

SPRING 2023



EU REACH PFAS Consultation Announced

On 7 February 2023, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) published a preliminary version of the restriction dossier for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on its website.

(Find out more on page 2)

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EU REACH PFAS Consultation Announced



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PFAS are a large, complex and ever-expanding group of manufactured chemicals that are widely used to make various types of everyday products. For example, they keep food from sticking to cookware, make clothes and carpets resistant to stains, and create firefighting foam that is more effective. PFAS are used in industries such as aerospace, automotive, construction, electronics and military.

As part of the restriction process, a public consultation will be conducted by the ECHA from **22 March 2023 to 22 September 2023**. Read more about the [consultation](#).

Chemours recently held an informative webinar explaining how organisations can engage in the consultation process. They gave permission for their [presentation](#) to be added to the UKGSA website for interested parties to download.

In addition, an online information session was held on 5 April 2023 where experts from ECHA and the five national authorities explained the restriction process, the content of the proposal and how to participate in the consultation.

Members of the UKGSA are encouraged to participate in the consultation and share their views.

Message from the Chairman



Simon Winfield
Chair, UKGSA
Director, MacLellan Rubber

Welcome to the Spring Issue of Cutting Edge; we hope that you enjoy reading the updates from Members many of whom are busy with new projects, machinery and people.

After all the turbulence that was happening around the time of our Winter issue, recent months have felt calm by comparison, and whilst the headlines continue to report inflation pressures and disruption due to industrial action, the expectation that many of those pressures will ease as we move through the second quarter of 2023 and beyond is genuine.

Whilst easing inflation numbers as a result of historical increases falling out of the equation shouldn't be confused with cost reductions; there are strong signs that some, but not all, of those price spikes as a result of Covid and the war in Ukraine are receding, transport and energy in particular. OPEC's decision to reduce output in recent weeks in an attempt to keep the price of oil high was surprising, but will further strengthen the drive for western economies to develop cleaner energy solutions, strive for greater efficiencies in energy use, and re-shore supply chains where possible.

The big concern highlighted in this issue is the current review being undertaken by ECHA for a complete ban on PFAs, there are links to information from Chemours

and advice on how to get involved. The HSE has this week issued its own preliminary review which seems to be more realistic given the essential use of PFAs in many industrial and commercial products. The Association is engaging in this debate on behalf of the Members and the wider industry and will report further as the review progresses.

Also in this issue, an article about misrepresentation of information on material quality and standards which was highlighted by several of our Members and investigated by the Association. Although this is an uncommon occurrence, we have the expertise in our Association and will always work on behalf of Members to investigate and report as appropriate.

Finally I would remind everyone that this year we celebrate our 30th Anniversary and Alison and Sharon are working hard to make our Annual Charity Dinner a memorable event. We are looking forward to welcoming some of the founding Members of the association as well as all of our current Members. If you are not a Member but would like to join us please contact the Secretariat.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Winfield', written in a cursive style.

Misrepresentations that may impact on Members

UKGSA Members are recognised for the quality of their products and service, and the integrity of their dealings with customers and suppliers and the communications they use in marketing.

With this imperative in mind the Association supports its Members and the wider industry by investigating and exposing misrepresentations and deceptions that may directly impact on Members or indirectly impact on the industry. This support is provided freely by Members with the appropriate technical experience and expertise.

We were recently contacted by several Members concerning a communication being circulated by a third party non-member, purporting that gasket materials supplied by them were the only materials Independently tested and certified as compliant to REACH regulation (EC) No.1907:2006 for SVHC (Substances of Very High Concern) by Intertek and Global Product Compliance Europe AB. The same communication inferred that any other suppliers who were 'self-certifying' were likely supplying non-compliant products to the market.

The Association was asked to investigate the supporting documentation and comments as there have been occasions over several years where the same third party has made unsubstantiated and often defamatory claims about competitor products and unsupported claims about the superior nature of their own.

The UKGSA has reviewed the claims being made and reached out to both organisations referred to.

Intertek were unable to confirm that any testing of rubber materials had been undertaken on behalf of either company referenced in the communication through any of their global sites – it was however noted that the nature of any testing was not clarified and could have been non-polymer related.

Global Product Compliance Europe did not respond to repeated requests however a review of the document provided clearly states that a **non-testing approach** has been used and **assessment made based on information and declaration provided** – which is clearly self-certifying.

ECHA's guidance for Substance in Articles (RIP 3.8) recommends non-testing approaches for SVHC assessment in articles. The same approach has been adapted by us for carrying out the technical assessment.

This certificate of compliance is based upon the qualitative technical assessment performed by GPC Regulatory India Private Limited and includes the information and declaration provided by [REDACTED] at the time this certificate was generated.

After seeking confirmation from Member distributors that their materials are compliant with REACH regulation (EC) No.1907:2006 and that appropriate checking was undertaken throughout the supply chain, the review's conclusion is that the claims being made are without merit and 'significantly misrepresent the quality of the products being offered', and that the supporting documents 'are of little or no commercial relevance' to the claims of compliance to REACH, and that they have failed to demonstrate in any way that their own materials are better or worse than those available to the general market. It was also noted that verifying the source of any materials purported to be from a competitor via a third party is likely to be spurious.

The UK Gasket and Sealing Association finds it unacceptable that companies seek to gain a commercial advantage through misrepresentation and falsehoods and we reaffirm our commitment to call this out whenever and wherever it is identified.

William Johnston & Company Limited Celebrate 50 Years in Inverness



In the early 1970s Scotland was experiencing the early stages of its ‘Oil Boom’ with rapid exploration and development of oil and natural gas fields in the often raging North Sea, the main base for the servicing and support of these being in Aberdeen.

It was there that the global oil majors and their multi-national suppliers headed to establish bases to work alongside local businesses, often previously fishing operations, to exploit the hydrocarbon resources lying offshore which required oil rigs and miles of pipelines to get them ashore and beyond to refineries and markets.

In April 1973, Glasgow based William Johnston & Company Limited which was already the leading independent gasket manufacturer in Scotland, intending to benefit from the “Oil boom”, established a branch in modest premises in Anderson Street, Inverness which is nearly 100 miles to the west of Aberdeen. Why Inverness?

The company had its origins and main customer base in the shipyards on the River Clyde and the heavy industries of steel and locomotive manufacturing in the West of Scotland. Many of these customers took their skills and resources to the Moray and Dornoch Firths (these being inland and mainly calm seaways lying to the north of Inverness) where the oil rigs were built prior to being floated out to the North Sea. With these customer connections and by establishing the only gasket manufacturer in the Highlands, the company enjoyed early success and growth assisted by recruiting as Branch Manager, William Ross, an experienced Inverness local.

In 1982 the company moved to brand new premises on Seafield Road in the Longman Industrial Estate, Inverness where, after

being extended and upgraded over the years, it remains today, operating a business which is somewhat different to the one set up 50 years ago.

As the construction of oil rigs declined the business diversified into selling products to the whisky distilling industry and today counts almost all the globally recognised brands among its customers. As whisky production has grown so has the engineering sector which supports it and William Johnston & Company Limited supplies a variety products for the installation of copper distillation stills and the myriad of pipes and processes associated with these.

The population of Inverness has also expanded rapidly over the past 25 years so the construction and infrastructure sectors have grown to meet the demand for housing. These rely on the Inverness branch as the only manufacturer of gaskets in the Highlands and Islands for quality products, including a wide range of specialist fasteners, and high levels of customer service.

The North of Scotland can be very inhospitable in winter and William Johnston & Company Limited have been key suppliers of rubber snow plough blades to the various roads authorities to enable them to keep the main highways, which are so vital for communications and delivery of goods to remote Highland areas, free of snow.

Billy Hardie, company Director, who has been with William Johnston & Company Limited for forty-two years and has worked in the Inverness branch since 1985 said, “It is a privilege to live and work in the Highlands and Inverness in particular; a privilege born of the pioneering spirit of our early Directors.

Fifty years on we retain our USP as the only gasket cutting facility in the Highland and Islands, which is a definite advantage but we take particular pride that our sustained growth and influence is as much a product of our customer service and in depth knowledge of the area and people - with all their nuances.

This branch has flourished as we embraced the Company’s ‘can do’ ethos to diversify into new markets and products, such as performance plastics, tank lid and door seals, insulation goods and a wide range of standard and specialist fasteners to cope with shifts in demand over the decades. We see this as a necessity when operating in a very large geographical area with very few OEMs and myriad small, diverse and fluid industries.

‘I’m not sure if those Directors back in 1973 had planned to have the long term presence in Inverness we have enjoyed but the current Board do and we look forward to many more years supporting this beautiful part of the United Kingdom, its industries and people.’

Update from Kewell Converters Ltd



The days are finally getting longer and with any luck, it will have stopped raining by the time this goes to print!

We experienced a bit of a lull with orders and enquiries during the first few weeks after Christmas. Difficult to pinpoint exactly why, but I suspect the overall economy and general uncertainty was to blame. During this time, we took the opportunity to update and refresh our branding. We think it's important to shake things up from time to time to help get everyone focused on our common sales and marketing goals.

Thankfully, once we got into February and March our enquiry numbers rocketed, and the factory has been overrun with work! As a result, March is on course to be our best month of the current financial year. With the addition of some promising projects on the horizon, we're hoping this trend will continue through the rest of Spring, Summer and beyond.

We're still very focused on growth and have multiple Production and Pre-Production vacancies that we're trying to fill, but that's never easy. Please visit our website or Linked-in page for details if you know anyone looking for work in this area.

Finally, as part of our ongoing commitment to improving service levels and quality for our customers, we've invested in a new FastWeld machine, which will be a game changer for our finishing and assembly team! Production times will be vastly improved and the need for adhesives on certain work eliminated, which we're hoping will ultimately make us more cost effective for our clients!



Job Vacancies

We are currently recruiting for the following positions:

Manufacturing Engineer

We are seeking a highly motivated Manufacturing Engineer to join the team, working internally with our Production, Sales, and Customer Care Teams. You will be responsible for several key aspects within the manufacturing and production process, making a critical contribution to the business growth and development.

For full details visit: <https://www.kewell-converters.co.uk/news/job-vacancy---manufacturing-engineer>

Production Operator

We are looking for a machine operator to operate specialty machinery to fabricate, manufacture or assemble; maintain and monitor the machine; conduct quality checks; record production data; perform production tasks and more.

For full details visit: <https://www.kewell-converters.co.uk/news/production-operator>



Unlock the Power of Precision with AXYZ Routers



CUSTOMER COST CUTTING EVENT

Unlock the power of precision with our best prices yet!

GET 20% OFF

virtually all AXYZ CNC Routers

Hurry, this pricing will not last!



Leading global manufacturer of CNC router machines and knife systems, AXYZ, announces its Customer Cost Cutting offer of **20% off** the purchase of virtually all AXYZ CNC Routers, until April 19, 2023. AXYZ is dedicated to providing their customers with versatile and precise cutting systems, and this offer will allow more businesses to access AXYZ's top-quality routers.

TRIDENT - READY FOR ANY JOB

The TRIDENT is a standard 3-device configuration consisting of a spindle, tangential knife, and oscillating knife. This setup provides the right cutting tools to process virtually any material with precision and speed, making it perfect for any business looking for high-performance cutting systems.

PANELBUILDER - THE GLOBAL LEADER IN CLADDING PRODUCTION

INFINITE - INNOVATIVE FEATURES MAXIMIZE PRODUCTIVITY

Designed on a modular platform, the machine can be configured to cut materials in all sizes, from insulation

foam to cast plate aluminium. The choice of cutting head including knives, spindles, or drills opens the machine to many applications.

Contact Us

For businesses looking to take advantage of this offer and get their hands on the TRIDENT, INFINITE or PANELBUILDER Router, contact AXYZ Sales by completing the online contact form or call 01952 291600. For more details on the promotion, please click here:

<https://www.axyz.com/cut-costing-event/>

To browse a variety of Router options, parts, and accessories, visit CNCShop.com. AXYZ is excited to help more businesses unlock the power of precision and take their production capabilities to the next level with AXYZ Routers.

For more information on the AXYZ range of routers:

www.axyz.com

Tel: **01952 291600**

Email: enquiries@axyz.com

HITEK Electronic Materials Ltd are proud to be sponsoring the Alfa Romeo Championships for a third season running.



HITEK
ELECTRONIC MATERIALS LTD



2023 marks the 42nd consecutive year of racing for the 750 Motor Club HITEK Electronic Materials Alfa Romeo Championship. Whether bonding structural components, deadening vibrations, making pit-stop improvements or protecting ECU's from electronic interference or thermal issues, HITEK has a solution to help. HITEK stock a wide range of structural adhesives, thread lockers, liquid gasket, thermal management materials and encapsulants, available through their [online shop](#), if you would like to contact to discuss your application, HITEK have over 35 years of technical expertise in the industry.

Alfa Romeo Championship Coordinator – Andy Robinson said, “I am delighted to announce that we have reached agreement with HITEK Electronic Materials Ltd for another season as our headline sponsor. As well as sponsoring the Championship itself, they will be sponsoring our Driver of the Day/Weekend award and this prestigious trophy will carry their title and logo. Sincere thanks to Jim Lawton and all the team at HITEK for continuing with us. They are great people at a great company, and we are proud to be associated with them in this mutually beneficial way.”

A friendly and supportive championship, who welcome new and experienced drivers. More than just a championship, a racing community, helping and respecting other competitors and promoting clean, close exciting racing. The races take place at all major UK circuits over 6 race weekends through the season with 12 races in total. As well as Alfa Romeos they welcome Fiat, Abarth and Lancia models in 2 of their classes.

If you would like to like to find out more about the upcoming races this season, please head over to <https://alfaracer.com/2023-season/>

Contact HITEK Electronic Materials Ltd <https://www.hitek-ltd.co.uk/>

Follow on LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/hitek-electronic-materials-ltd/>

Apprenticeship Ambassador



Tim Maslen and Stephen Wilde being awarded Apprentice Employer of the Year by Penny Mordaunt, MP.

Stephen Wilde, managing director of Southbourne Rubber (SBR), has been accepted into the South West Apprenticeship Ambassador Network.

Stephen said: "Apprentices are the kingpin to what we are striving to achieve here at SBR.

"Congratulations and many thanks to our very first apprentice Rob Cuffe whose six year anniversary was in March. Rob is now Sales Manager and leading SBR's sales charge across global markets.

"With additional young talent supporting and underpinning the rapid growth SBR is undertaking, the future's bright, the future's in our apprentices' hands."



Rob Cuffe

High-flying engineer advances through his apprenticeship



Talented technician, Adam Ratcliffe, is the first to gain a Level 3 engineering qualification through J A Harrison's apprenticeship programme.

Adam passed his Level 3 machinist qualification after finishing a four-and-a-half year apprenticeship which started when joined the company straight from school.

He was introduced to J A Harrison by his dad, Paul, a long-serving employee who is now the business's technical director.

"While I was still at school I sometimes used to accompany my dad when he worked on Saturdays. I saw the CNC machine and my interest began there," said Adam.

Workplace development was combined with training from Bolton-based Alliance Learning.

On completing his course the 21-year-old topped his class with his ability to programme a CNC [Computer Numerical Control] machine and he will be applying his skills to provide J A Harrison's customers with bespoke PTFE components.

"It's been a great apprenticeship – hard work and challenging, but really enjoyable and I've learnt a lot. The support I've received from the engineers on the shop floor has been fantastic," Adam added.

"I'm looking forward to carrying on doing what I'm doing and helping to guide the next two apprentices who'll be starting in September."

Adam's certificate was presented J A Harrison's managing director, Andrew Blythe, who said: "It's very important for us to help develop the next generation of engineers.

"We're delighted that Adam's apprenticeship has proved so successful and we're really proud of what he's achieved."



MacLellan's, a High Quality Specialist Materials Supplier and Volume Stockist



MacLellan
rubber



MacLellan Rubber has long been an innovator and distributor of high-quality Polymer Sheetting materials, developed to meet changing legislation, industry needs or sometimes just for the challenge. The reality is that often, great products have to find their place in the market and sometimes the market simply doesn't want to change what isn't broken.

Standard Natural, Neoprene, Nitrile and EPDM materials remain as much in demand as ever and we continue to support our customers in their requirements with high volumes of stock and next day delivery.

Additionally, we have significantly increased our stocks of **Si60 White Silicone** in 1200mm wide and genuine Chemours **Viton**™ to meet the increasing demand for these high-performance staples and offer market leading prices in both materials.

For those of our customers working in more specialist areas –

- **M396 Metal Detectable Nitrile** - after a challenging time with raw material suppliers during Covid this is now fully stocked and lead times for bulk down to a matter of weeks.
- **RAIL45 EPDM to EN45545** – this material has gained approval through a number of European rail engineering companies supplying Hitachi, Siemens, Alstom, and alike, and is available from stock in a range of thicknesses.
- **EnviroPolymer** manufactured from 95%+ renewably sourced or recycled materials is a market leading EPDM for ecologically conscious customers looking to meet the highest standards and achieve the lowest impact on the environment.
- **MacMount & MacVibe** Vibration Isolation Pad range to reduce audible noise and vibration transmission in a wide range of industrial applications from Transformers to HVAC, are available from stock in standard sheet sizes.

For more information on any of these products visit our website www.maclellanrubber.com or contact your account manager on 01902 307711

Focus on Seals for the Chemical Industry



Moontown Ltd specializes in high-performance, safety critical sealing solutions for the Chemical Processing Industry. We know how vital it is for processing plants to use high-performance sealing solutions, maximising efficiency whilst minimising downtime and expensive (and potentially) dangerous leakage.

We manufacture a huge variety of seals for chemical processing that are found within the daily operation of processing plants such as pumps, agitators, compressors, valves, flanges, pipes, and ducts where gases and liquids must be stored, transported and sealed safely. Our portfolio of seal products including PTFE Spring Energised Seals, Chevron Packing Sets, Ball Valve Seats, O Rings, U Seals, Gland Packing are all widely used in the production and storage of chemicals.

Our chemical resistant seal materials such as PTFE, PEEK, & POM (many of which hold NORSOK, API 6A & FDA approvals) can withstand the extreme operating conditions exerted on them including temperature extremes and aggressive media,

which we achieve through a conscientious design process and the use of specialised materials. Seal energisers can be supplied in FPM, EPDM, NBR, HNBR and Silicone. Elgiloy or Phynox energiser materials are approved to NACE MR0 175.

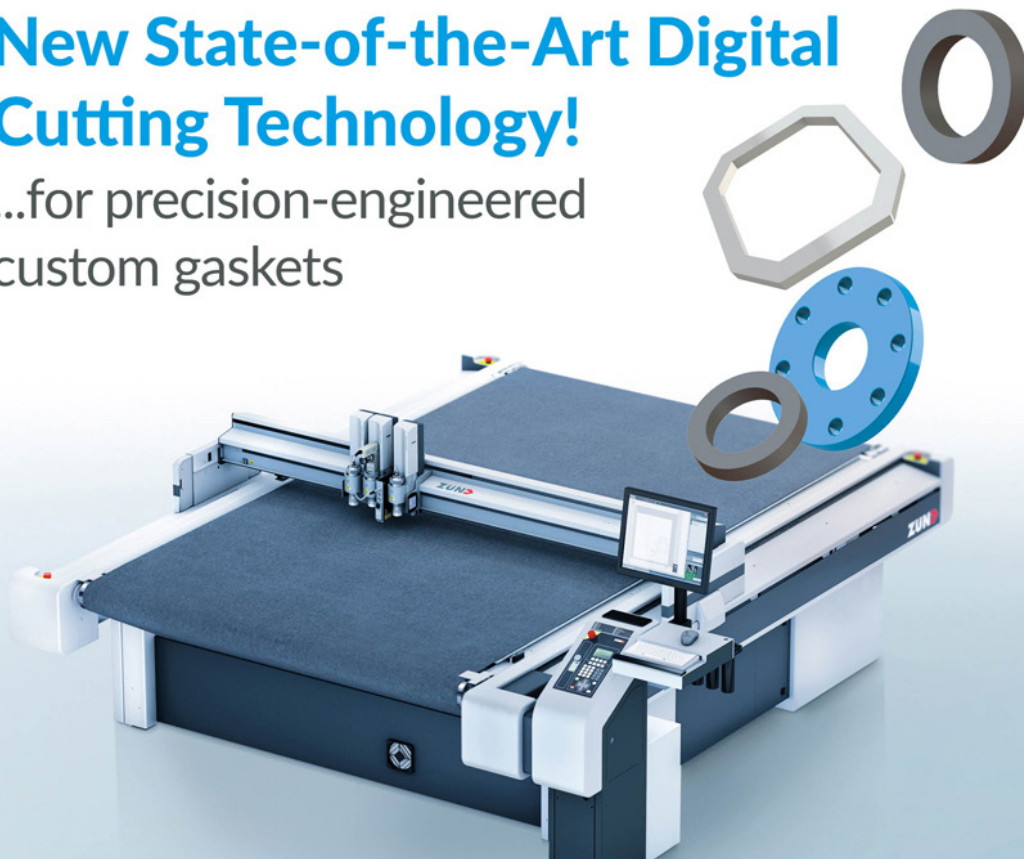
In addition to our high performance plastic and polymer seals we also offer a range of metallic seals – these are often used in applications where factors such as temperature, radiation, corrosion or permeability exclude the use of traditional PTFE Seals. This range includes metal C rings, E rings and O Rings. These seals are suitable for gas and liquid applications and are suitable for extreme high temperatures and pressures.

MOONTOWN can advise upon suitable materials, seal profiles and offer a sample manufacture service. We will gladly make site visits if necessary, with full reporting back up and 3D CAD drawings to support new designs or reverse engineered solutions.

Southbourne Rubber Expands Capabilities With New, State-of-the-Art Digital Cutting Technology!

New State-of-the-Art Digital Cutting Technology!

...for precision-engineered custom gaskets



SBR offers the latest digital cutting service for custom and precision-engineered gaskets. Following recent investment in a high-speed digital cutter from Zund UK Ltd, SBR now has the capability to support rapid prototyping and production batches with 24/7 operation, enabling them to offer the complete service to their customers.

Gaskets, both standard and custom, are available from SBR in a range of materials including:

- Natural and synthetic solid rubber
- Rubber insertions and diaphragm materials
- Foam (open cell and closed)
- CNAF

- Self-adhesive
- PTFE
- Cork

With SBR's specialist knowledge, they also offer design assistance to ensure the parts required meet operational and performance expectations.

The Zünd digital cutter can help with prototyping support through to full production. For a quick quote, design assistance and competitive pricing, contact them on sales@sbr.aero +44 (0)23 9225 5180

Visit to Paper Gasket Manufacturer



One of the UK's leading manufacturers and distributors of paper gasket products who celebrates 25 years of family ownership this year, is welcoming Members of the UKGSA to tour their facilities.

On **Wednesday 20 September 2023**, Jointine Products (Lincoln) Ltd is hosting a visit to their head office in Lincoln. Jointine Products manufacture and distribute a variety of high quality paper gasket materials in roll format exporting more than 95% of their products to more than 50 countries worldwide!

Jane Smith, Managing Director of Jointine Products said: "We manufacture more soft paper gasket material for the automotive and engineering industries than any other producer in the world, and we're delighted to have the opportunity to welcome fellow Members of the UKGSA to our site in Lincoln."

Simon Winfield, Chairman of the UKGSA said: "By organising a visit to Jointine the day before the UKGSA's Annual Golf Day & Charity Dinner in Lincoln, we are hoping to attract Members travelling to the golf day to visit Jointine. The company has been Members of the UKGSA for a number of years and we look forward to them hosting this Open Door event for our Members."

To book your place at this event, download the booking form on our website.
<https://ukgsassociation.co.uk/events/visit-to-jointine/>



Celebrating our 30th Anniversary at our Annual Golf Day & Charity Black Tie Dinner



This year's annual golf day will be held on Thursday, 21 September at Belton Woods Hotel, Spa and Golf Resort in Lincolnshire. Not only will the event see the return of our most popular event, but we are also celebrating our 30th Anniversary as an association!

We encourage all Members to book a place at the event! We've invited some of our founding members to join us on this celebratory occasion – come along and meet them to see how it all started! We'll also be taking a celebratory group photo of all attendees which you can take away as a keepsake on the night.

Golf

The venue is an official hotel partner for the PGA EuroPro Tour and boasts 36 holes over challenging courses and picturesque Lincolnshire countryside. The four star luxury hotel includes a glamorous spa and health club.

Enjoy a full day of golf playing Stableford rules in teams of four. Teams will be mixed up to optimise networking opportunities. Much sought after trophies will be awarded in the evening to individuals and to teams. Sponsorship of our trophies is available – see website for details.

Charity Dinner

If you're not a golfer you can relax in the onsite spa (please book direct) and you can join us for the Black Tie Dinner in the evening (from 7pm). As it's our anniversary this year, we're asking all those attending to wear black tie attire to really celebrate 30 years of the association.

Members can also book a table-top exhibition during pre-dinner drinks in the bar next to the main dining room to showcase their products and services to those at the event.

The event will raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support, our nominated charity and one we have supported for a number of years, which commences with a lively Heads & Tails game followed by a raffle.

Accommodation is arranged at the hotel on a first come, first served basis so please book early!

How to book

It promises to be a fantastic event - to book your place, [download our booking form](#) from our website.

Busy time for SJG International



The first quarter of the year has been an exceptionally busy one with lots going on at SJG International. We have embarked on further investment in the buildings and machinery at our site in Alcester, Warwickshire.

We are nearly at the end of installation of solar panels on our roofing. This has always been a project on the “to do list” but with the future costs of energy so uncertain, we decided to invest and also support a greener approach.

We have also replaced all windows in the building and had a complete refresh of all of the office space, so these things alone have kept us busy!

During February we exhibited at the Southern Manufacturing and Electronics Show which was a three day event at the Farnborough International Exhibition and Conference Centre. It was a busy show for us, and we had many compliments on the stand which was nice to hear. It was a great opportunity to speak with customers

old and new and the follow up interest and conversion has been strong.

Looking ahead to the next few months will see further testing and trialling of new materials, with a focus on areas such as recyclability.

We also have a number of projects with customers who will be visiting the site, and we will also be continuing to support the Heart of Worcester College with visits from a number of their students to help them gain a better understanding of engineering and manufacturing.



Authorised Distributor of Chemours Viton™



The Chemours Company FC, LLC have revalidated its agreement recognising MacLellan Rubber Limited as an Authorised Distributor of Viton™, a brand of the Chemours Company. This means that MacLellan Rubber continue to be officially recognised and acknowledged as selling products and material made with genuine Viton™.

Simon Winfield, director at MacLellan, said: “When we were first accepted in 2017 as an official partner working with Chemours to promote and sell genuine Viton™ materials and products to our customers, we recognised this as a huge privilege. The re-signing of the License Agreement provides evidence to our customers that we continue to be one of only a few companies in the UK who Chemours trust as members of the Viton™ Licensee Program and authorised to sell ‘genuine’ products made with Viton™.”

As an official partner MacLellan Rubber are able to use the Official Partner of Viton™ brand and the Viton™ Fluoroelastomer Seal.

The misrepresentation of FKM products being miss-sold as genuine Viton™ continues to be a major concern for Chemours and the accreditation given through the Authorised Distributor programme provides customers with a genuine guarantee of quality compliance that is not available from unlicensed or third-party suppliers.

Ask your supplier... **“are you an official Licensee?”**

Wear a Hat Day in aid of Brain Tumour Research



On Friday, 31 March, staff at Corseal Limited hosted a fundraising day for Brain Tumour Research.

Wear a hat day arrives as the culmination of weeks of awareness and campaigning as part of Brain Tumour Awareness month.

Here at Corseal we wore a hat in the office all day! If you would like to sponsor us, or just give to this wonderful charity, you can do so by clicking the link below:

Just Giving page - <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/corsealhatday>

Find out more about [Brain Tumour Research.](#)



News In Brief

Congratulations to The Seal Extrusion Company for achieving ISO9001 quality management certification.

William Johnston & Company Limited have added their highly accurate Link-Seal calculator to their website to give their customers an easy way to calculate their own element size and number.

[Read more.](#)

Congratulations to Silicone Engineering's Abdul Sawant for being one of their longest-serving employees. Abdul is pictured receiving his award certificate for 25 years' anniversary from Operations Director, Mustaq Patel.



HITEK Electronic Materials said a fond farewell to Dave Seward who has retired after 25+ years at the company. Enjoy your retirement Dave!



Patrick Stephen, Product Manager at James Walker, was featured in Valve World explaining 'What is RGD and why is resistance to this phenomenon so critical to many sealing applications in the oil and gas industry?' [Read more](#)

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](#).

Moontown Ltd have the following available:

- 50 x 25mm Diameter Virgin PTFE Rod, 2M lengths @ £28.00 per length
- 55,000 x BS020 V75 O Rings, Cure Date 1Q20 @ £0.05 each

Reasonable offers may be entertained.

For more information contact Steven Ratcliffe:
steven.ratcliffe@moontown.co.uk

J P Polymer Sheetings Ltd have the following material for sale:

C22 50deg Shore Neoprene Black solid rubber sheeting

Roll size: 1.4mt x 10mt x 3mm
Price: £5.30m2 (based on minimum 10 roll lots)
78 rolls available

For more information please contact Dean Barrett (UK Sales Manager) at JP Polymer Sheeting's Ltd -
dean@jppolymer.co.uk

William Johnston & Company Ltd have the following material for sale:

Original Manufacturer : Zenith Rubber / Metroseal

SM1456 – 6.0mm thick

Rectangular Pads

74 – 1134MM X 1134MM
9 – 1188MM X 1188MM
5 – 750MM X 1188MM
£400.00

SM1454 – 6.0mm thick

Rectangular Pads

8 – 1190MM X 980MM
8 – 1950MM X 780MM
£75.00

Ex-works Glasgow
Contact: Robert Dawson, Commercial Director
e-mail: robert@williamjohnston.co.uk
Mobile: 07947 764 577

**To share your offcuts or
offers on our website or in
our newsletter,
[email the secretariat](#)**

Resources On Our Website

RESOURCES

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 gasket 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/>

Expanding our technical resources

Members are invited to submit videos explaining a technical aspect of their products or services to share knowledge with other members and visitors to our website. This could be anything from how to store material correctly, how to use a particular product, choosing the right material for an application and so on. If you would like to share a video, please contact the Secretariat.

We would also like to share White Papers – if you have any that you would like adding to our resource bank please contact the Secretariat.

If you would like to add information to these Resources, please contact the Secretariat: info@ukgsassociation.co.uk

Meet Your Committee



Sandy McEwen
VICE CHAIR & FUNDRAISING



Sam Bradley
TREASURER



James Salt
GOLF COMPETITION ORGANISER



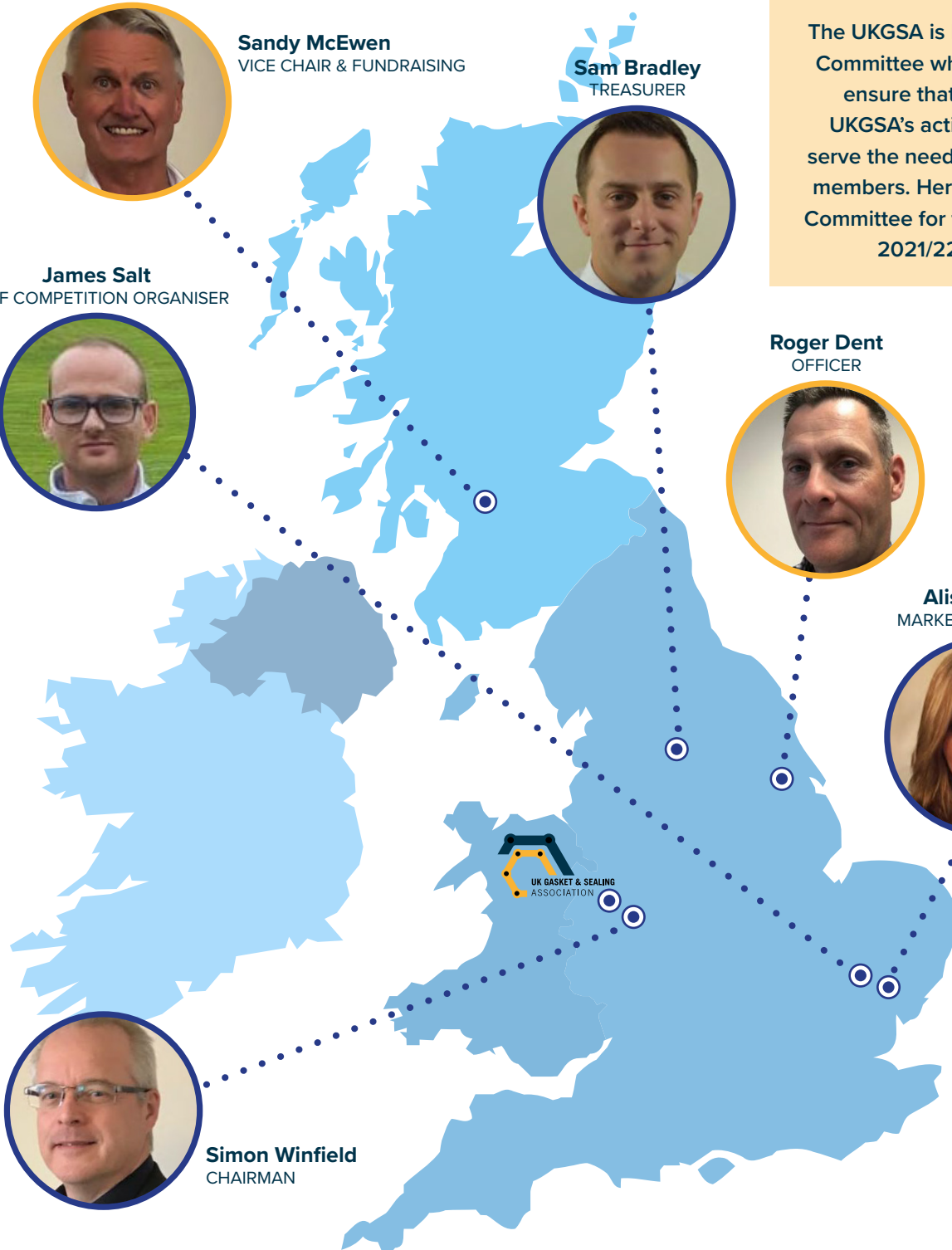
Roger Dent
OFFICER



Alison Ansell
MARKETING & EVENTS



Simon Winfield
CHAIRMAN



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

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
T: 0121 5205782 F: 0121 5203515
www.asrubber.com

British Felt Co.

Unit 5, Fingle Drive, Stonebridge,
Milton Keynes,
Buckinghamshire MK13 0AT
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www.britishfelt.com

Corseal Limited

Unit 5A, Bull Lane Industrial Estate,
Acton, Suffolk CO10 0BD
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Cutting Systems UK Ltd

Units 25 & 29, Francis Court, Norris Way,
Rushden, Northamptonshire NN10 6AY
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Direct Gaskets Ltd

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Flemings Seals and Polymers Limited

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West Yorkshire HD6 1ES
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Flexitallic UK Ltd.

Scandinavia Mill, Hunsworth Lane,
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J P Polymer Sheetings Limited

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James Walker & Co. Ltd

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Jointine Products (Lincoln) Limited

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Keith Payne Products Limited

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Kewell Converters Ltd

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T: 01732 864310 F: 01732 865206
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Lonestar Leeds Limited

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MacLellan Rubber Ltd

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Monarch Gasket & Sealing Ltd

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Moontown Ltd

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RGH Rubber and Plastics Ltd

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Silicone Engineering Ltd

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Blakewater Road, Blackburn,
Lancs BB1 3HU
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www.silicone.co.uk

SJG International Limited

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Forest Ind. Estate, Alcester B49 6ES
T: 01789 763721
www.sjginternational.com

Southbourne Rubber Co. Ltd

47, Aston Road, Waterlooville,
Hampshire PO0 7XJ
T: 02392 255180
www.sbr.aero

The Seal Extrusion Company Limited

Unit 5A, Bull Lane Industrial Estate,
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T: 01787 827070
www.sealextrusions.com

V-Seal Ltd

Unit 2, Park Road Mills, Park Road,
Elland, West Yorkshire HX5 9HX
T: 01422 300009 F: 01422 363025
www.vseal.co.uk

WARDJet

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William Johnston & Company Limited

9, Speirsbridge Terrace, Thornliebank
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WR Gaskets Limited

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