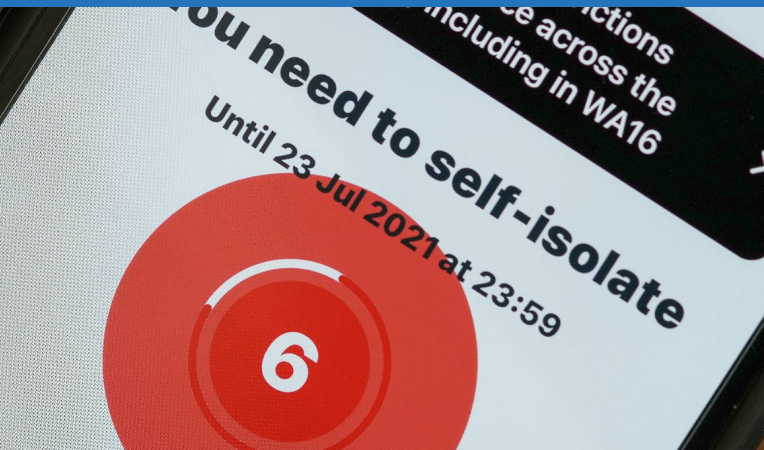




TTA LOBBYING TO SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS



TTA has always lobbied hard on behalf of its members. However in the last 18 months, TTA directors, the CEO and head office staff have been involved in a massive amount of work, much of it behind the scenes, to source the best information about ever-changing regulations and also to lobby Government hard and persistently where it has been necessary.

We do this through Build UK, the CPA, the CLC and other forums. Often we have been able to directly influence Government policy, since Government ministers are present at meetings of the CLC. We have also formed specific contacts within BEIS (the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) whom we have been able to lobby directly on behalf of members. As a result of this, for instance, we were able to influence a change in policy towards tile retailers/distributors, which should now be recognised as an essential part of the construction supply chain.

Our work in supporting our members and proactively challenging Government, when it has been necessary, has been acknowledged by Build UK as critical to the construction sector's efforts to continue operating and emerge from lockdown safely.



TTA provides a channel to enable members to have their say, and regularly participates in round tables and webinars with BEIS, in which TTA Chief Executive Officer, Kay Porter represents TTA.

Among the latest issues to affect our industry are the materials supply difficulties and the 'pingdemic'. TTA is an active member of the CLC Product Availability Group and keeps members fully informed of the latest developments. The Construction Products Availability Statement can be found on the Construction Leadership Council website.

TTA is also involved in discussions on how to alleviate the crippling effects on industry of employees being obliged to self-isolate. The Government has produced a list of occupations where exemptions may be allowed, but at the time of going to press, this list did not include construction occupations.

In addition to these issues, Brexit continues to cause concerns. An issue which causes a lot of confusion relates to the new UKCA mark, which replaces the CE mark in the UK. Following requests from members, TTA now has a Briefing Document on the new trade rules, which apply to those wanting to place foreign-made tiles for sale on the UK market. This Document, which contains links to full Government information, can only be downloaded from the Members' Area of the TTA website – another great reason to be a member of TTA!

As a member you get:

- ✓ Free business advice
- ✓ Free legal guidance
- ✓ Free technical support helpline
- ✓ Free legal helplines
- ✓ Insurance deals
- ✓ TTA technical publications
- ✓ Free credit check
- ✓ Access to Primary Authority

... and many more!

TTA welcomes new board members

TTA is delighted to announce the strengthening of its board with the recruitment of two new directors.



David Talbot

David Talbot is Contracts Manager at Craven Dunnill & Co Ltd.

After completing a full apprenticeship as a Design Engineer, he joined the ceramic tile industry in the 1980s and served over 20 years at Johnson Tiles (formerly H & R Johnson Tiles). He has been at Craven Dunnill for the last nine years.

He started out in the Contract Design Office at Johnson Tiles and introduced CAD into the company during his time there. Subsequent years saw involvement in contract work all over the UK, Africa & The Middle East.

David moved to Craven Dunnill & Co Ltd in 2012 as Contracts Manager, with the exciting challenge of setting up a Contract Division operating from its Bridgnorth Headquarters, along with responsibility for the introduction of new products, support material and technical support. This varied role also includes liaison and technical support for the award-winning Craven Dunnill Jackfield factory.

David has been an active member of the TTA Technical Committee since 2013 and was appointed Vice Chairman of the committee in 2020. David became Chair of B/539 in 2013 and has represented the TTA since 2014 on the UK Slip Resistance Technical Committee.



David Hackett

Born and bred in Sydney, Australia, David is a seventh-generation Australian originating from a "passenger" on the Second Fleet, a convoy of six ships carrying settlers, convicts and supplies to Sydney Cove, Australia in 1789.

Fast forward and David's career with the ARDEX Group began after the acquisition of Australian Building Adhesives (ABA) along with its sister company Building Adhesives Ltd (BAL) in 2001.

Following a short stint heading up Strategy & Business Development in Oceania, David moved to ARDEX Head Office in Germany and took on Corporate Unit responsibility for Global Marketing in the ARDEX Group. Working on global brand strategy and the introduction of the ARDEX Academy concept around the world were highlights of this time.

In 2011 he took on the responsibility for Sales & Marketing at BAL in Stoke-on-Trent and in 2016 became General Manager at Building Adhesives, overseeing all functions of the Stoke business. Alongside his peers in the UK Executive Team, David also has dual responsibility for both ARDEX and BAL brands in HR and the Commercial areas of the business.

TTA board is currently conducting a full strategic review to set the future direction of the Association and how we can best continue and develop our work on behalf of our members. The new board directors will of course play a full part in this exciting process, along with our existing directors who are:



Paul Luff,
Larsen Building Products
Ltd (Chairman)



David Forbes,
Nicholls & Clarke Group



Bob Howard MBE,
RHTC Ltd



Ian Kershaw,
Tiles UK



Rebecca Talbot,
Instarmac Group plc



Brian Newell,
Shackerley Holdings Ltd



David Rowley,
Building Adhesives Ltd



Billy Valler,
WB Simpson & Sons Ltd



Tim Tatlock,
Topps Tiles plc



Richard Wallis,
Norcros Adhesives



Can you 'Recommend a friend'?

After a year-and-a-half during which TTA directors and head office staff have rallied to the support of members and the industry at large, to guide them through the twin challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and Brexit, the benefits of TTA membership are clearer than they have ever been.

To encourage members who might wish to recommend others to join, TTA is currently running a membership recruitment campaign. The headline offer is a very attractive 'Recommend a Friend' deal, which entitles you as the recommending member to £50 off your next year's membership, as well as a £50 deduction on the new member's first year of membership.

"This is a great offer both for our existing members and for new members, who we are confident will be keen to take advantage of this offer and join us this year," says TTA Chairman Paul Luff.

"Not only are we able to offer stronger membership benefits, the stronger we are as an organisation, but also we are better able to influence Government policy, as we have done successfully during the pandemic. We are also best able to influence the formation of new Standards, through our work with BSI and internationally with ISO. Having an influential voice on these issues requires a strong and representative TTA – so it is really important that those in our industry who are not yet members join up!"

TTA is the national trade association representing the whole tiling industry – manufacturers, retailers, distributors, contractors, agents and tile fixers. For more details on the 'Recommend a Friend' offer and any other information about joining TTA, please do not hesitate to contact us.

TTA Awards – This year's Gold sponsors

As ever, TTA is very grateful to the Gold sponsors of the Awards. Without the commitment to achievement and excellence displayed by these major brands from our industry, it would simply not be possible to hold our annual Awards.

Here they tell us a bit about themselves and why they are supporting the Awards this year.

The Awards provide an opportunity to reflect on another year gone by, and to recognise those who have gone above and beyond – which is important in the recent tough times. Sponsoring the awards offers Banks & Lloyd the opportunity to show its reverence for the tile industry, and its mission to support the industry through turbulent shipping times.

www.banksandlloyd.com



In recent years JACKOBOARD® has moved its marketing activity up a gear, with new materials, consistency of messaging and the introduction of new marketing campaigns. Sponsorship of the TTA Awards, with its explicit support for excellence, achievement and innovation, fits very well with JACKON's brand aspirations, and the company is delighted to be associated with them once again.

www.jackon.co.uk



Mapei is pleased to be a sponsor of TTA Awards 2021, an event at the forefront of recognising the best that those in the tiling and tile industry have to offer. With more than 80 years' experience, Mapei is a world-leading producer of adhesives and chemical products for the construction industry.

www.mapei.co.uk



Norcros Adhesives is delighted once again to be able to show its support for the tiling industry as a Gold Sponsor of the TTA Awards. As a proud UK manufacturer and employer, Norcros Adhesives is committed to the recognition and support of excellence throughout our industry.

www.norcros-adhesives.com



Palace Chemicals continues to be a leading independent manufacturer of building, construction & DIY products for more than 40 years. Established in 1978 in Speke, Liverpool, its ongoing commitment to technology and development has enabled it to bring to market a more extensive range of flooring, tiling & DIY products than any other manufacturer in the UK.

www.palacechemicals.co.uk



PCS are a UK-based manufacturer of high-performance construction products that are thermally insulating, lightweight and waterproof. DeltaBoard Thermal Construction Boards and DeltaTray Tileable Shower Floor Formers, form part of an extensive range of products manufactured by PCS, that offer high performance for the lining and overlaying of subfloors and walls.

www.pcsboard.com



Shackerley is a British, manufacturer and prefabricator, renowned for supplying innovative, engineered products to the architectural and construction industries for over 55 years. The company leads the ceramic granite and natural stone ventilated cladding market with its patented SureClad® façade systems, and is an authority on the use of large format ceramic granite for external cladding.

www.shackerley.com



Tilemaster Adhesives has sponsored the TTA Awards for many years, and we are proud to be involved with an event that celebrates the best of the tile industry, especially as we feel that it complements the values that are at the heart of the way we do business.

www.tilemasteradhesives.co.uk



We are delighted to be sponsoring the TTA Awards again for 2021, the Awards are a highlight of our promotional calendar and such a great opportunity to showcase our work across the tiling industry. A TTA Award is an outstanding symbol of excellence and the event provides a fantastic opportunity to showcase and celebrate all aspects of the tiling industry, as well as praising nominees for their hard work and commitment.

www.instarmac.co.uk



The TTA Awards highlight everything that is exceptional in tiles, be it an impressive campaign or a showstopping new collection, with Verona proud to be a gold sponsor for the 2021 event. The TTA Awards provide an opportunity to come together as an industry and stand strong after what has been an incredibly difficult year for all.

www.veronagroup.co.uk



WorldSkills – latest update from Paul Doran, UK Training Manager and Lecturer, Southern Regional College



The impact of Covid has not only played havoc with sporting fixtures around the world - the WorldSkills organising committee has also been forced to postpone the next 'skills Olympics'. It will now take place in Shanghai in October 2022.

This delay has meant back to the drawing board for our training preparations, but we have responded by launching a 'world first' in Wall and Floor Tiling.

To help prepare our Wall and Floor competitors, we have hosted a virtual pressure test, that saw the UK, for the first time, replicate a competition simultaneously in eight countries. Not an easy feat when you take into consideration time differences across the globe.

Switzerland, South Korea, Australia, Brazil, Sweden, Denmark, Russia and the Netherlands were all invited to participate in the Virtual Pressure Test. In football terms a tough group, but this will allow my apprentices: Morgan Swift who trains at City of Glasgow College and Dylan Calvert, who trains at Southern Regional College in Northern Ireland the opportunity to benchmark their skills against apprentices who have already proved they are the best in their own country.

In the coming months, I will also be hosting a 'Best Practice' exchange with the WorldSkills Experts who will share the most recent training trends in Wall and Floor Tiling in their countries.

By leveraging international policies in skills development and moving our WorldSkills training online, WorldSkills UK is able to open up its development programmes to equip trainers in the UK with the knowledge to embed world-class standards into their own training programmes, helping more young people and their employers succeed. We have

witnessed the transformation of skills systems in China, Russia, South Korea and Brazil as they have used their membership of WorldSkills to mainstream global industry standards and we must do the same here in the UK.

During the three days of pressure testing, in which my apprentices competed side by side in covid-safe conditions at the City of Glasgow, we replicated the international WorldSkills Competition format by using the test project from Kazan. Parts of the test were live streamed, with colleges and training providers throughout the UK being able to watch how the apprentices completed the project.

The apprentices were tested on skills, including their ability to interpret and execute drawings, replicating intricate patterns, cutting and producing complex tile work. They were judged on their work organisation, health and safety, communication skills, management of materials, problem solving and innovation. All these are essential not just for competition but also for the workplace.

We have had great support from industry with Nicobond, part of the Nicolls & Clarke Group, BAL Adhesives, The Tile Association and the Worshipful Company of Tyllers and Bricklayers all supporting our virtual training.

WorldSkills Shanghai will be a global celebration of the very best skills in Wall and Floor Tiling. However, we cannot afford to ignore the insight we can all gain in the lead up to the event to help shape our training programmes. By setting a new level of ambition with our sights on excellence as the standard new apprentices should expect from their training, we can be confident of attracting the very best young talent to work in our industry.

To watch highlights of the Virtual International Pressure Test and Best Practice Exchange in Wall and Floor Tiling please email competitions@worldskillsuk.org

Get in the swing of things with the TTA Awards Golf Day

A vigorous round of golf could be the best way to get in the right frame of mind for this year's TTA Awards. If that appeals to you – and why wouldn't it? – then you need to be at the 18-hole Aylesford Course at The Forest of Arden Golf & Country Club on Friday 10 September. First Tee off is at 9:30am. The event gets underway at 8.30am with tea/coffee and bacon butties.

There will be prizes for Nearest to the Pin and Longest Drive, as well as individual prizes and the famous TTA Trophy.

Email awards@tile.org.uk to book a place for the Golf Day, which is excellent value at £70 per person (incl VAT). Places are limited, so book early to guarantee your spot!



Keep up to date with TTA's social media channels

Our social media platforms are the best place to get all the latest information from TTA. All our channels have been growing strongly over the last year and the content is constantly refreshed and updated.

Please follow and like all our social media channels to keep up with the latest news.



TTA's Facebook now has nearly 2,300 followers



TTA's Twitter now has nearly 5,300 followers



There are 1,600 followers on LinkedIn



There are also about 1,700 followers on Instagram

Welcome to new members

New members are the lifeblood of TTA and with this issue we are delighted to welcome the following businesses into membership of TTA:

 **ADH Multi Trades**

 **Ascot Tiling Ltd**

 **Harbour Design Interiors Ltd**

 **Logo Home Ltd**

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