

SUMMER 2023



Celebrating 30 Years as an Association

The UK Gasket & Sealing Association
(the Association) is celebrating its 30th
anniversary this year (2023).

(Find out more on page 2)

THIS ISSUE:

Anniversary / Growth / Partnerships / Events

Celebrating 30 Years as an Association

Continued from previous page...

The Association represents the interests of its membership consisting of UK based companies, the primary business of which is the manufacture of gaskets from raw materials and/or the manufacture of joint sealants and/or the supply or manufacture of materials or finished products used in the sealing industry and/or associated industries. It facilitates the exchange of information and ideas and enhances the reputation and standing of members. With many of the UK's leading manufacturers and suppliers as members, the Association continues to go from strength to strength.

Simon Winfield, Chairman of the Association and Director of MacLellan Rubber Ltd, said: "I've been involved in the Association and part of the Executive Committee for many years. The openness with which members offer technical support to fellow members, such as advice with material selection and production issues, or collaborate on larger projects, is testament to the quality of the companies we have as members."

Sandy McEwen, Vice Chair of the Association and consultant to William Johnson & Company Ltd, said: "William Johnson & Company Ltd is proud to be one of the original founding members and continues to have an active role. The Association provides a forum to network and develop strategic partnerships with quality businesses which help companies maintain a commercial advantage. Congratulations to the Association on achieving its 30th anniversary!"

Keith Shepherd, director at J A Harrison, said: "J A Harrison and Alliance and Heatshield are proud to be one of the founder members of the GCA. Over the 30 years we have built up some fantastic personal and business relationships. It's only a shame that more gasket cutters couldn't see that membership would only be to their advantage. In turn, this would help the Association grow and have more standing in the market with customers and suppliers alike."

The Association initially represented companies involved in gasket cutting, but changed its name to include 'Sealing' to incorporate members who manufacture and supply products and services to the sealing sector and better reflect its membership.

Networking was, and remains, a key focus for the association with a range of technical, educational and social events held

each year. Member 'open door' events have been introduced where smaller groups visit a site to tour facilities and receive technical presentations on products and services.

In more recent years the Association has launched a new website to better promote its Members, events and news; it proactively engages with the industry through social media channels; undertakes regular member surveys regarding relevant issues and the general state of the industry; it continues to represent Members by raising issues and lobbying national bodies. The Association is currently highlighting the EU REACH consultation on restricting PFAS.

Members have also collaborated to develop a Resources area on the Association's website sharing useful technical information such as industry standards, material storage guidelines, product trade names together with member offers.

The Association now partners with a number of leading industry events such as Adhesives & Bonding Expo, CHEMUK, Fasteners Expo, Foam & Adhesives Expo, and Silicone Expo, further supporting our members who exhibit at these shows.

The Association welcomes established companies from the industry as well as start-ups and companies created following mergers and acquisitions. Companies who sell products and services to the industry, such as cutting machinery suppliers, are also reaping the benefits of joining the Association.

The 30th anniversary falls in September when the Association is holding its AGM, [Annual Golf Day](#) and Black Tie Dinner. This is the largest event in the calendar bringing together all members, who also participate in fundraising events to raise money for Macmillan Cancer.

Many long-term business relationships and friendships have formed over the last 30 years and the Association looks forward to being a conduit for this continuing for many years to come.

If you are interested in joining the Association, [visit the website](#) for more information and to download our membership pack or contact the Association's Secretariat at info@ukgsassociation.co.uk



Chairman's report



Simon Winfield
Chair, UKGSA
Director, MacLellan Rubber

Welcome to the Summer Issue of Cutting Edge which although full of positive updates from Members, is tempered with the sad passing of Ken Robbins, one of our founding Members. I only met Ken a few times before he retired from running Alliance & Heatshield, then part of the J A Harrison Group, but he was always a gentleman to do business with, passionate about the industry, knowledgeable and particularly effective at winning business.

We were also shocked by the announcement of Gee Graphite falling into administration. Fortunately, many of the skilled employees have secured positions with other Member companies. This highlights the pressures many within our industry are facing due to the cumulative impact of Brexit, Covid, and the illegal war in Ukraine on costs, and the stresses on cash flow and alike due to increased interest rates and lack of support from both government and the wider financial system.

Focusing on better news, many of the articles in this edition highlight further new investment in plant and equipment being made by our Members, their achievements in securing new markets and radically improving their businesses, and showing how even in these challenging times we can all do something to support our local communities.

The Association continues to support the work being undertaken by Chemours to limit the scope on restricting PFAS which we believe will have a significant negative impact on members should it be adopted as a complete ban. But we also acknowledge the work being undertaken within industry to develop alternatives to PFAS, although this is unlikely to bear any fruit before the potential ban is introduced.

Finally, I make no apology for reminding everyone that this year we celebrate our 30th Anniversary and I would encourage everyone to book their place at our Charity Dinner and fundraiser on 21st September 2023. If you want to play golf or use the spa facilities at Belton Woods the booking team are here to support you. We want to make this a memorable event and 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 for the day or just the evening you can book using the online form or contact the secretariat.

I would also encourage you to join us on a technical visit of Jointine Products on 20 September 2023, again please see the website for booking details.

Have a great summer, enjoy the sunshine, if it ever comes back, and I hope to see you all in September.

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

Obituary

Ken Robbins



We are deeply saddened to recently learn about the death of Ken Robbins who was one of the founding members of the Gasket Cutters Association. It is particularly poignant as we mark our 30th anniversary of the association this year and we hoped Ken would join us in our celebrations.

Ken passed away peacefully after a long battle with cancer.

Ken worked for Avon Group and later for Alliance and Heatshield, as well as for UKGSA Member, J A Harrison.

The funeral took place on 4 July 2023 at Langstone Vale Crematorium, and afterwards at the Masonic Hall in Chepstow.

Donations can be made to St David's Hospice Care and the association made a donation in Ken's memory.

SJG International Ltd improves efficiency and accuracy with AAG



AAG is a leading global manufacturer of CNC routers and waterjet cutting solutions, focused on helping companies of all sizes improve their automation. With over 30 years of experience, they have built and installed thousands of CNC and waterjet cutting systems across a wide array of industries. From metals, plastics and foams and everything in between, they are a world leader in producing cutting system that will help your business grow and expand to exciting new levels.

One of the companies that they have supplied is [SJG International Ltd](#), an award winning, market-leading manufacturer of rubber extrusion, gaskets and foam conversions. The company supplies gaskets, washers and sheeting material to a wide range of customers including military and defence to automotive and rail, sports and leisure and many more who need sealing solutions for various applications. They work with their customers to produce rubber and foam solutions that seal, insulate, protect and cushion in often difficult and challenging environments and can assist at every stage of the process, from designing a first prototype to choosing the right materials.

Employing 50 staff, everything that is produced is designed, tooled and manufactured at their custom-built unit in Alcester. SJG International Ltd have full CAD design capabilities in-house and can work from a drawing supplied by the customer or create one to their specifications and requirements. For this to happen they required a machine supplier that had the same exacting standards that they themselves have achieved. They chose AAG, and use **AXYZ Routers** and **WARDJET Waterjets** as part of its manufacturing process for rubber extrusion, gaskets and foam conversions. The use of these advanced technologies from AAG allows SJG International Ltd to produce high-quality components with improved efficiency, speed and accuracy.

When asked why they chose AAG as their preferred supplier Rachel Russell (Purchasing Director) explained: "We have a close relationship with AAG and that has made it easier to work with them to bring new machinery and ideas into the business. As the machines are versatile with cutting, routing and knife cutting



it has allowed us to be more flexible and this has made it easier in attracting a wide variety of clients. Thanks to the continued innovation such as 5 Axis cutting, made possible using our [WARDJET cutter](#) from AAG, and our customer service, we have built a loyal customer base across the world".

There are five models in the [AXYZ Routers range](#); all with their own unique options and versatility to cross over infinite markets. The routers are controlled by AAG's [A2MC controller](#) or the industry leading control interface [MOVE](#) that drives all machine tasks and is designed to optimise the operation of the CNC machines, perform tool changes, set up your work offsets, call up a new file or optimise the cutting speed. MOVE is designed to make machine operation easy and intuitive. Currently SJG International Ltd has four **AXYZ CNC routers** in its portfolio of machines which has enabled SJG International Ltd to produce components with improved accuracy and consistency, reducing the risk of errors and improving the overall quality of its products and reducing lead times and costs.

Also, in the machine make up of SJG International Ltd is the [J-Series WARDJET waterjet](#) – a high-precision cutter that enables them to produce components with complex shapes and designs, with minimal waste and improved accuracy. The **WARDJET** series are offered in varying sizes to adapt to the customers' floor space. The versatility at the manufacturing stage means that machines can be bespoke and built to customers' precise requirements – be it the need for a greater Z-travel or custom fixturing in the table or tooling configurations – **WARDJET** can incorporate the customer's needs.

For more information on SJG International Ltd products and services: sales@sjginternational.com

For more information on the AXYZ range of routers: www.axyz.com

For more information on the WARDJET range of waterjets: www.wardjet.com

Investment in Flexitallic's Aberdeen branch delivers growth



The Aberdeen branch of Flexitallic, has rapidly expanded its stock provisions after the team secured several contracts with major oil and gas operators in the area.

One involves a specification update of several offshore platforms that will see all graphite-based gasket materials replaced with Corriculite®, the corrosion-preventing material developed by Flexitallic.

The new contracts follow the company's investment in moving to a larger 4,600 sq. ft premises at Wellheads Industrial Estate in 2020, which allowed it to expand its gasket stockholding and workshop capabilities and host dedicated bolted joint integrity training and demonstrations.

In addition, the team emphasised showcasing its technical capabilities while developing relationships with new clients who prefer to work directly with a manufacturer that can support with problem-solving.

As well as meeting daily demands, the team has expanded its stockholding of patented products, including Corriculite® and its flange isolation gasket, ISOFLEX FS, which offers significant operators cost-effective and efficient sealing solutions that deliver a dramatic reduction in maintenance costs over the lifetime of an asset.

Flexitallic has also dramatically increased stocks of high-pressure ring-type joint gaskets, mostly used within the Aberdeen market. Customers require these gaskets quickly, and Flexitallic now holds a complete range of ring joints to suit standard ASME and API pressure classes.

Adam Atkinson, who was the branch's Business Development Manager, before his recent promotion to Flexitallic's National Sales Manager, said: "The investment in Flexitallic's branch and the team's hard work in promoting its joint integrity capabilities has been instrumental in its securing of contracts and further growing the business.

"We work closely with oil and gas operators and engineers, who see the benefit of dealing directly with Flexitallic due to its technical expertise, and exemplary customer service.

"For example, corrosion is a significant concern, mainly offshore, that can be addressed by replacing corrosion-causing graphite with Corriculite® or overcoming the corrosive effects of dissimilar metals across flanged connections with Flexitallic's high-performance isolation and inhibitor gaskets.

"Due to our technical capabilities, Flexitallic is no longer viewed solely as a gasket supplier to the Aberdeen market but as a leader in bolted joint integrity."

Part of the global Flexitallic Group, the expanded Aberdeen operation is part of a network of branches in industry-focused locations, including Teesside, Merseyside, and the South West, and its UK headquarters and manufacturing base in West Yorkshire.

Flexitallic

East Anglian Seals offer Large Format Plastic Moulding

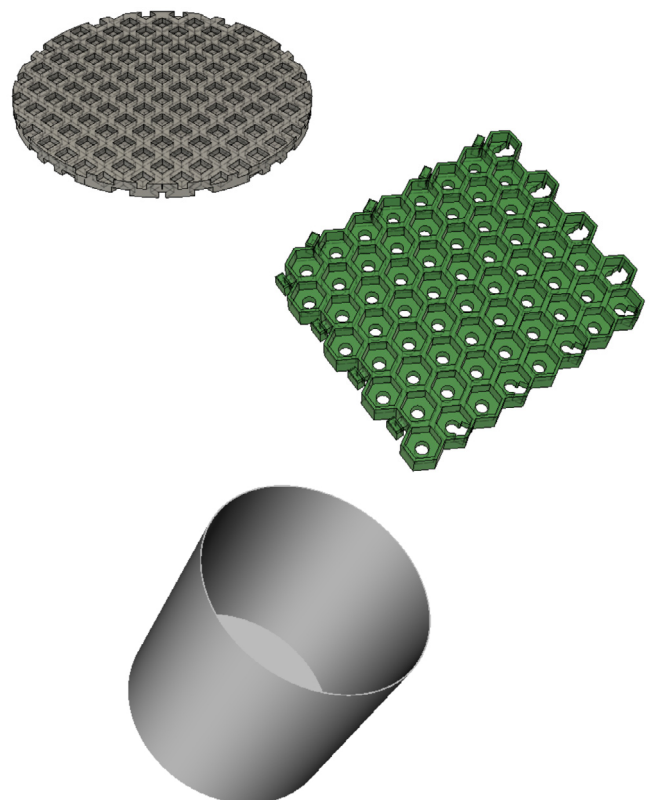


Along with our sister company, Horsemat, we are now working with large format plastic mouldings.

Initially parts will vary in size from 1mt x 1mt x 50mm to 1.3mt x 1.2m x 156mm, but we're hoping that with further machinery we will be able to offer up to 1.5mt x 0.8mt x 0.8mt fairly quickly.

All parts being moulded will be made available for both direct and re-sale and will carry our registered trademark on each unique design.

Watch out for further updates on our website where we'll list the USPs for each product along with pictures of the first off parts from production.

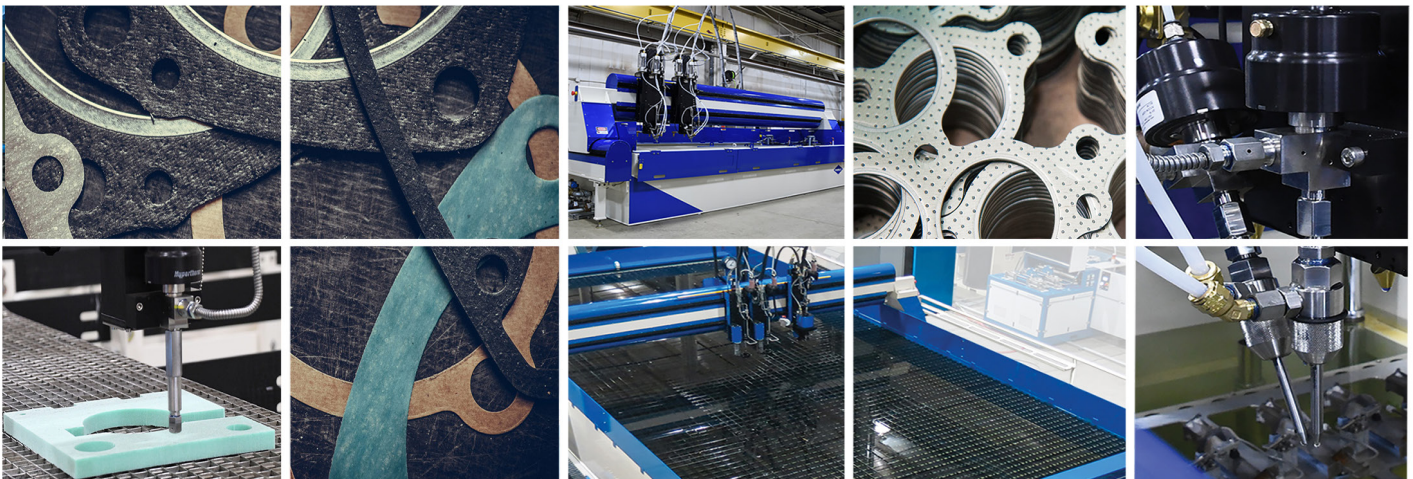


Cyber Essentials Plus Renewal

James Walker is pleased to announce that we have renewed our highly regarded 'Cyber Essentials Plus' certification. The certification is seen as a leading indication of corporate responsibility in securing the company's IT systems for the safe handling and storage of information, and a requirement for many UK Government and Aerospace and Defence supply chain contracts.

We see Cyber Essentials Plus as a critical component of our wider ranging cyber security programme. We will continue to invest in, and further develop our cyber defences throughout our global infrastructure, supported

and delivered by our dedicated cyber security team, to underpin our future success, and reassure our customers that James Walker is a trusted and secure supplier.



WARDJET Waterjets Specialising in Gasket Fabrication

Our WARDJET waterjets breeze through rubber and foam with ease, The easy-to-use controller enables you to change cut designs whenever needed. Increase productivity by using dual cutting heads and multiple layers of material.

WARDJET
TAILORED WATERJET SOLUTIONS

44 1952 291600 | www.wardjet.com | sales@wardjet.com

The importance of air filter foam in HVAC and Automotive Industries



Air filter foam is a critical component in HVAC systems, as it serves to filter and purify the air before it enters the system. By trapping and removing dust, pollen, and other contaminants, air filter foam ensures that the air distributed throughout a building is clean and free of harmful particles. This is particularly important in commercial and industrial settings, where proper air filtration is crucial for the health and safety of occupants.

When high-quality air filter foam is used in HVAC systems, it can improve overall system efficiency and reduce energy consumption. This is because clean air filters allow for better airflow and prevent the system from working harder than necessary. In turn, this can lead to lower energy bills and a reduced environmental impact.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF AIR FILTER FOAM IN THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

In the automotive industry, air filter foam plays a vital role in the performance and longevity of engines. The primary function of an air filter in a vehicle is to prevent dust, dirt, and debris from entering the engine, where they can cause wear and tear on internal components. This, in turn,

can lead to reduced engine performance, increased fuel consumption, and even engine failure.

High-quality air filter foam is essential for maintaining optimal engine performance and ensuring a long lifespan for your vehicle. By choosing a superior air filter foam, you can significantly reduce the risk of engine damage and enjoy the benefits of a smoothly running engine.

THE BENEFITS OF HIGH-QUALITY AIR FILTER FOAM

Investing in high-quality air filter foam can provide a range of benefits for both HVAC and automotive applications:

- **Improved Efficiency:** As mentioned earlier, clean air filters lead to better airflow, which results in improved system efficiency. This can translate into cost savings and reduced energy consumption for both HVAC systems and automotive engines.
- **Enhanced Indoor Air Quality:** High-quality air filter foam can effectively remove contaminants such as dust, pollen, and mould spores, resulting in cleaner air and a healthier environment for building occupants.

Continued on next page...

The importance of air filter foam in HVAC and Automotive Industries

Continued from previous page...

- **Prolonged System Lifespan:** By preventing the build-up of debris and contaminants within HVAC and automotive systems, high-quality air filter foam can help extend the life of these systems and reduce the need for costly repairs or replacements.
- **Reduced Environmental Impact:** By using air filter foam that effectively filters out pollutants, both HVAC and automotive systems can contribute to a cleaner environment and reduced emissions.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF USING POOR QUALITY AIR FILTER FOAM

Using low-quality air filter foam can have negative consequences for both HVAC and automotive systems:

- **Reduced System Efficiency:** Poor quality foam may not filter out contaminants effectively, leading to reduced airflow and decreased system efficiency. This can result in increased energy consumption and higher operating costs.
- **Lower Indoor Air Quality:** Inadequate filtration can allow contaminants to enter the HVAC system, negatively affecting indoor air quality and potentially causing health issues for building occupants.
- **Shortened System Lifespan:** The use of low-quality air filter foam can lead to a build-up of debris within HVAC and automotive systems, causing damage to components and shortening their lifespan.
- **Increased Environmental Impact:** Inefficient filtration can result in higher pollutant emissions from HVAC systems and automotive engines, contributing to a negative environmental impact.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT AIR FILTER FOAM FOR YOUR NEEDS

Selecting the right air filter foam for your HVAC or automotive application is crucial for ensuring optimal performance and system longevity. Here are some factors to consider when choosing air filter foam:

- **Material:** Air filter foams can be made from a variety of materials, including polyurethane, polyester, and polyether. Each material has its advantages and drawbacks, so it's essential to choose a foam that meets the specific requirements of your application.
- **Density:** The density of the foam affects its filtration capabilities, with higher density foams typically providing better filtration performance. However, high-density foams can also restrict airflow, so it's important to strike a balance between filtration efficiency and airflow.
- **Porosity:** The porosity or pore size of the foam will determine the size of particles that can be trapped by the filter. Smaller pore sizes will provide better filtration but may also reduce airflow. Consider the specific needs of your application when selecting the appropriate porosity.
- **Resistance to Chemicals and Temperature:** Ensure that the air filter foam you choose is resistant to the chemicals and temperature ranges commonly encountered in your application.
- **Flame Retardancy:** In certain applications, it's essential to choose a foam that meets specific flame retardancy standards to ensure safety and compliance with regulations.

The importance of air filter foam in HVAC and automotive industries cannot be overstated. By using high-quality foam, you can improve system efficiency, enhance indoor air quality, extend system lifespan, and reduce environmental impact. At Kewell Converters, we pride ourselves on supplying top-quality foam products that meet the specific needs of our clients.



From Declining Business to a Thriving Enterprise



After the former owners retired from the business, leaving a struggling company on the verge of collapse, Southbourne Rubber (SBR) underwent an incredible turnaround under the leadership of Stephen Wilde, now Managing Director. Over the last seven years, Stephen has transformed SBR into a thriving business, and our success story is nothing short of remarkable.

When Stephen took charge in 2016, his intention was to shut the company down. At that time, SBR was facing several challenges, including declining sales, outdated technology, and fierce competition from larger players in the market. However, Stephen discovered that SBR had many top approvals, and after further investigation he was determined to turn things around and put SBR back on the path to success.

One of the first things Stephen did was invest in new technology and equipment which helped to improve the efficiency and quality of SBR's products. He also focused on building a strong team and culture within the company making it a priority to listen to his employees and understand their needs and concerns.

As a result of these efforts, SBR's sales began to grow steadily and the company started to attract new clients from all over the world. Stephen's innovative approach also led to the development of new products and services, such as custom rubber parts for the aviation

industry, which proved to be highly successful. Today, SBR is a well-respected name in the rubber industry, with a reputation for quality and innovation. Our website, www.SBR.aero, showcases our impressive range of products and services.

Our client list includes some of the biggest names in the aviation and aerospace industries.

However, perhaps the most inspiring aspect of SBR's turnaround is the impact it has had on the lives of our employees. Under Stephen's leadership, SBR has become a place where people are proud to work and where their contributions are valued and rewarded. Many employees have started as apprentices and they credit Stephen's leadership for helping to create a positive and supportive work environment.

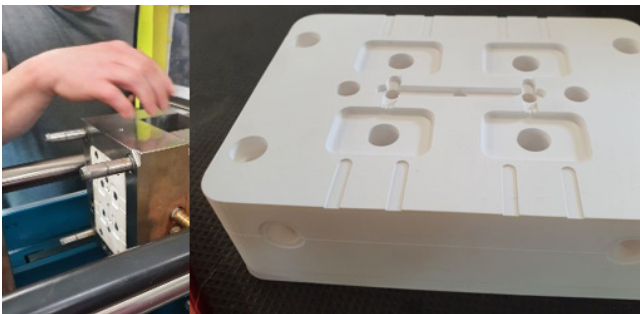
In conclusion, the story of SBR and Stephen Wilde is one of perseverance, innovation, and determination. Through hard work and a commitment to excellence, we have achieved incredible success, and we hope our story serves as a source of inspiration for businesses and entrepreneurs everywhere.

Flemings Seals – a Year of Growth

If anyone still follows the news, it's all doom and gloom. Although at Flemings we are expecting to see significant growth over the next 12 months with a number of exciting projects.

Nuclear - We are in a very fortunate position with Flemthane® being specified at a number of locations and applications. Our aim is to develop this market. We also have a number of projects within the food industry, heavy plant and quarrying markets.

Injection moulding - Over the last 18 months Flemings have worked on a number of options to be able to offer low-cost tooling options.



Making an injected part a cost-effective option for low volume runs. This includes 3D printing Aluminium faceplates in an interchangeable bolster amongst others. We have also developed a number of new products for injection moulding in conjunction with our major suppliers.

Corplas is a combination of the properties of natural cork with the engineering resilience of a thermal plastic polymer, making it an ideal solution for use on luxury applications and parts requiring tactile and aesthetic touch.

Flem-Tef® 307 grade is a hybrid material. It is an acetal homopolymer and has a uniform backbone with a larger crystalline block structure containing 20% PTFE fibres. The result is cost effective material with low friction and excellent wear resilience against steel and other plastic counter parts. It can be both moulded and machined which makes the material very versatile. Ideal for bearing, slide pads, bushing cams and any other part requiring anti friction characteristics.

Flemthane® In the last 12 months we have invested over £50,000 within our casting department to ensure we keep pace with the growth we have seen over the last 18 months. Quite

a large section of this growth has come from Members of the UKGSA, and we are very grateful for their support.

Fluothane® Polyurethanes are used in a wide range of applications in testing environments, quarry, chemical, power generation, agricultural, wastewater just to name a few, from strategic pump parts to anti-vibration blocks .

PTFE - Over the last 5 years Flemings have developed their own range of filled PTFE and invested in a wide range of CNC machines from sliding head to M4 axis machine centres to produce the parts you require in Bronze, Moly, mineral carbon, glass fillers. We have just released an X-ray /Magnetic detectable blue PTFE for use in the food industry. We offer PTFE in a number of formats: Tapes, Thin Films, Moulded, tubing and custom parts.



To complement our engineered plastics, we now also produce a wide range of custom metallic parts in stainless Brass aluminium copper etc.



We are currently working on a marketing programme including a number of videos, website and updated literature. If you happen to find yourself in the West Yorkshire area pop in for a coffee and a chat.



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 we'll send you as a keepsake of 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.

Monarch's 4 Ball Golf Day



At the end of 2022 we held a prize draw with the chance for Members to win a 4 ball golf voucher kindly donated by Shrigley Hall Hotel in Macclesfield. All paid up Members were entered and the winner was Monarch Gaskets & Seals Ltd.

Monarch recently spent a lovely sunny day at Shrigley using their voucher. [We think they got in some training ahead of our Annual Golf Day in September!]

"Massive thank you to the UKGSA for the 4 Ball voucher. We had a blast, the best weather, best company and memories that will stay with us for a long time. So pleased we won!" Gavin Lyles, Managing Director, Monarch Gaskets & Seals Ltd



It's a Knockout for HITEK



HITEK came mid table out of 24 teams at the 2023 It's a Knockout event for Lindsey Lodge Hospice in what was an excellent evening of assault courses, team building and generally making ourselves look silly for a great cause.

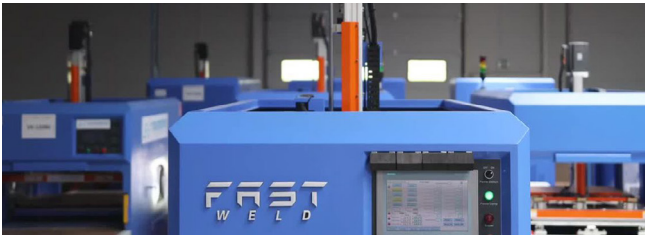
[Lindsey Lodge Hospice](#) provides care for adults with life limiting illnesses and aims to provide specialist palliative care for day and inpatients to the highest standard, consisting of symptom management, emotional support and end of life care.

We raised over £1500 and that is still growing with a few more donations yet to be collected, these should take us over £2500, smashing our target of £1000. We would like to thanks family, friends, customers, and suppliers for all their donations.



Update from Kewell Converters

Fastweld Machine Delivery: Revolutionising Production Capabilities at Kewell Converters



Kewell Converters, the leading foam manufacturer in the UK is thrilled to announce the arrival of our new Fastweld machine, marking a significant advancement in our production capabilities. This cutting-edge technology will not only enhance our efficiency but also elevate the quality of our products to new heights. We are confident that this investment will have a profound impact on our ability to meet the growing demands of our customers.

The Fastweld machine boasts unparalleled precision and speed, enabling us to produce intricate designs with ease. Compared to traditional manual welding methods, this state-of-the-art equipment operates up to ten times faster while maintaining exceptional welding quality. Such efficiency translates into substantial cost savings, allowing us to pass on these benefits to our valued customers. With this remarkable addition to our manufacturing arsenal, we are well-equipped to tackle complex projects and deliver outstanding results.

CO2 Laser Engraving & Cutting Machine: Versatility and Value Enhancement

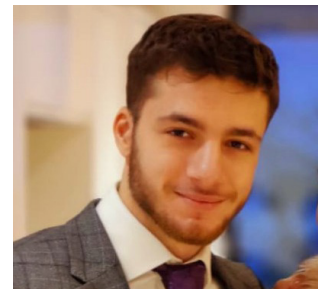


We have also commissioned a CO2 laser engraving and cutting machine, further expanding our production capabilities. This versatile piece of equipment works with a wide range of non-metallic materials, including wood, plastics, rubber, stone, ceramics, fabrics, and more. Whether it's cutting custom parts or adding value through engraving and branding, this multi-purpose production kit opens up a world of possibilities for

us. We can now effortlessly incorporate elements like QR codes, logos, and part numbers to meet our customers' specific requirements.

The CO2 laser machine offers numerous advantages beyond its versatility. It is remarkably easy to operate, with simple setup procedures and minimal maintenance requirements. Unlike other cutting equipment, it operates silently and remains dust-free, creating a pleasant working environment for our dedicated team. Moreover, the laser cutting and engraving capabilities are available round the clock, ensuring optimal productivity and maximising the machine's potential. We are excited about the possibilities this new equipment brings and the fresh business opportunities and markets it opens up for us.

In other exciting news, we are delighted to welcome Omar Gutin to our team this month.



Omar brings valuable expertise as a Manufacturing Engineer, and his presence will undoubtedly contribute to the growth and success of Kewell Converters.

As a recent Engineering Product design graduate, Omar's skill set aligns perfectly with our commitment to innovation and continuous improvement. We anticipate his involvement in various projects, further solidifying our position as industry leaders.

Outside of work, Omar has an intriguing range of hobbies and interests. From training in Powerlifting to exploring the intricacies of fine art, he brings a unique perspective and a well-rounded approach to problem-solving. His passion for dissecting and understanding technological devices adds an extra dimension to his role, as he expertly connects different systems to optimise efficiency.

As we embark on this new chapter with our enhanced production capabilities and talented team members like Omar, we want to encourage open communication.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss our latest advancements, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at enquiries@kewell-converters.co.uk



News In Brief

Southbourne Rubber attended the International Paris Air Show on 19-25 June 2023.

In September, Moontown Ltd will be attending the 2023 [Hydrogen Technology Expo](#) in Bremen, Germany.

Corseal Ltd would like to say Happy Birthday to our Alison! We hope she has a wonderful day!

HITEK Electronic Materials Ltd now produce more power than they consume following increases to their solar farm on their roof. Read the full article on their [LinkedIn page](#).

Flexitallic UK Ltd recently supported their Global Safety Day with a number of events in-house and attendance at the NOF Energy Transition Network Event in Grimsby.

On 31st March, Corseal Ltd raised a total of £115 for Brain Tumour Research UK! We couldn't be more grateful to you for helping us raise this amount!

MOONTOWN LTD

- **PTFE Spring Energised Seals**
- **Valve Seats & Packing Sets**
- **Metal O & C Rings**
- **Sanitary Seals & Bespoke Profiles**
- **Hydraulic, Pneumatic and Rotary Seals**
- **Approved Materials include FDA, NORSOK, M710 & API 6A**
- **PEEK, NBR, FPM, SILICONE, POLYURETHANE, EPDM, POM**
- **Sizes from 3mm up to 2500mm OD**



www.moontown.co.uk
enquiries@moontown.co.uk



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



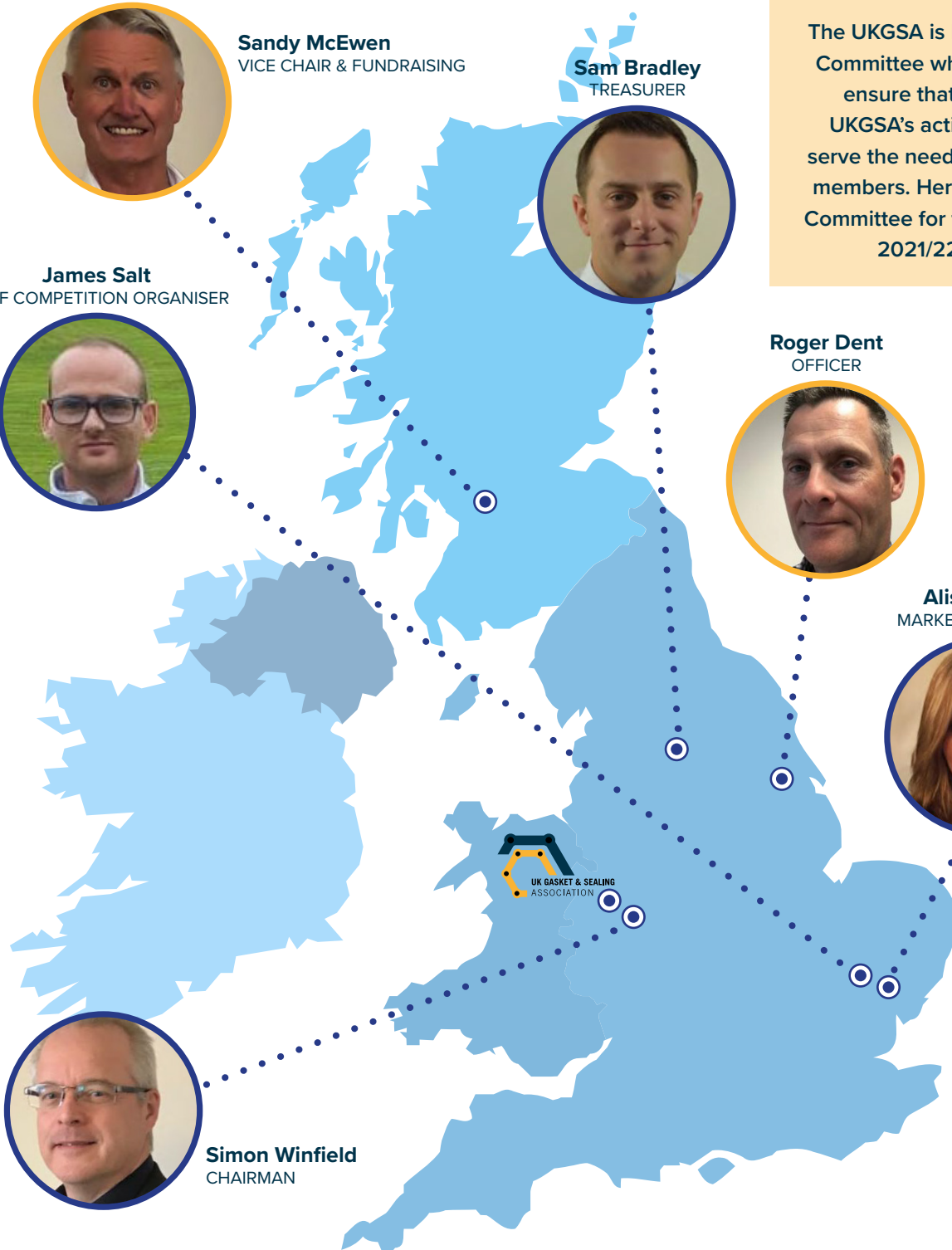
Roger Dent
OFFICER



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
T: 01908 320329 F: 01908 226599
www.britishfelt.com

Corseal Limited

Unit 5A, Bull Lane Industrial Estate,
Acton, Suffolk CO10 0BD
T: 01787 282444
www.corseal.co.uk

Cutting Systems UK Ltd

Units 25 & 29, Francis Court, Norris Way,
Rushden, Northamptonshire NN10 6AY
T: 01933 359359
T: 01933 359399
www.cutting-systems.co.uk

Direct Gaskets Ltd

Units 26-36, Dansom Lane South,
Hull HU8 7LA
T: 01482 219655 F: 01482 321162
www.direct-gaskets.co.uk

DLR Elastomer Engineering Ltd

Unit 1A & B, Leyland Business Park, Centurion
Way, Leyland, Lancashire PR25 3GR
T: 01772 450930
<https://elastomer.co.uk>

East Anglian Sealing Co. Limited

Unit 3-9, Goldingham Hall,
Bulmer, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 7ER
T: 01787 880433 F: 01787 880442
www.easeals.co.uk

Flemings Seals and Polymers Limited

Atlas Mills, Atlas Mill Road, Brighouse,
West Yorkshire HD6 1ES
T: 01484 718391
www.flemingssp.co.uk

Flexitallic UK Ltd.

Scandinavia Mill, Hunsworth Lane,
Cleckheaton,
West Yorkshire BD19 4LN
T: 01274 851273 F: 01274 851386
www.flexitallic.eu

Graphfor LTD

Maspro House, Chadwick Road, Astmoor
Industrial Estate, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 1PW
T: 01928 566344
<https://graphforltd.com>

HITEK Electronic Materials Limited

15, Wentworth Road, South Park
Industrial Estate, Scunthorpe,
North Lincolnshire DN17 2AX
T: 01724 851678 F: 01724 280586
www.hitek-ltd.co.uk

J A Harrison & Co. Limited

Britain Works, Greengate Ind. Estate,
Greenside Way, Middleton,
Manchester M24 1SW
T: 0161 832 2282 F: 0161 832 3263
www.jaharrison.co.uk

J P Polymer Sheetings Limited

26, Coneygre Industrial Estate,
Birmingham New Road, Tipton,
West Midlands DY4 8XP
T: 0121 520 5020 F: 0121 522 4610
www.jpmpolymer.co.uk

James Walker & Co. Ltd

Joint Cutting Services, Gote Road,
Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 0NH
T: 01900 823555 F: 01900 827138
www.jameswalker.co.uk

Jointine Products (Lincoln) Limited

Lindum Business Park, Station Road,
North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 9AU
T: 01522 690050 F: 01522 690060
www.jointine.co.uk

Keith Payne Products Limited

Unit 2, Manfield Park Industrial Estate,
Guildford Road, Cranleigh,
Surrey GU6 8PT
T: 01483 276000 F: 01483 278167
www.keithpayneproducts.com

Kewell Converters Ltd

KCL House, Station Road,
Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6HL
T: 01732 864310 F: 01732 865206
www.kewell-converters.co.uk

Lonestar Leeds Limited

Units 2-4, Orbital Industry Park,
Hudswell Road, Leeds LS10 1AG
T: 0113 2051900 F: 0113 2051909
www.lonestarleeds.com

MacLellan Rubber Ltd

Unit 16, Planetary Road Ind. Estate,
Wednesfield, Wolverhampton WV13 3XA
T: 01902 307711 F: 01902 305201
www.maclellanrubber.com

Monarch Gasket & Sealing Ltd

Unit 10 Eagle Point, Telford Way, Wakefield 41
Industrial Estate, Wakefield, West Yorkshire
WF2 0XW
T: 01924 335945
www.monarch-gaskets.co.uk

Moontown Ltd

Unit 16D, Unity Road, Lowmoor Business Park,
Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire NG17 7LE
T: 01623 751515
www.moontown.co.uk

RGH Rubber and Plastics Ltd

Acorn House, Oak Industrial Park,
Great Dunmow, Essex CM6 1XN
T: 01371 875941
www.rghrubber.co.uk

Silicone Engineering Ltd

Greenbank Business Park,
Blakewater Road, Blackburn,
Lancs BB1 3HU
T: 0845 674 4747 F: 01254 583519
www.silicone.co.uk

SJG International Limited

Wesco House, Tything Road, Arden
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,
Acton, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 0BD
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

Telford 54 Business Park, Nedge Hill, Telford,
TF3 3AL
T: 01952 291600
<https://www.wardjet.com>

William Johnston & Company Limited

9, Speirsbridge Terrace, Thornliebank
Industrial Estate, Glasgow G46 8JH
T: 0141 620 1666 F: 0141 620 1888
www.williamjohnston.co.uk

WR Gaskets Limited

Units 1-3, Haven Light Ind. Estate,
Gilbey Road, Grimsby,
N.E. Lincolnshire DN31 2SJ
T: 01472 355596 F: 01472 355920
www.wrgaskets.co.uk