

MEMBER NEWS

WE WELCOME VACULUG INTO MEMBERSHIP

In September, we welcomed Vaculug, Europe's largest independent retreader into Full Membership of the TRA. Here is how they explained their reasons behind the move:



"In a world where environmental concerns have become paramount, it is genuinely heartening to see the TRA leading the way in sustainable practices within the tyre industry. Your dedication to tyre recycling, retreading, and circular economy principles demonstrates a commendable commitment to reducing the environmental footprint associated with tyre disposal. TRA's tyre recycling initiatives, safety standards, and ethical guidelines align perfectly with the responsible and sustainable ethos that Vaculug represents. Together, we are setting an inspiring example for the industry and proving that success can be achieved while prioritizing the well-being of our planet."

Vaculug's retreading programmes not only reduce waste but also contribute significantly to reducing carbon emissions and conserving valuable natural resources. This dedication to environmental responsibility is essential in a world striving to combat climate change and preserve our ecosystem for future generations."

BOYNTON BROS. – BACK FROM THE BRINK

Longtime TRA member Boynton Bros. are one of Britain's oldest tyre recyclers having started processing cross-ply car tyres way back in 1959 but in August 2022 catastrophe struck following an arson attack. The ensuing massive fire raged at the site for 5 weeks.

Buildings, offices and process equipment were all lost as 90% of their 11 acre site was wiped out leaving the future of the business in question. But, family businesses like Boynton Bros. do not give up that easily. So with the support of local staff and customers they are back on their feet again. All the more important to tyre recycling in the UK as Boynton Bros. are one of very few processors specialising in OTR tyres so it is great news for them and for the TRA that they are well and truly back in business.



NTDA ANNUAL DINNER AND AWARDS NIGHT

One of the newer awards of this year's event held on 19th October is the "TRA Recycler of the Year"! Which this time attracted a record FIVE entries. For the second year running, **Murfitts' Industries** were deemed to have submitted the best entry.

The Tyre Recovery Association (TRA) represents the UK's tyre recovery sector, which processes over 40 million used tyres every year. A key role is to represent and promote good practice within the tyre recovery sector and to provide an externally audited, legally compliant tyre collection and recovery service which provides protection and peace of mind for all those who generate waste tyres across the UK.

THE TYRE RECOVERY ASSOCIATION



Newsletter

www.tyrerecovery.org.uk

Autumn/Winter 2023

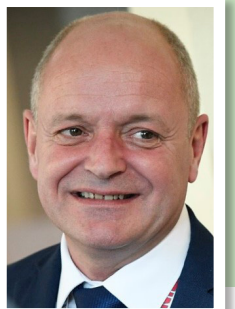


TRA ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

At its Annual General Meeting held on 13th September 2023 the Tyre Recovery Association unanimously elected **Bill Clarke** of **DME Tyres** to be its new **President** for the next two years. Bill will succeed Tim Stott of Murfitts Industries who is stepping down.

DME Tyres were early supporters of the TRA having joined very soon after its formation two decades ago. Commenting on his new role, Bill expressed his warm appreciation to the membership for the confidence they had showed him.

At the meeting the TRA membership re-elected **Mark Hetherington**, **Commercial Director, Credential Environmental Ltd.** as **Vice-President and Treasurer**.



TYRE RECYCLING – SUCCESS THE AUSTRALIAN WAY

Three years ago, with few exceptions, it became illegal to ship baled whole tyres out of Australia.

That hugely important policy shift has had a really significant impact on their industry as operators are now required to shred tyres prior to their export. This increases the capital cost of the material which benefits local industry, heads off misuse in foreign markets and feeds robust demand for tyre-derived fuel beyond Australia's shores.

As a result, Australia's tyre recycling industry has significantly recapitalised to meet these opportunities leading to new investment in indigenous tyre shredding and crumbing operators.

NEW PR SUPPORT

The TRA recently engaged the services of consultancy, Godolphin Communications to help promote its messaging and assist its policy and legislature objectives. Godolphin Communications is headed by Giles Bancroft.

END EXPORT ABUSE

- EXCERPTS FROM OUR OPEN LETTER TO SECRETARY OF STATE THÉRÈSE COFFEY MP

Yet again, we urge the Secretary of State to act in the national interest before it is too late.

Dear Secretary of State,

“British tyre recycling operators, members of the Tyre Recovery Association (TRA), need to ensure you are aware of the situation facing the UK used tyre industry. This letter is calling for DEFRA to take urgent action to address the end of life whole tyre (ELT) exports from the UK.”

“UK tyre recyclers require the UK government to get on the front foot. UK regulations must be brought up to date and allow British industry time to prepare for the changes before they are implemented. UK regulations need to change to accommodate global market changes and ensure UK businesses to remain competitive in the global markets in which they operate.”

“The Environment Agency (EA) have been made aware of the compelling evidence of ELT export abuse. One of our members (Black-Ram Recycling Ltd) provided the Environment Agency with proof that whole tyre exports to India were environmentally unsound and that shoddy practices which cross legal boundaries characterise the current state of affairs.”

“The significantly increased volume of ELTs being exported to India for batch pyrolysis, as part of an industry involving seemingly entrenched and extensive unlawful operations, has resulted in very limited feedstock for the UK’s legitimate ELT recycling industry. This directly undermines the Government’s waste strategy, the circular economy, and is materially impacting profitability and preventing investment in new UK plants. ELT pyrolysis in Indian plants fail to meet current UK and EU standards, many of which are illegally operated under local law, is also creating unacceptable harm to the environment and human health. This is being addressed by India’s Director General Foreign Trade (DGFT) and is a ready example of why UK operators need the UK government to update its own policy on ELT exports.”

“In February of this year, responding to an oral question on vehicle tyres, you told the House you are committed to delivering the circular economy of the future (and which our members are fundamental operators in delivering), but did not appear to consider the realities of the UK’s policy on ELT exports.”

“The optimism you expressed is not the reality of the marketplace in which our members operate. DEFRA’s current policy position on UK tyre recycling has myopic flaws which are damaging UK businesses crucial to the circular economy. DEFRA needs a policy focus that is cable of incorporating tyre recycling and improving the UK’s domestic operators. Delegation of authority to a public body (the EA) so unwilling or incapable of acting on ELT exports is failing.”

“The UK tyre industry, as a whole, is deeply concerned that in July this year India started the process by the DGFT only renewing import licenses restricted to shred. The reality of this change is the written confirmation of licenses being renewed with restrictions to shred only, even as our members await seeing the actual formal policy announcement. This emphasises the pressing need for UK government to get on the front foot and listen to the UK tyre recycling operators.”

“Uncertainty is leading to market disruption in the UK and will result in stockpiling, abandonment and tyre fires, at a time when legislation to end T8 exemptions continues to wait to be given parliamentary time. This is only going to get worse as more foreign import licenses are restricted to shred only. Clear policy now from the UK authorities, ending ELT exports, is needed so that the tyre recycling industry can work towards a date where only shred can leave the UK. Australia provides you with a clear example to follow in this regard. Clarity from you will allow those generating waste tyres (garages, wholesalers, vehicle dismantlers) time to carry out their duty of care to ensure that their tyres are being collected and processed accordingly. The message can be unambiguously pushed through to all industry operators by the TRA and via all UK tyre body of associations including the NTDA, BTMA and VRA.”

“A clear and compelling case therefore exists for the DEFRA to take action to impose a date to end the export of whole tyres that British industry can work towards in order that the UK meets its obligations, this government delivers on its environmental promises and the UK demonstrates that it is taking a global lead in developing and securing the future of the its recycling industries, embedding best practices necessary to drive our circular economy forward. Secretary of State, I look forward to your reply and to working with you to deliver the solution the UK tyre recycling industry needs.”

Peter Taylor OBE
Secretary General TRA

But is she listening?

To amplify our message, TRA members will be writing in similar terms to their local MP’s emphasising the consequences of yet further government inaction.

SPEAKERS AT THIS YEARS TRA BRIEFING DAY



Top Row (right to left) – Howard Leberman, Ewan Scott

Bottom row (right to left) – Robert Weibold, Simon Hodson, Brian Kent

A BIG THANK YOU AGAIN TO OUR BRIEFING DAY SPONSORS KWIK-FIT AND VACULUG