

NTDA elects new Executive Officers and Trustees at 90th AGM

At a very well attended Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 27th March, the Executive Council of the Association elected its new Executive Officers and Trustees for the period 2019 - 2021.



Firstly, **Martin O'Brien** was installed as National Chairman.

Martin was presented with his 'Badge of Office' by Prashant Chopra who has served as National Chairman for the past two years.

Martin's career in the UK tyre industry began some 27 years ago. Prior to this, he worked in both agricultural and industrial national sales roles. He refers to his pre-tyre days as *"exploring England, Scotland and Wales whilst being paid!"*

Once in tyres, he knew he was here to stay! Rising through the ranks from Sales Representative, to Area Manager and eventually to General Manager at the Fossitt and Thorne Tyre Company Ltd based in Lincolnshire. To progress further, in April 2000, he joined the rapidly growing Kingsway Tyres (Stamford) Ltd based at its South Lincolnshire head office.

During the next four years, he helped the privately-owned business to grow quickly through acquisition from 5 to a total of 16 depots.

In 2004, the business was acquired by Bridgestone UK Ltd. Soon after, Martin was appointed Commercial Manager and so began the task of changing the company culturally from a regional, owner-managed business to one part of the

world's largest tyre and rubber company. Working with senior Bridgestone colleagues throughout the UK and Europe, Martin comments, that he now has a wealth of experience in many differently sized corporate structures from small to massive!

Having been promoted to the position of Director & General Manager in 2014, he helped to steer the business through its next phase to become part of the highly successful Lodge Tyre Co. Ltd in August 2017.

Now Managing Director of Kingsway, and a keen Executive Council member of the NTDA for the past seven years, Martin commented that he is proud and delighted to be elected National Chairman of an association in which he truly believes.



Simon Wright the Commercial Director at Universal Tyre & Autocentres has been installed as Vice National Chairman of the Association. Family run business Universal, has been an active member of the NTDA for over 60 years.

However, before he can take on the challenge of becoming an Executive Officer, Simon has a much bigger challenge to overcome namely MOUNT EVEREST! He is about to spend 24 days ascending to Advanced Base Camp 3 (6,600 metres

or approx. 22,000 feet). Once he and his fellow climbers all *hopefully* reach this altitude, they will be attempting to set two world records for the highest game of full contact rugby and the highest game of mixed touch rugby. This is all to raise money for the Wooden Spoon – The Children’s Charity of Rugby, <https://woodenspoon.org.uk/about-us/> 100% of all monies raised will be going to help disabled and disadvantaged children in the UK & Ireland and his group is aiming to raise in excess of £250,000.



Prashant Chopra was installed as Immediate Past Chairman of the Association. Commenting on Prashant’s contribution to the NTDA, its Chief Executive Stefan Hay said: *“Prashant has been great to work with over the past two years. He is full of energy and boundless enthusiasm and as the Association’s first Aftermarket Supplier Chairman, has held his own rather well in the world of tyres. We are, therefore, very pleased that he will benefit from his input for a further 2 years.”*



Donald Carmichael, Managing Director of McConechy’s Tyre & Autocentres, which has been an active member

company of the NTDA since 1963, was unanimously re-elected as Honorary Treasurer of the Association, a position he has now held, diligently, for six years.



Roger Griggs, Communications Director at ETEL Ltd, stepped down as an Executive Officer of the Association after an extended period of seven years, during which time he not only served on the recruitment panel that appointed Stefan Hay as Chief Executive, but also oversaw the implementation and successful execution of the Association’s 2014 – 2017 Corporate Plan including the member levy based project to combat the sale of dangerous and illegal part worn tyres and the relaunch of the NTDA’s annual conference.

Stefan Hay said: *“Roger was a phenomenal National Chairman and Executive Officer. He is passionate about both the tyre industry and the NTDA and his outstanding pedigree in, and knowledge of, our industry, meant that he was an excellent advisor and ally to me in my early days at the NTDA. Roger understands trade associations and the fact that you have to give in order to receive. He has been generous with his time and input, always fair and unbiased towards all member companies and altruistic in his approach to all things, including his charitable work on behalf of the Wheelwrights’ Charity and WheelPower. He is a very hard act to follow and will be missed by the team!”*