UKGSA can now advertise their promotional offers and material offcuts free of charge on a new web page on our website.

To share your offcuts or offers on our website or in our newsletter, email the secretariat

OFFERS

KEWELL CONVERTERS HAS TWO MACHINES FOR SALE

COX & WRIGHT TRAVELLING HEAD PRESS



MICA MKII BANDKNIFE



See our web page to download further information about the machines.

Events Calendar



Here are some upcoming industry events and we have highlighted the ones our Members are attending.

If you are going to these events, please pop along and support your fellow Members or if you are attending any not listed, please let us know.

April

4-8 April
Mach
NEC Birmingham
WARDJet will be showcasing their A-Series waterjet on stand 18-520

5-7 April
Drives & Controls / Fluid Power & Systems / Plant & Asset Management / Smart Industry Expo / Air-Tech Exhibition
NEC Birmingham

April

5-7 April
Wind Europe, Bilbao, Spain
James Walker will be exhibiting their bolting and rotary sealing technologies

26-28 April
MRO Americas, Dallas, Texas
Southbourne Rubber will be exhibiting

27-28 April
Engineering Design Show (virtual event)
HITEK Electronic Materials will be exhibiting

May

11- 2 May
CHEMUKEXPO
Birmingham
Flexitallic UK: Stand D6
Gee Graphite: Stand C36
J A Harrison: Stand E20

July

18-22 July
Farnborough Airshow
Southbourne Rubber will be exhibiting

November

29 November – 1 December
Valve World Europe, Dusseldorf
James Walker will be exhibiting their valve sealing technology and fugitive emissions with compression packing, valve seats, gaskets and elastomeric seals.

Resources On Our Website



Have you visited our new Resources area on our website? This area contains four areas:

Common Technical Names

A list of common technical names which are widely used across the gaskest and sealing sectors, along with their more commonly used names.

Visit the web page at:
https://ukgsassociation.co.uk/common-technical-names/

Material Storage Guidelines

Our Members recommend storage guidelines, subject to material type, and guidance published in BS standards for Cellulose Paper, Felt, Jointings, Rubber.

Visit the web page at:
https://ukgsassociation.co.uk/material-storage-guidelines/

Member Product Trade Names

Product trade names used by UKGSA Members for products manufactured or supplied by them.

Visit the web page at:
https://ukgsassociation.co.uk/member-trade-names/

Industry Standards

A list of industry standards used by UKGSA Members including ASME, ASTM, British Standards, ISO, JIS and more.

Visit the web page at:
https://ukgsassociation.co.uk/industry-standards/

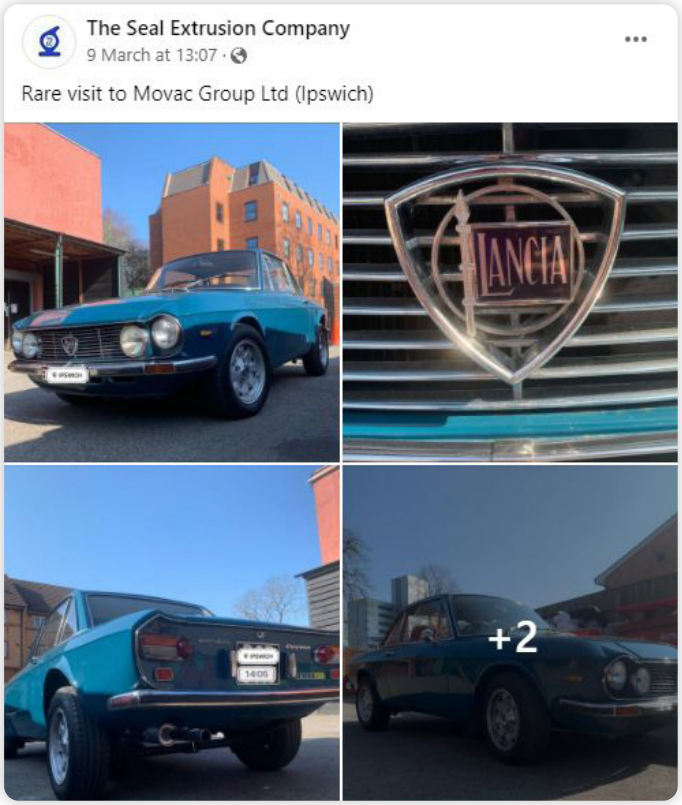
If you would like to add information to these Resources, please contact the Secretariat.

info@ukgsassociation.co.uk

What our Members have been up to on social media









Follow the UKGSA on Social Media:

Twitter: @UKGSAssoc

LinkedIN: @uk-gasket-sealing-association

LinkedIN Group: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4707335

Meet Your Committee

The UKGSA is led by a Committee who help ensure that the UKGSA's activities serve the needs of our members.

Here is the Committee for the year 2021/22:



Sandy McEwen
VICE CHAIR & FUNDRAISING



SAM BRADLEY
TREASURER

Andrew Crowther
OFFICER





ROGER DENT
OFFICER

Alison Ansell
MARKETING & EVENTS



Simon Carless
GOLF DAY



UK GASKET & SEALING ASSOCIATION



Simon Winfield
CHAIRMAN



Keith Payne
MEMBERSHIP

If you're interested in joining the Committee please get in touch.

What We Do



Networking Events

Serving our members with activities designed to promote success and growth, through collaboration and best practice. The Association aims to provide a platform for members to network with decision makers and influencers at the highest level and across all sectors of our industry.



Technical Events

Industrial and manufacturing tours or presentations to member and non-member sites. These events aim to give insights to advanced manufacturing, best practice and material technical developments that will inspire our membership.



Technical Support

Members have access to an unprecedented technical resource in their fellow members who are available to offer support on manufacturing issues, material selection and processing, and design & development.



Representing our Members

Behind the scenes we actively promote our members' activities and views through press releases to national and international trade magazines and general media.

We represent our industry to various technical bodies on international standards and actively look for opportunities to promote our values.

We aim to proactively promote our members' views to government and trade bodies and influence the decisions of those organisations to the benefit of our members.



Marketing Support

We actively use social media (Twitter and LinkedIn) and encourage all of our members to follow and tag us. We also publish member profiles on our website in addition to sharing news stories.

We are extremely active in developing strong media relationships with all of the mainstream manufacturing and engineering publications.

We also send out regular email newsletters to our members and our wider industry contacts with a variety of information as well as member news features.



Procurement Support

Through our affiliation with the British Standards Institute members are able to acquire electronic copies of UK, European and International standards at discounted prices.

Members have access to the Joined Up Thinking Buying Group giving access to hundreds of suppliers, products and services which are being constantly benchmarking to make sure members receive the very best value for money. The service offered by Joined Up Thinking is Free-of-Charge to our members.



Charitable Giving

We aim to support our chosen charity – Macmillan Cancer Support – through fundraising activities undertaken at our events, such as our annual charity dinner, and directly by our members.

UKGSA : Members List

AS Rubber & Plastics Limited
Elwell Street, West Bromwich,
West Midlands B70 0DN
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British Felt Co.
Unit 5, Fingle Drive, Stonebridge,
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www.britishfelt.com

Corseal Limited
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Acton, Suffolk CO10 0BD
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Cutting Systems UK Ltd
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