



**This year's winners of the IMF
and OCCA Golf Trophy
Wednesday 19th June 2024**

Indestructible Paint





Leading surface-finishing
solutions

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Aerotech
LABORATORIES

IMF DIARY

DISTANCE LEARNING START DATES

Apply by 27th August for start date 6th September 2024.

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- <https://materials-finishing.org/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Southern Branch Zoom Seminars

12th October – Generic Cleaning Processes

12th November - Metals from Space

Times and logon details will be available nearer the time.



I'm writing this after coming back from the IMF/OCCA golf day held on Wednesday 19th June. You may remember this was originally scheduled for May, but torrential rain overnight and on the morning of that day caused the course to be closed. The sight of most of the greens under water was not an encouraging sight!

On the re-scheduled day, we had 5 teams drawn from membership of both IMF and OCCA, and the trophy this year was won by the team from Indestructible (slightly embarrassing, but no fix, honest!). A great day was had by all, followed by an intense evening in the bar watching Scotland play in Euro 2024.

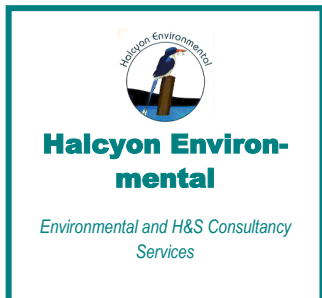


It was nice to enjoy a social day away from the pressures of the surface finishing issues, REACH, poison centres, safety data sheets etc. You may remember that in my last column I discussed the UK HSE proposing a re-authorisation of chromium trioxide for 12 years, which required signing by the secretary of state at DEFRA. To my knowledge this has yet to be actioned, and what effect the upcoming general election will have on this is a worrying unknown.

I have to say I'm getting mightily sick of the election with, as I write this, still two weeks to go. For me it's always a little worrying when a new government is elected, and how the new policies introduced will impact on industry and life. I just hope that the recent improvements in trade will continue.

It was good news to hear that the latest inflation figure is now back to the Governments and Bank of England's target of 2.0%, and that this should mean a reduction in interest rates, a welcome relief to both industry and the public. Personally though, I have enjoyed these higher rates watching my savings grow!

During the last month we have welcomed a new member of our office team in Michelle Tennyson. Michelle will be working initially on a part-time basis, working alongside, and supporting Karen on education and training. This will allow Karen to spend more time with her family who are suffering some health issues.





SECRETARY GENERAL'S COLUMN (ii)

The good news is that the enrolment at the beginning of June for both the Foundation and Technician courses was very good, comparing favourably with previous years. The courses starting in summer are always the hardest to sell, as students turn their minds to holidays rather than industry training. It's very interesting to hear that we have students from both the United States and Australia in this new intake, illustrating how widely spread the reputation of our training has become.

At the beginning of June I attended and spoke at the Surfex conference and exhibition, held at the Coventry Building Society Arena (not unsurprisingly in Coventry!) It was encouraging to note the number of attendees walking through the show, indicating the renewed vibrancy of our industry.

The IMF took a stand, manned by Helen, with support from both Brenda and Barry. I understand we made several contacts with great interest in membership.

The theme of the conference was sustainability and the move to "net zero" within the surface finishing industries. I was personally involved in an open forum session and gave two presentations on this theme, and it was revealing to note the interest and work already ongoing to meet these ambitious goals.

I'm off on my travels again next month, with a planned trip to many of our customers in China. The country is definitely an area of growth in aerospace, not only indigenous manufacturing, but also increasing demand from the maintenance, repair and overhaul industries. I suppose I'm quite looking forward to it, although it can be quite daunting working in a completely different culture. I'll report back in my next column!

So as we approach the holiday season, can I offer you all my best for an enjoyable summer (if the weather ever improves!) and holiday, when and wherever you take them!

Graham Armstrong



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IMF & OCCA GOLF DAY 2024 (i)

The rescheduled golf day was on the 19th June after being rained off on the 22nd May .

The picture to the right shows the effect of the monsoon!



We had great weather this time. A big thank you to everyone who took part with golfers from Aquatec, Jacquet Weston Engineering, HMG Paint, Robert Stuart, Indestructible Paint and Frost Electroplating





IMF & OCCA GOLF DAY 2024 (ii)

The day was won by Indestructible paint, golfers Dan Allum, Simon Eaton and Mike Booth, well done.



Nearest the Pin was won by Ryan Jessey from Robert Stuart, congratulations.

We look forward to hosting a golf day in 2025, which will be part of the 100 years of the IMF celebrations.



100 YEARS CELEBRATION DINNER



100 YEARS OF THE IMF 1925 - 2025 CELEBRATE WITH US

**26th February 2025 on the first
night of Surface World**

**At the Windmill Village Hotel
Coventry
3 Course Meal and
Entertainment**

**Early Bird Offer Table of 10 £375
Individual places £40 each
Contact at
helen@materialsfinishing.org
for more information**





CYCLIC CORROSION TEST FACILITY

Cyclic corrosion tests are used in the evaluation of coatings and surface treatments ability to resist corrosion.

Aerofin Laboratories new corrosion test facility at Oaktree Business Park is now up, running & open for new enquiries. Over 4000 ft² of specialist corrosion test space over 2 floors with more than 12,000 litres of chamber space available and growing. We now believe we have the most comprehensive suite of test chambers of any independent laboratory in Europe, with even the most complex of cyclic tests catered for.



CYCLIC CORROSION TESTING

Cyclic Corrosion Testing is an accelerated corrosion test, used in the evaluation of coatings and surface treatments. Salt spray testing evaluates a coating or surface treatments ability to resist corrosion. While cyclic corrosion testing does the same thing, it also evaluates its ability to withstand changes in various environmental

influences such as temperature & humidity. Cyclic corrosion testing is particularly useful for detecting discontinuities, such as pores and other defects, in



certain metallic, organic, anodic oxide and conversion coatings. Giving an indication to a coating or finish's ability to resist corrosion during its life in service.





COMPLEX CAPABILITIES

Aerofin Laboratories are proud to offer cyclic testing using Ascott analytical chambers including the Atmosfär chamber. Atmosfär chambers have been specifically designed for fully automatic testing in accordance with highly demanding laboratory-accelerated corrosion tests which have become increasingly popular in some sectors



of the automotive industry. Popular Atmosfär Test Standards:

[FORD CETP00.00-L-467](#)

[ISO 16701](#)

[Scania STD 4319](#)

[Scania STD 4445](#)

[TPJLR.52.265](#)

[Volvo STD 1027,1375](#)

[Volvo STD 1027,14](#)

[Volvo STD 423-0014](#)

[Volvo STD 4233](#)

ASCOTT ANALYTICAL CCIP CHAMBERS



The Oaktree facility houses a number of Ascott Analytical cyclic corrosion chambers. Ranging from the CC450ip, a 450 litre chamber for smaller component parts & small test panel batches to the CC2600ip, a 2600 litre

chamber for larger component parts & large batches of test pieces. Small or Large R&D projects catered for. The CCip range of chambers have the ability to create 6 distinct climates:





- Salt spray
- Condensation humidity (wetting)
- Forced air drying
- Temperature Only
- Ambient drying
- Controlled humidity

These may be programmed to occur in any sequence and be repeated automatically.

ASCOTT ANALYTICAL ATMOSFÄR CHAMBERS

The Oaktree facility houses a number of Ascott Analytical Atmosfär chambers. Ranging from the AT1300ip, a 1300 litre chamber to the AT2600ip, a 2600 litre chamber for larger component parts & large batches of test pieces. Small or Large R&D projects catered for.

Atmosfär chambers have been specifically designed for fully automatic testing in accordance with highly demanding laboratory-accelerated corrosion tests which have become increasingly popular in some sectors of the automotive industry.



These tests are cyclic in nature and comprise of exposure under controlled and varying conditions of temperature and humidity, with intermittent spraying of a salt solution directly on to the samples under test, from a high level swaying spray bar. The Atmosfär chambers offer additional features compared to the CCip series chambers including:

- Oscillating spray bar with magnetically coupled drive system, for compliance with the most demanding automotive test standards.
- Integrated air conditioning unit, to achieve demanding temperature and humidity combinations.
- Psychrometric humidity control module, for more exacting control of humidity, especially at levels around 95% RH.

An option for cooling from Ambient to sub zero at -20 or -40 degrees C.



Apprentices set for a bright future



As the latest graduates of Indestructible Paint's apprenticeship programme celebrate their success, the pioneering coatings company knows it is building the future.

Marcus Wheatley and Chris Williams have both completed a Level 3 Laboratory Technician apprenticeship. For Marcus, this was his entry into work in a laboratory. Chris had already completed a Chemistry Degree at the University of Birmingham and was seeking a practical platform for building a career in industry connecting chemistry and exploration.

The specialist nature of this apprenticeship allowed Marcus and Chris to develop in their areas of interest. Marcus honed his skills in quality control which is an essential part of a successful laboratory's operations. Chris' apprenticeship centred around the research and development side of the laboratory where his knowledge of chemistry was an asset. Both apprentices also developed their interpersonal skills thanks to feedback from colleagues.

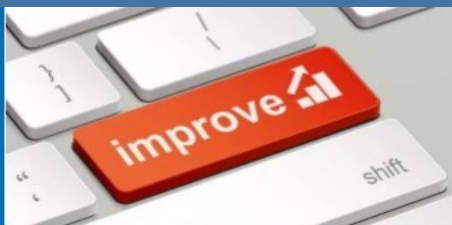
Apprenticeships allow Indestructible Paint to bring the best out of talented people. Participants receive comprehensive training as part of the scheme, supervised by experienced colleagues, as well as sessions delivered by training partner, TIRO Training. They have the time to learn techniques properly – ensuring no small details are overlooked.

Marcus and Chris also had the opportunity to undertake additional professional modules provided by the British Coatings Federation and Institute of Materials Finishing, which are open to Indestructible Paint's employees as part of a wider training provision.

Mentoring plays a major role in the development of apprentices at Indestructible Paint. The company is proud of its loyal workforce – a quarter of the team have worked there over 25 years – which enable talented young people to be guided by experienced professionals with decades of experience and wisdom, while new recruits inject fresh ideas and alternative perspectives in return. One of the mentors was Laboratory Technician, Simon Greenway, who began his career as an apprentice at the company himself.

"It's great to see how Marcus and Chris have developed during their apprenticeships and we are very proud of their achievements," said Simon. "Having been an apprentice myself, I know just how much work goes in and they've both demonstrated commitment throughout, pushing through challenges, contributing ideas and being team players. They have bright futures ahead."

3M® Novec cleaning fluids are being discontinued, don't just switch – improve!



You may have heard that 3M® will soon stop manufacturing cleaning solvents. Current 3M® cleaning solvent users need to find alternatives.

What is the update from 3M®?

3M® announced they will cease production of Novec HFE materials by the end of 2025. They advised customers last year to seek alternatives as supply cannot be guaranteed.

Currently using 3M®? What does this mean for you?

With supply soon to be an issue, it is wise to consider your options now. Frasers can help with direct drop-in alternatives to Novec materials and provide alternative technologies such as water wash and solvent recovery systems.

What are the alternatives?

There are a few direct drop-in alternatives, but many contain HFE materials made by 3M®. It's crucial to know the source and composition of any alternative. Frasers can evaluate your application and offer free advice on legal compliance and safe, available alternatives like Chemours Opteon™ specialty fluids, which are direct drop-in replacements.

What to be aware of before you switch?

Key areas to consider include equipment suitability, material compatibility, product performance, and legal compliance. Frasers can

conduct application trials with suitable alternatives and advise on alternative chemistries or equipment if needed.

Don't Just Switch from 3M® Novec, Improve Outcomes with Opteon SF80®

Consider not just switching but also improving your outcomes with Opteon™ SF80®. When evaluating cleaning solvents, solvency power is critical. Opteon™ SF80® has the highest cleaning power in its class, with a Kb value of 99, determined by ASTM D1133. This indicates its superior cleaning strength.

Opteon™ SF80® is a superior alternative to 3M® Novec products, offering higher solvency power and a lower environmental impact. It is a safe, non-flammable, and environmentally friendly solvent with a low global warming potential (GWP) of less than 2.5, free from fluorinated greenhouse gases listed in Annex 1 of the EU regulations 517/2014.

What is the GWP of SF80®?

SF80® has a GWP of less than 2.5, making it the lowest GWP fluorinated solvent available today.

What does GWP mean?

Global-warming potential (GWP) measures how much heat a greenhouse gas traps in the atmosphere relative to carbon dioxide. For example, methane's 20-year GWP is 72, meaning it traps 72 times more heat than the same mass of carbon dioxide over 20 years.

Is SF80® affected by F-gas regulations?

SF80® contains no materials regulated under F-Gas regulations.

Is SF80® affected by the Solvent Emissions Directive?

SF80® is an R20 based solvent, and the SED applies, with a threshold limit of 2 metric tons.

The Fraser Tech Benefit:

- Try Before You Buy: Experience Opteon™ SF80® through our trial program.
- Full Process Evaluation Trials: Optimize your cleaning processes with comprehensive evaluations.
- On-Site Chemical Changeover Support: Ensure a smooth transition with our on-site assistance.
- Process Optimisation: We guide you through chemical changeover and process refinement.
- We offer free 3M® switch reviews to advise customers on how the process works for their specific applications.

Contact us today at www.frasertech.co.uk to schedule your review.

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SURFACE WORLD *... we have everything covered*

SURFACE WORLD 2025: Learn, Connect and Shape the Future – Under One Roof, Over Two Days

Surface World 2025 is more than just a typical trade show – it's an event that's all about transforming the surface finishing industry. Set to take place on Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th February, it's a two-day gathering where professionals from the industry come together to learn, connect, and shape the future.

This two-day event is more than just a showcase of products; it's a platform for innovation, learning, and networking. Attendees can expect to see the latest advancements in surface finishing technologies, from state-of-the-art machinery to cutting-edge techniques that are pushing the boundaries of what's possible in the industry.

Surface World 2025 provides the perfect opportunity to get hands-on experience with the newest technologies and ideas shaping the future of surface finishing. From environmentally friendly coatings designed to minimise ecological impact or delving into the intricacies of advanced automation systems streamlining production processes, participants can explore diverse innovations first-hand. With a vast array of specialist experts from within the industry and interactive demonstrations taking place on the exhibitor's stands, attendees will



SURFACE WORLD 2025 (ii)



have the chance to gain valuable insights and knowledge that can help them stay ahead of the curve in this fast-paced industry.

Networking plays a crucial role at Surface World 2025, offering attendees a valuable

opportunity to expand their professional connections within the surface finishing industry. Beyond merely exchanging business cards, this event provides a dynamic platform for forging meaningful partnerships and exploring collaborative ventures. Attendees will have the chance to engage with like-minded professionals, share insights, and cultivate relationships that can lead to new opportunities for growth and innovation. Whether it's discovering potential collaborators for projects or finding mentors to offer guidance, the networking opportunities at Surface World 2025 are bound to leave a lasting impact on attendees' careers and businesses.

Surface World 2025 represents a pivotal moment for the surface finishing industry. It's a chance for professionals to come together, share ideas, and shape the future of the industry. Whether you're a seasoned veteran or just starting out in the industry, there's something for everyone at Surface World 2025.

So mark your calendars and get ready for an unforgettable experience at Surface World 2025. It's sure to be an event that will leave a lasting impact on the surface finishing industry for years to come.

**Surface World 2025 –
Hall 11, NEC,
Birmingham – 26th &
27th February 2025**

**For more information
about Surface World
2025, please contact**

Nigel Bean: nigelbean1@aol.com

