



October/November 2014

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## UK & Ireland Board

Welcome, I am very excited to take on the new role as President of the SPE UK/Ireland Division. I also want to thank past President Karen Hatley for all of her contributions. We have an exciting year planned with a lot of events with special SPE member discounts and building upon our student chapter with seminars at various universities. We would appreciate to hear from you regarding any topics, ideas that you feel might be of interest to the organization. I would also like to send a special thank you to all the efforts of the board members listed below.

## United Kingdom and Ireland Section Board of Directors 2014/2015

President:	Maryann Wilcox
Vice President:	Ken Braney
Secretary/Treasurer:	Stuart Patrick
Councilor:	Ken Braney
Technical Programming Chair:	Peter Cox
Membership Chair:	Peter Cox
Student Liaison:	Manjula Silva

Members also giving specialist support as required – Austin Coffey, Richard Walton; Keith Barnes; Rob Enderby; Charles Greenwood.

More volunteers are urgently sought by the Board to widen the pool of expertise and help with events.

# Upcoming Events supported by SPE



## Plastics – The Way Forward?

Manchester Polymer Group will be posing this question at their Seminar on plastic materials, processing and performance on Monday 20th October 2014, Lancashire County Cricket Club, Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester, M16 0PX. Phone: 0161 282 4000

Developing from the success of their established cost efficient Rubber based one-day seminars held over the last few years, the Manchester Polymer Group is holding their first Plastics based one-day seminar.

Sponsored by 3M and supported by SPE and RAPRA, the seminar will cover the latest developments in additives, polymers and recycling, modification, funding possibilities, the latest REACH update on foaming agents and testing with speakers from 3M, Palsgaard, Wells Plastics, Victrex, Bangor University's Biocomposites Centre, CeDo, Gas Injection Worldwide, Athlone Institute of Technology, Peter Cox Associates, Materials KTN Polymer Sector, West and Senior and Mettler Toledo.

The seminar will also feature Table top contributions from MAS, Imerys Graphite & Carbon, Wells Plastics, RAPRA, Mettler Toledo, 3M, SPE, Safic Alcan, Gas Injection Worldwide and PICME.

Delegate fee £60  
IOM3/SPE/RAPRA Member £30  
Student £15

[Plastics the Way Forward Programme & Application Form](#)

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[www.iom3.org/manchester-polymer-group-mpg](http://www.iom3.org/manchester-polymer-group-mpg)



## Student Activities

Manjula Silva has organized a half day informative networking session with the College of Engineering, Polymer Research and Environmental Research post graduate students at Brunel University on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November. Students will have an opportunity to hear about the opportunities of working in the industry through experienced industry leaders and learning more about how the SPE can benefit their careers.

## The 9<sup>th</sup> SPE European Thermoforming Conference, Prague, Czech Republic 3-4<sup>th</sup> April 2014

This conference is presented by the European Thermoforming Division of SPE and is held at different locations across Europe. Last conference in 2012 was held in Venice, Italy and this year it was in Central Europe in Prague Czech Republic.

Delegates from countries in Europe, North America, India, the Middle and Far East, thermoformers, material suppliers, end users as well as machine builders were able to listen to a variety of speakers during the two day conference with the theme of 'Forming a Sustainable Future'.

The first speaker was Christian Majgaard who was the former global manager at Lego Denmark. He spoke about the 'quest for growth' and the interpretation of the reality of business development. The problems associated with 'buzz' words, concepts etc, that sound good on paper but are not feasible in achieving the growth necessary for companies in today's fast moving world

He was followed by Roger Kipp, who was the 2010 Thermoformer of the Year in North America. He spoke about 'Starting our innovation engine. It was an interesting talk, as it highlighted areas that we often take for granted when going forward with the company. How many times is it thought that if it has worked for a period of time, it will continue in the same way. The only route forward, as far as Roger Kipp was concerned, is that you have to revisit all aspects of your company on a regular basis otherwise you will slip behind in the business world.

Then presentations became more technically detailed in relationship to subjects such as 'latest developments in micro-thermoforming technology', 'Improvements in Heavy Gauge thermoforming simulation by use of 3d digital image correlation', 'Thermoforming software simulation software T-SIM' and finally 'The latest developments in extrusion and thermoforming of liquid crystalline polymers (LCP)

During the coffee and lunch breaks, there were over 35 table top displays from a variety of suppliers to the industry from machine manufacturers to material suppliers with all other aspects of the industry covered as well.

In another section of the building there was a display of parts made by thermoforming that showed the wide range of products that are made in this form of production. Parts in Acrylic, HDPE, ABS with PMMA Surface were some of the



highlighted products exhibited. There were a couple that stood out as very technical and perfectly finished. One was a special light that is used in the operating theatres that must transmit the light in a perfect way as well as being completely sealed so that the highest level of hygiene is achieved in operating theatres.

The two other items, one was a rear of a car where the lights and all items in the rear of the vehicle were put into this thermoformed part and that last was a ticket machine shell that was made from acrylic. These machines are used at airports etc. for people to check into their flight, collect their tickets and even converse with a person if they are having difficulties with actions. The shell is shaped to accommodate a keyboard, all electronic parts to make the unit function. All products were classified as outstanding examples of the thermoforming technology. Two of the parts were being shipped to Las Vegas directly after the show to be included in a worldwide competition at ANTEC 2014 in May. Parts from all sectors of the plastics industry will be submitted (injection mouldings, blow mouldings, rotary moulding, thermoforming parts etc.), and the winners were selected at the ANTEC Conference.

The second day of the conference was highlighted with the first presentation which was on 3D printing and was presented by David Bue Pedersen PhD who is a researcher at Denmark's Technical University.

He not only presented the concept and videos explaining the basis of the 3D printer he also showed examples of products made by this method.

There were a number of other interesting presentation, one was by a gentleman from the Turkish plastic packaging industry explaining the growth and potential in Turkey for thermoforming and another was a manager at the Case New Holland Company who showed everyone today's use of thermoformed parts in their various vehicles and invited the audience to investigate the opportunities for other areas of their machinery that could use thermoformed parts

The conference was brought to a close by Marek Nikiforov, Chair of the SPE European Thermoforming Board and it was obvious that this 9<sup>th</sup> Conference not only upheld the standards from the past but surpassed them in giving all delegates an understanding of today's and tomorrows trends and technologies

Ken Braney  
Managing Director  
Plastics Machinery Group International Ltd

## Featured topics for future UK & Ireland Newsletters

Let us know what sort of topics you would like to have included in future newsletters.

Contact [Stuart Patrick](#)