



ABPC

Newsletter

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The Association of British Pewter Craftsmen

September 2015

Council looks to the challenges of the future

These are exciting times for the pewter trade. A Council Meeting in Sheffield this month considered some of the challenges facing the trade, particularly from new Regulations. The agenda also included:

Responsible Sourcing

Jonathan Rickwood, of the International Tin Research Institute, before making a brief presentation, explained that ITRI, once a public body, was now owned by the tin industry itself.

ITRI was, he said, in the course of developing both a 'responsible sourcing' commitment, and also a general Code of Conduct for approval by its members, which it hoped those associated with it would also feel able to adopt. Council considered that, in principle, it could recommend to its members that it - and they - signed up to the proposed commitment and that it would look sympathetically at the Code of Conduct once it had been drafted. Members to be asked their views.

New Regulations - Testing

In the context of the forthcoming EU Regulations and the ABPC's ongoing testing programme, the Chairman reported on the continuing problems he was having getting a flask to pass the new tests on a ten-day-contact standard. It was agreed that, as most manufacturers appeared to recommend that liquids should not be left in a flask for more than 24 hours, the tests should be repeated on the basis of 24 hours' contact instead of ten days.

Members' Obligations

The current practice was that only those members who wanted to use either or both of the Seahorse or the ABPC Marks were required to sign the User Agreement. This User Agreement was under review in the light of changes in manufacturing practice; and it was agreed that once that had been completed, all members would be required to sign, on the grounds that there were wider obligations in the Agreement than those relating to the Marks. [Members' obligations under the User Agreement are set out in an article below below. Ed]

A member pointed out that there were, worldwide, seven different pewter standards.

The Meeting resolved to consider a statement of 'best practice' at a future meeting. The Chairman, Richard Abdy, agreed to table a draft of such a statement before the next meeting.

Annual Subscriptions

It was agreed that, given the ongoing costs of the proposed testing programmes, further funds would be required. It was resolved that, as an interim measure, to propose that the current generous 'prompt payment' discount of 20% should be reduced, with a final decision on subscriptions for 2016 being taken at the next meeting.

Promotion

How should the ABPC promote itself and its members? The Meeting tabled for future discussion proposals that the Council might, for instance, nominate 'preferred suppliers'; and find ways to promote to the public members' own businesses.

*First draft proposed
responsible sourcing and Code
of Conduct*

"The members of the ABPC are committed to responsible and sustainable practices throughout their operations. This includes a commitment to acquire tin from organisations that can demonstrate responsible production and sourcing of the metal. We fully support the development of a Code of Conduct for the global tin industry by ITRI which we hope will become a benchmark for industry best practice over the coming years."

New Members

The Chairman reported that all major manufacturers were now members of the Association. He welcomed Ella McIntosh, a young designer/craftsperson, to the Meeting and hoped she would be interested in joining the Council and in acting as an informal representative of the many craftsmen and women who were not (yet) members of the Association. She said that there were lots of people 'out there' wanting to know all sorts of things about how to set up and trade as working pewterers. She volunteered to put together, after consultation with some of her fellows, a list of a) what she and they would like to receive in a Welcome Pack upon joining and b) what other areas of help they would, as members, find useful. The Council agreed that it would then review what it could do to meet that demand.

ABPC Commercial Prize at Pewter Live

There was general excitement about the success of the Association's Commercial Prize at *Pewter Live*. David Pinder and Dennis Trickett reported on their judging of the second year's Prize. The winner had been Emily Gilmore; and David Pinder had, after meetings with her and her college tutor, agreed to invest in moulds and some samples (the latter were passed around the Meeting). The Chairman expressed the hope that such a commercial project went well. There was some discussion about how best in the future to get the Commercial Prize specifications to the attention of entrants to the Pewter Live Competition.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be in London, on 9th March at the Hall of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers. Any member is welcome to attend, but please give advance notice to Cathy Steele.

Use of Seahorse and ABPC marks

Question: I am a member of the ABPC. Can I use either or both of the Seahorse mark and the ABPC mark?

Answer: You have to be a member of the ABPC to use the marks; but even members may not use them unless they have signed a User Agreement (obtainable from Cathy Steele). The core of the User Agreement consists of certain undertakings, which I set out below.

You should note that these undertakings are being reviewed by the Council in the light of current trading conditions. If you have any comments, please send them to the Secretary, [Cathy Steele](#) or speak to the Chairman, Richard Abdy.

The undertakings currently required:

Use of Marks

The Seahorse and the ABPC Trade Marks may be used on goods falling within the Scheduled Classes which have been manufactured within the United Kingdom by the User (and for these purposes, 'manufactured in the United Kingdom' shall mean wholly manufactured and assembled in the UK)

Metal Content

The use of the Trade Marks or any of them on any article shall indicate that the chemical composition of the pewter and the solder used in the manufacture of the articles:

- (a) is one of alloys, particulars of which are set out in table 1 to part 1 of BS/EN/611; or*
- (b) in the case of articles manufactured specifically for sale in a country outside the European Community, is an alloy subject to such modifications as may be necessary to comply with the requirements, standards or regulations laid down in that country for the chemical composition of the pewter alloy and/or solder but so that the second paragraph of Section 3.2 of BS/EN/611 Part 2 shall apply at all times; or*
- (c) such other alloy as shall be approved in writing by the (ABPC), such approval not to be unreasonably withheld.*

Fitness for Purpose

Any article which bears the Marks or either of them shall be fit for use for the purpose for which it is intended and shall conform to the concept of pewter as a metal for the manufacture of quality goods.

Finish and Craftsmanship

The Craftsmanship used in the manufacture of any article and the finish of any article shall conform to the reasonable requirements of the Council of the Association of British Pewter Craftsmen which requirements shall be directed to seeing that the craftsmanship and finish of all articles shall be such that British Pewter and articles made therefrom shall not be brought into disrepute thereby.

DJH Engineering

DJH Group Ltd have a modern factory in Consett, County Durham; are proud to be members of the Association of British Pewter Craftsmen.

Commenting on the increasingly complex trading regulations, Stephen Widdows, Managing Director, said that he "recognised how important it was for the whole trade to work together, particularly in the face of the new European-inspired Regulations on leaching and mouthing".



"Over more than 30 years", he said, "DJH have built a reputation for excellence in design and manufacturing of quality products.

"We are committed to first class service and continual improvement. We optimise a blend of traditional craftsmen skill and modern technology to achieve the best results. From our purpose-built factory in the North East of England we service trade and retail customers world-wide."

DJH offers a full in-house design service. "We can take the product or service you wish to promote and develop bespoke designs supported by visuals to assist your selection process to the perfect gift. Once a design is agreed our low cost, low volume, high quality process enables tooling and actual pre-production samples to be generated for your final comment and approval."

DJH Group has a number of divisions, catering for such diverse areas as:

Kitchen Cabinet & Door Hardware www.finessedesign.com
Site Specific Historical Souvenirs www.rowenasouvenirs.co.uk
Corporate Gifts & Promotional Awards www.djhengineering.co.uk
Aviation Giftware www.clivedon.com
Scale Models www.djhmodelloco.co.uk

DJH specialise in meeting specific delivery targets on time.

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Tin in the News

Supply tightness continues to support the tin price. The LME tin cash settlement price reached a monthly high of US\$ 16,040 on Monday and has remaining in the upper \$ 15,000s for the rest of the last week. LME tin stocks have fallen further and are now hovering just above 5,000 tonnes. Net long positions in tin - according to BNP Paribas - have also risen to their highest level since August 2014.

Indonesian tin exports are expected to increase over the next month in advance of the November 1st deadline for the new Clean & Clear regulation, which may ease the current tightness of supply, but this is likely to be counterbalanced by a reduction of exports following implementation of the new rules which may persist over the longer term.

This weeks Tin in the News covers presentations and news from the ICDX Indonesia Tin Conference & Exhibition earlier this week and news on reduced production due to maintenance at the Pitinga mine in Brazil and the China Tin Group's smelting operations in Guangxi Province.

Tom Mulqueen - Analyst, Markets

Extract from a recent ITRI newsflash: for further information, try the ITRI site:
www.itri.co.uk

[The Pewterer](#)[Antique Metalware Society](#)[The Association of British Pewter Craftsmen](#)[The Worshipful Company of Pewterers](#)[Pewter Bank](#)

The Pewterer

[Pewter Live, 2014](#)

Have you read *The Pewterer*? This is an e-zine devoted to pewter, and published in support of pewter and the pewter trade.
www.thepewterer.org.uk

[The Pewter Society](#)[ITRI](#)