EGM 25th February 2021 10 am

Dear Member,

There is to be an Extraordinary General Meeting to gain approval for revisions to the Institute Articles of Association and Bye-Laws via Zoom.

Your Board do hope you are able to attend to discuss these changes.

Copies of The Articles and Bye-Laws can be found on our website.

For Zoom joining instructions please email: helen@materialsfinishing.org

The Southern Branch of the IMF is holding a “Zoom Seminar” entitled: Learn to Paint a Train?

Wednesday 17th February 2021 @ 19-15
For more information see page 4.

Due to the current Covid restrictions Exeter House is closed Exeter House Staff will be working from home during this period.
You can email us on:
helen@materialsfinishing.org or karen@materialsfinishing.org
DISTANCE LEARNING START DATES

Friday 4th June 2021
Friday 10th September 2021

You may enrol up to 30 days in advance of the start date.

Please note that all course fees must be paid in full before any course materials can be released.

Please contact Karen Yates by email karen@materialsfinishing.org

You can find details of courses and qualifications on our website

UPCOMING WEBINARS
9th February 2021
“Electroless Plating”

UPCOMING SEMINARS
17th February 2020.
Southern Branch Seminar “Learn to Paint a Train?”

Everyone is invited and if you wish to attend any webinar or seminar please contact John Burgess by email JohnB_IMF@btinternet.com
So, we did it! At the eleventh hour (actually much later!) our Government finalised a deal with the EU so that we do now have a Free Trade Agreement with Europe. This doesn’t however mean that we will continue to trade in the same way as when we were part of the EU, as there is a multitude of new paperwork needed for shipping goods between Great Britain and Europe. And we must not forget that, although Northern Ireland is still part of the United Kingdom, for trade and other purposes it’s still in the EU! Now we are an independent Sovereign State, we should all feel free of the shackles of the European Union, but this will bring other limitations. We won’t now be able to use the EU lanes at Passport Control (if and when we can travel again!) when entering Europe, which will almost inevitably cause delays. We will also now revert to duty free limits as happen with the wide world when we return from EU countries, so that puts an end to the “booze cruises” to Calais. But at least we’ll get our “blue” passports back! We’re also now divorced from all European legislation, particularly EU REACH. However, we must be prepared to work with our own GB REACH, which will involve re-registration of all chemicals through the HSE. This is obviously a new cost, and I worry that this extra spend could remove from market small volume but essential chemicals. As I write this three weeks into 2021, it’s too early for any firm information to be circulated from either DEFRA, BEIS or HSE, but through the Cross Sector Group, I will be keeping a watchful eye on developments, and will circulate to you our members any information that comes to hand.

I slightly despair at the country’s handling of the corona virus pandemic. Where I live in Herefordshire, we went from tier 2 to tier 1 to tier 3 to lockdown in less than three weeks; no wonder everyone is confused as to what we can or can’t do? Personally, I’m finding this latest lockdown far more difficult than the 2 lockdowns last year. I think this is probably the time of year and the weather, but it’s hard starting and finishing computer sessions when it’s pitch black outside. I was asked the other day when I thought there would be some easing, but I can’t really see any movement until April at the earliest, and I believe we will need to see the majority of the population receive the vaccine before any more “normal” freedom of movement is reintroduced. As one of the “oldies” I’m expecting my call for vaccination within the next three weeks. I’m sure this extended lockdown will affect business, including manufacturing. I read recently that several countries, including Germany, are considering closing their borders to international travel, which will greatly reduce airplane use again, so expect to see news items of aircraft being again stored in large numbers. This is happening when I felt there was some increase in business activity, and it will be sad if this new confidence was curtailed.

So I hope we can look forward to some greater freedom and continued improvement in both business and personal confidence as we move forward into 2021. My best wishes to all: keep well; stay safe.

Graham Armstrong
Institute of Materials Finishing
SOUTHERN BRANCH

The Southern Branch of the IMF is holding a “Zoom Seminar” entitled:

Learn to Paint a Train?

Wednesday 17th February 2021 @ 19-15 hours

There is no charge for this seminar

Painting of Railway Rolling Stock by Mike Booth (Indestructible Paint Ltd)

The Preservation of Heritage Railways by Paul Lansdell (Forest of Dean Preservation Society)

If you are interested in this seminar then please register with either:

John Burgess: JohnB_IMF@btinternet.com
OR
Helen Wood: Helen@materialsfinishing.org
A Virtual Tour of the Laboratory and Technology Services of Brookes Bell

At the last seminar of the Southern Branch, which covered aspects of painting, one of the speakers worked for a company called Brookes Bell.

Sometime later Brookes Bell contacted me to ask if I would like to attend a ‘virtual tour’ of their new facilities on the Wirral which was completed during 2020.

Brookes Bell have been providing consultancy to the marine /energy sector since 1903 and are now looking to expand into other disciplines such as Metallurgy Inspection, NDT, Fuel and liquid cargo services to name but a few.

The virtual tour was excellent giving an insight to their new state of the art laboratories and some of the new equipment that has been invested.

After the ‘virtual tour’ there was the opportunity to ‘drop into’ breakout rooms, Metallurgy, Fuel Testing, Advanced Non-Destructive testing and Paint sample inspections.

I called into the Paint room which was set out in a typical Teams/Zoom fashion and it was here where questions could be asked.

I spoke to them about the IMF and the possibilities of joint ventures with them of which they expressed a great interest.

The whole experience was excellent and if anyone is interested in using an outside service then Brookes Bell would certainly look to be an opportunity.

For further information please look at their website www.brookesbell.com.

John Burgess
The IMF works with the Parliamentary and Science Committee on “Sector deals for SMEs”

The IMF has been working with the Parliamentary and Science Committee (PSC) to deliver an on-line discussion entitled “Sector Deals for SMEs”. This discussion is currently scheduled to take place on February 15th 2021.

The PSC was founded in 1939 and is a major focus for scientific and technological issues, providing a liaison between Parliamentarians and scientific bodies, science based industry and the academic world.

Meetings of the PSC are open to all members of both Houses of Parliament, although attendance from outside Parliament is restricted to representatives of member organisations, of which the IMF is one. It is though our membership that the IMF can help bring to Parliament’s attention any issues relating to the surface engineering industry’s operations, and in doing so, can potentially influence Government policy.

It is planned that there will be 3 or 4 speakers; these include Professor Karl Ryder of Leicester University and the IMF, who will talk about technical transfers from academia to industry. The second speaker is Paul Mason from InnovateUK/UKRI on how InnovateUK will be helping fund technical developments, especially for SMEs. The third speaker is hoped to be from the Industrial Strategy Council, which is an independent body that provides an impartial and expert evaluation of the UK Government’s progress in delivering the aims of the Industrial strategy and its impact on the economy. The final speaker is hoped to be a successful SME that can offer first hand experience of developing a successful company.

A report on the meeting will follow in due course.

Further information can be obtained from either Karl Ryder or Trevor Crichton via Exeter House.
HMG Paints, the UK’s Largest Independent Paint Manufacturer, have attained Made in Britain accreditation. Made in Britain brings together the British manufacturing community, the company will now carry the Made in Britain collective mark across its packaging and products along with its marketing materials and digital channels. The Manchester based paint manufacturer has a vast portfolio of products and covers markets including Industrial, Commercial Vehicle, Decorative, Defence and more.

The Made in Britain collective mark unites the British manufacturing sector and helps consumers, buyers and specifiers identify products that are made in Britain. As a proud family business and British Manufacturer, HMG one of the last few remaining British paint manufacturers, will be looking to work alongside other Made in Britain members.

“We’re proud to be a paint manufacturer in Britain, with more and more paint manufacturers offshoring production and decision making we feel HMG can provide a unique offering to UK Manufacturers” commented John Falder, Managing Director of HMG Paints. “We have an extensive history of working closely with our customers to develop long term sustainable partnerships. HMG offer a huge variety of products, all of which are manufactured in Britain, but we are also specialists in developing innovative bespoke paint and coatings solutions for customers.”

Innovation runs deep at HMG Paints; the company was the first in the UK to utilise Graphene within its coatings. With a broad spectrum of knowledge and expertise HMG boast a portfolio including wet paint, powder coatings and aerosols, covering virtually every type of surface imaginable. The company is also extremely agile, a key example of this was the ability of the company to transform a clean-room department into a Hand Sanitiser production line within 48 hours. The First Thing Sanitiser, which saw the company crowned UK Business Heroes by the Chamber of Commerce, was supplied to critical industries such as pharmaceutical packaging, health, transport, utilities and defence with the company also providing donations to Greater Manchester Police along with local care homes and other frontline workers.

Its product innovation also continues with colour, with HMG producing its own systems of colourants and colour matching software. HMG’s ColourBase software boasts a library of over 200,000 different colour formulations, including RAL, BS, Pantone, NCS, OEM, commercial fleet, agricultural machinery and house colours. This colour choice, combined with colour matching services gives manufacturers a virtually unlimited colour choice for the products they manufacture.

To see a full list of HMG Paints products and services visit [www.hmgpaint.com](http://www.hmgpaint.com) via the website you can also find out more about the company’s history and partners. You can see a full profile of HMG Paints on the Made in Britain website by visiting: [https://www.madeinbritain.org/members/hmg-paints](https://www.madeinbritain.org/members/hmg-paints)
NEW MEMBERS

New Sustaining Members

Harwin is a manufacturer of high-reliability industrial PCB connectors and EMC shielding hardware, serving a variety of industries including commercial, space, avionics, defence, metering and medical.

New Individual Members

Mr N Ridguard
Mr M Preston
Mr Paul R Hodges MIMF
Miss Hannah Hilton-Tapp
Mr Roger Ridley
Mr George J L Harris

Miss Funmi Clow
Mr Shane Kirwan
Mr James K Kitson
Mrs Sarah A Sheldrick
Miss Barbara Tukora

A positive message from a new Individual Member.

“Having been a member for a very short time now I was so please to get a response to a technical query I sent in to the IMF. The answer I received was explicit and helpful. If that’s the sort of response to questions posed I am glad to have joined. Thank you, “

And subsequently

“I would be pleased for you to include my positive comment in the IMFormation magazine as I hope it will encourage young people to get involved and be inspired to enter into a lifetime fascinating career and not leave joining until late in life.”
It was sad to learn of the recent death of Gordon Davies.

Gordon was one of the early members of the team that established what has been for many years and remains today a very successful Institute education programme. He helped establish the Midland Branch Education courses which became the basis of the Institute programme. For many years he gave the lectures for the Technician and Foundation courses.

When he became involved full-time in Metal Finishing education he travelled around the country presenting courses on company premises. Some courses were held at Aston University and for a limited time involved the use of the Aston pilot plating plant. He worked extremely hard on behalf of the Institute for many years and served on the Education Committee until his health deteriorated to an extent that it was too exhausting for him to drive to Birmingham and climb the stairs at Exeter House.

I first met Gordon when we worked together on decorative nickel and chromium plating processes in the Research Laboratory of W Canning in the early 1960s. He left Great Hampton Street to work in Scotland for a few years before returning to take over education at Cannings. At that time Cannings was well-known for hosting education courses for the customer’s employees. These involved practical aspects using a small scale plating plant. Many will remember Brian Johnson’s enthusiasm for both the Canning and Institute education events.

We remember Gordon’s wife and family at this time.

Keith Dennis

Gordon (on the left) receiving the Eddy Marlow Award at the IMF AGM in 2003
About the role
We are seeking a Technical Improvement Manager to join us and take responsibility of our continuous improvement team as well as our laboratory. Based at our Cardiff site, you’ll have a sound knowledge of continuous improvement methodologies with a good understanding of chemical processes in order to have a positive impact on the business profitability, in addition to employee and customer satisfaction levels.

Why Poeton?
It’s an exciting time to join the UK’s leading, family-owned, surface treatment experts. We’re busy expanding into new markets with our cutting-edge solutions. Our surface treatments are critical in allowing our customer’s components to succeed in new, challenging, and extreme operating conditions.

With over 120 years of experience, we’ve been involved in some of the world’s biggest and most successful engineering projects. If you want to be involved in helping rail braking systems perform efficiently, the next generation aircraft land safely, keeping food manufacturers operating around the clock, reduce friction in prosthetic limbs and improving efficiency new generation EV’s, then this is the role for you.

What will you be doing?
You’ll be leading the team in ensuring that our products and services are fit for purpose, whilst eliminating the unnecessary hidden costs and driving efficiency improvements. You’ll achieve this through the implementation of the improvement strategy whilst promoting a robust continuous improvement culture across the business.

As a critical member of the site senior management team, you’ll ultimately be responsible for facilitating business solutions to the root causes of any quality concerns, whether that be product, process or environment.

As well as managing a team of technical improvement engineers you’ll also take on responsibility for the laboratory, it’s team, assuring process and procedure adherence. This is a key role in ensuring the ongoing success of Poeton.

Are you right for the role?
We’re looking for someone with a strong background in continuous improvement, with at least 3 years in a related role. Experience in, and an understanding of surface treatment technology and specifications would be even better, but isn’t essential.

As a proven leader, with good communication skills, you’ll be used to building high performing teams and happy to provide mentoring in order to bring the best out of them.

How to apply
We’ll need your application by Friday 12th February 2021.

If this sounds like the perfect role, and you match what we’re looking for, then send your CV and salary expectations to careers@poeton.co.uk
Sorry, but no agencies.
A message from Prof Hide Kanematsu in Japan.

Interfinish 2020 was postponed and we are now calling for the papers for Interfinish 2021.

The conference will be held virtually from September 6th to the 8th and the Surface Finishing Society of Japan (SFSJ) will host the conference.

Prof. Ryder will talk as a key note speaker, so we would like many IMF members to join us as a speaker and also as participants.

The detail information of the great and traditional technology show can be confirmed here: http://spp.material.nagoya-u.ac.jp/wp/interfinish2020/

Participation, application for talks and advertisements of companies are highly welcomed.

The important dates are:-
Abstract submission due: March 31, 2021
Notification Date for Acceptance: May 2021
Early Registration: May 30, 2021
Exhibition Registration: March 31, 2021
Partnership Registration: March 31, 2021

The post conference journals are already prepared. One of them is our Transaction of IMF, of course!

And Prof. Karl Ryder, our President will have a key note talk.

During the preparation, we lost Dr. Clive Whittington, one of our great fellows and also one of the leading IUSF members. He constantly gave us many useful tips and made a great contribution to the preparation of Interfinish in such a very difficult time.

To honour his great effort and achievements, and also to show the existence of the leading academic society in the world, let us join to Interfinish 2021 together!!
UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

SURFACE WORLD LIVE

Revised dates: 20th and 21st Oct 2021, NEC, Birmingham

SURFEX

New dates confirmed:
7th & 8th July 2021
NAEC Stoneleigh, Coventry, UK

ADVANCED ENGINEERING 2021

3rd & 4th November 2021 at the NEC

MACH

4-8 April 2022
NEC Birmingham UK
machexhibition.com