



Winter Rubber Ball 2019

The 2019 NTDA Winter Rubber Ball, hosted by the North West & North Wales Region, was held on Saturday 23rd November at the Village Hotel, Blackpool. The event attracted over 100 attendees from tyre manufacturing, wholesale, distribution, the associated aftermarket and their guests.

With excellent food, wonderful live entertainment, courtesy of outstanding Liverpool based band 'Captains of Industry' and a lively charity auction and raffle the evening proved to be one to remember.

Commenting on the success of the event NTDA Chief Executive Stefan Hay said: *"Hats off to Regional Chairman Stephen Callow (pictured above), Regional Secretary Brian Funnell and all of the other members that helped in making Blackpool another great event. I know it's not easy at this time of year with such a 'congested' events calendar, but the evening really was great fun, so the hard work paid off!"*

In 2020, the North West and North Wales Region will be taking a year off from organising the Winter Rubber Ball with a view to exploring alternative event options.

Donald Carmichael installed as NTDA Honorary Life Member

Donald Carmichael, the former Managing Director of McConechy's Tyre and Auto Centres, was installed as an Honorary Life Member of the Association at the Executive Council meeting held at the Michelin Training and Information Centre on 27th November. Donald, pictured left with NTDA National Chairman Martin O'Brien, has served as an Executive Officer since 2010, initially as a Vice Chairman until 2013 and since then, as Honorary Treasurer. Commenting on the installation, Martin O'Brien said: *"Donald is a dedicated supporter of the NTDA and his wise counsel has been instrumental in steering the Association forward and ensuring it has a firm financial footing. I am, therefore, delighted to present him with his Honorary Life Membership."*

Donald has agreed to continue in his role as Honorary Treasurer of the NTDA, which was unanimously supported by the full executive Council.



NTDA 'keeps on giving' to support Wheelwrights' Charity and WheelPower

At the Master's Installation Dinner held at Drapers' Hall in the City of London on Thursday 5th December 2019, Stefan Hay presented a cheque for £6,810 to the newly installed Master, His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton. The donation was a combination of money raised at the Association's 90th Annual Dinner and at the 2019 Lodge Tyre Co. Ltd annual golf day.

The Installation Dinner was a highly impressive event, with Wing Commander Andy Green OBE MSc RAF the 'Fastest Man on Earth' entertaining the guests with his journey to officially become the fastest man on Earth, the first person to break the sound barrier on land and his continued endeavours to break his own record in the Bloodhound LSR.

The donated money will be used to support the national charity for wheelchair sport **WheelPower** which is based at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, the birthplace of the Paralympic Movement.

In separate news, the NTDA was delighted to hear that WheelPower CEO Martin McElhatton was awarded an OBE for 'Services to Disability Sport' in the New Year's Honours List.

Martin, who has spoken at many NTDA annual dinners, has played a key role in developing the work of WheelPower as well as its facilities at Stoke Mandeville including the £10.2 million redevelopment in 2003.

He was also involved in the growth and development of wheelchair tennis nationally and internationally, as a player, coach and administrator, serving as President of the International Wheelchair Tennis Association from 1987-2013 as well as Chairman of the National Wheelchair Tennis Association of Great Britain for over 35 years.



WHEELWRIGHT SINCE 1980

NTDA welcomes 2020 with another new member

Well, 'new' is somewhat of a misleading term as Wheelwright has been a stalwart of the industry now for some 40 years, and will doubtless be already known to many members. Specialising in an extensive range of alloys wheels for almost every single market, Wheelwright is the force behind wheel brands Calibre, DRC, Tomahawk and the UK Distributor for AEZ, Dotz, Dezent and MOMO and well as the Cobra and 5forty suspension brands.

Recently, the firm has relaunched the best-selling Road Hero Space Saver Spare Wheel Kit, which is already proving to be hugely popular with both tyre and automotive outlets.

Based in Gillingham, Kent, with a state-of-the-art 10,000 sqft. offices and warehouse complex, Wheelwright not only carries extensive stocks for its dealers, but also enables drop-shipping and even white labelling for its larger industry clients. The company currently has 12 staff, with more coming on board in 2020 to cope with the burgeoning demand of the Road Hero range. With an ever-expanding range of solutions for NTDA tyre distributors, Wheelwright is looking forward to working with many more of our members throughout the year.



Date for your diary!

The 6th NTDA Tyre Industry Conference, 91st NTDA Annual Dinner sponsored by **Maritime Cargo Services** and 7th Tyre Industry Awards Ceremony sponsored by **Sailun Tyres** will be held on **Thursday 5th November 2020** at the VOX Conference Centre, Resorts World, NEC Birmingham, B40 1PU.