

## Great Sponsorship Opportunities at Annual Dinner

The NTDA Annual Dinner has a deserved reputation as one of – if not the – social events in the tyre industry. Every year this black tie event is a sell-out, with over 500 people gathering together for an evening of fine dining and wine. The 500 is made up of NTDA members and leading figures from all sectors of the tyre and associated industries, representatives from Government departments and other trade associations, with manifold opportunities for networking before, during and after the dinner itself. One of the highlights is the presentation of the NTDA's prestigious Awards – this year renamed the Tyre Industry Awards – with many of those nominated on tenterhooks until the names of the winning companies are revealed.

This year the Association has decided to offer a number of sponsorship opportunities to companies wishing to promote themselves and their products to the select audience of tyre industry professionals – these opportunities include Sole Sponsorship of the Dinner, Sponsorship of the individual Tyre Industry Awards, Sponsorship of the Entertainment and Sole Sponsorship of the Drinks Reception. According to NTDA Director Stefan Hay: "A great deal of interest is already being shown in these sponsorship categories and we are delighted that Italian tyre manufacturer Pirelli has already announced its sponsorship of the Tyre Retail Centre of the Year award.

Sponsors will receive a variety of benefits, including a table of 10 at the Gala Dinner (two tables for the sole dinner sponsor) and brand presence on all pre/during/post event publicity. Sponsors of the individual Tyre Industry Awards will announce their Award and present the trophy to the winner. So, if you want not only a great night out but for your name to be connected with one of the tyre industry's greatest social success stories, then get in touch. But hurry, as these special promotional opportunities are strictly limited. For further details, contact Stefan Hay on **07455 009 166** or email: **stefanhay@ntda.co.uk**

## Ex-Minister to Present Awards



The NTDA is delighted to announce that Michael Portillo will present the 2014 Tyre Industry Awards at the Association's Annual Dinner in October.

Shortly after gaining a 1st Class degree in History at Peterhouse, Cambridge, Michael Portillo moved into politics, working in the Conservative Party research department, developing policies for reducing the role of the state. He then became an advisor to the Secretary of State for Energy, working on privatisation schemes in oil, gas, electricity and coal.

He won a parliamentary seat in the 1984 General Election, and was soon appointed a Government Whip and then Under-Secretary at the Department of Health & Social Security. In turn he was promoted to Minister of State for Transport then Local Government, where he oversaw the abolition of the poll tax. Michael Portillo entered Cabinet as Chief Secretary to the Treasury, controlling public spending and managing departmental allocations. He became Employment Secretary two years later, and finally took over at Defence - with a budget of £22bn.

In 2001, he unsuccessfully contested the leadership of the Conservative party and left the House of Commons in 2005, leading some to describe him as "the best leader the Tories never had." Since then he has established himself as a political commentator and journalist, with numerous TV and radio programmes to his name. His interests are wide-ranging and he has presented TV programmes on history, art, travel and music, as well as over 100 programmes about Great Railway Journeys in the UK and Europe. He appears frequently on radio and is a regular member of the team on Radio 4's Moral Maze discussion programme.

Describing Michael Portillo as "an outstanding speaker and presenter", NTDA Director Stefan Hay added: "With his sharp wit, eloquently presented repertoire and great sense of humour he will, undoubtedly, add style and gravitas to this already prestigious tyre event."

## New Awards "Reflect Membership Diversity"



Over recent years, the Tyre and Fast Fit (TAFF) Awards have established themselves as an integral part of the NTDA Annual Dinner evening. For 2014, however, things are changing, as the Awards have been re-named the 'Tyre Industry Awards' and feature a brand-new logo, bearing the words 'recognising excellence'.

Awards will continue to be made in a number of categories, including the highly-sought after Tyre Manufacturer of the Year and Tyre Wholesaler of the Year titles. The other categories are Tyre and Aftermarket Supplier of the Year, Industry Marketing Campaign of the Year and Tyre Retail Centre of the Year. These are joined by a new category; Staff Training and Development Initiative of the Year, which the NTDA believes will encourage more companies to offer training programmes such as apprenticeships and to become involved in industry initiatives such as REACT – Licence to Fit.

NTDA Director Stefan Hay explained the thinking behind the changes, saying that the idea was "to make the awards more inclusive and to reflect the diversity of the NTDA membership as a whole." The new Training and Development Award emphasises the importance of developing staff to realise their full potential, as well as encouraging safety in the workplace and the NTDA hopes that members will take this opportunity to highlight their own training best practice.

Nomination forms have been sent out and should be returned by 30th June. The top five nominees in each category will be announced in July, when the voting process will begin. The names of the winners will be revealed, and the Awards presented, at the 85th NTDA Annual Dinner on Wednesday 8th October at the Hilton Manchester Deansgate.

## TyreBack Scheme Hailed as Major Success



At a recent visit to Murfitts Industries' Lakenheath production plant in Suffolk, NTDA Chairman, Roger Griggs and NTDA Director, Stefan Hay were given the opportunity to tour the facility and witness, first-hand, the innovative manufacturing process involved in the production of high quality rubber granules and other products from post-consumer tyres.

Following the tour, Mark Murfitt, Murfitts Industries' Managing Director, presented an update on the progress of the NTDA TyreBack scheme. Since its launch in August 2013, more than 5 million used tyres have been collected from NTDA member's tyre depots, averaging more than 743,000 per month and rising with March hitting almost 874,000.

In response to these excellent results Roger Griggs said: "We are delighted at these initial figures. TyreBack is already having a major impact by removing large quantities of used tyres from the marketplace and ensuring, therefore, that they do not find their way into the illegal part worn market.

The vast majority of the tyres collected have been transported to Murfitts' multi-million pound tyre granulating plant and have been converted into a top quality rubber granulate, which is already being used in a wide range of applications including football and sports surfaces throughout the world, as well as a wealth of other environmentally friendly uses.

Stefan Hay added: "The Murfitts' production plant is truly inspirational and it is extremely gratifying to know that the tyres collected from NTDA member's depots, by all of the TyreBack partners, are being used to create something new and will not end up in the part worn market".

NTDA funded investigations, carried out in partnership with Trading Standards Offices, have shown that hundreds of part worn tyres are still being collected by unscrupulous collectors and sold on illegally, in that they do not comply with part worn regulations, and in many cases are damaged to the extent of being dangerous. The NTDA is urging all full NTDA members, therefore, to follow best practice and sign up to TyreBack without further delay.



**In support of its strategic aim to add tangible value to its members, the NTDA has chosen to work with BlueSky Pensions UK Ltd to provide pensions consultancy and services to all members.**

BlueSky Pensions UK is at the forefront of pension provision in the UK and has a strong background in working with trade associations and their members. BlueSky operates a variety of products and systems to ensure quality employers meet their legislative responsibilities and that employees are provided with a highly governed qualifying workplace pension scheme.

### **Pensions Legislation**

From October 2012, legislation has stated that all employers in the UK have had to automatically enrol their employees into a qualifying workplace pension scheme. All employers in the UK must comply with Auto Enrolment legislation and have been assigned a 'Staging Date'. Further information on 'Staging Dates' can be found in the 'download section' of the BlueSky website. To date, this has only affected the larger employers but from April 2014, this now affects employers with 249 employees and under. From January 2015, it will affect employers with under 58 employees.

### **What employers need to do:-**

- Nominate a point of contact
- Know their staging date and develop a plan
- Review pension arrangements
- Assess the workforce
- Communicate with employees
- Contribute
- Register with The Pensions Regulator

### **The secret to successful compliance is preparation and keeping the process simple.**

- Assess payroll processes
- Assess existing pension arrangements
- Commence investigations 6 months before your staging date.

### **The BlueSky Mastertrust**

The BlueSky Pension Scheme, a multi-employer Mastertrust is operated on a non profit basis; no fees or commissions are paid to any party and welcomes any member from the within the NTDA to benefit from the economies of scale, high levels of governance and an advanced investment offering which include the latest in pensions developments.

### **Auto Enrolment Solution**

BlueSky also offers the Real-Time Auto Enrolment Solution (RAE), an online tool for employers to assess the workforce and satisfy its Auto Enrolment responsibilities. The system automatically assesses and communicates with all employees and includes opting in and out tools online.

**For further information on how BlueSky can help your business, please visit: [www.blueskypensions.co.uk](http://www.blueskypensions.co.uk) or contact: [info@blueskypensions.co.uk](mailto:info@blueskypensions.co.uk).**