

Chris Comport appointed as new NTDA Central Region Chairman

On Tuesday 30th January, seasoned tyre industry professional and Infleet Ltd Managing Director, Chris Comport, was appointed as the new Central Region Chairman. Relunched in 2016, the Central Region is now thriving and 20 members from the tyre retail, wholesale and manufacturing sectors, together with several automotive aftercare companies, were present for Chris' first meeting in the chair.



The meeting was held at Michelin's state of the art Training Centre in Stoke on Trent and in addition to an update on Association activities and key industry issues, members benefitted from an informative presentation from John Bentley of ECOBAT Battery Technologies on Battery Stop-Start Technology and the future business opportunities for the fast-fit trade. Chris Comport took the opportunity to urge more tyre retailers/distributors to either attend regional meetings or send colleagues. He said: *"It is great that the NTDA membership is growing and is so diverse, but our core membership, the tyre specialists, must support the Association and the work it is doing to raise standards, educate the industry and improve the commercial environment in which they operate."*

Meetings now regularly take place in Central, South East & Central South, North West & North Wales regions and the NTDA intends to re-launch other regions this year. The next meeting of the Central Region will take place on Thursday 24th May. Members interested in attending should contact NTDA Membership Secretary Alison Keitch on **01296 482128**.

Popular TV presenter to host 2018 Tyre Industry Awards at 89th NTDA Annual Dinner

The 2018 official awards ceremony, which is sponsored by Sailun, will be hosted by popular TV presenter Mark Durden-Smith a sport and lifestyle presenter, whose versatility has seen him front everything from sports coverage to reality contests, cookery programmes to morning magazine shows.

Well-known to sports fans, Mark has led ITV's Premiership and World Cup rugby coverage, as well as anchoring its Boat Race broadcast. For Sky he's presented European golf, international cricket, Spanish football and the daily round-up Sky Sports Centre. More recently, he has presented the AVIVA Premiership Rugby Highlights on Channel 5.



The NTDA is delighted to announce that the 89th Annual Dinner and official Drinks Reception are being sponsored by Chemiculture Ltd, the parent company of Land Tyre Service, (LTS), which has been trading for over 53 years, from the original retail branch near Southam in Warwickshire. LTS also incorporates a successful wholesale tyre business delivering tyres to most parts of the UK and offering a huge range of tyre sizes and brands for all budgets.

NTDA Chief Executive Stefan Hay said: *"We are, of course, delighted to have Chemiculture sponsor our flagship event. It has been a regular supporter of the dinner for many years and it's great to now have Oliver Green and his team on board in such a high-profile capacity. I am also delighted to say that we've already had close to 300 bookings for the dinner"*. To book your place at the 89th Annual Dinner contact Alison Keitch on **01296 482128** or email: alisonkeitch@ntda.co.uk

NTDA REACT and Licensed Commercial Tyre Technician Schemes prove very popular in Ireland

NTDA supplier member Michelin Tyre PLC's professional training team, under the leadership of Training Centre Manager Carl Williams, has been extremely busy over the last month delivering both the NTDA REACT and Licensed Commercial Tyre Technician schemes to a number of tyre distributors across the Republic of Ireland (ROI).

Commercial Tyre Technicians from Midland Tyre Services, Murnaghan Tyres and Parle Tyres were all trained and assessed as competent and will soon be issued with their new licences. Commenting on the training Carl Williams said: *"It's great to see more Tyre Distributors are taking part in the schemes all leading to a more professional industry."*

Commenting on Midland Tyres' participation in the scheme Trevor Burns, Michelin Tyre PLC, Sales Account Manager for ROI said: *"This training will be key in helping to protect the technicians whilst working in often potentially precarious conditions and ensure that Midland Tyre Service's customers know that their contracted work has been conducted in a safe and compliant manner. Congratulations again to all."*

REACT and Licensed Commercial Tyre Technician training and assessment is currently offered by Michelin Training, Bridgestone Training, PFTP Ltd and Roadside Safety Ltd. For further details on these and other schemes contact the NTDA on **01296 482128**.



New Supplier Member



The NTDA would like to welcome the UK division of GiPA, the international automotive aftermarket intelligence specialists as a new supplier member.