



NTDA announces plans for 90th Annual Dinner & 5th Tyre Industry Conference in 2019



On Thursday 3rd October 2019, the NTDA will be holding its 90th Annual Dinner, sponsored, once again, by **Land Tyre Service**, the Tyre Industry Awards and the Tyre Industry Conference, sponsored by **Maritime Cargo Services**, at the prestigious International Convention Centre (ICC) in Birmingham.

The ICC is less than a 2-minute walk from where once stood the majestic White Horse Hotel on Congreve Street where the Association held its first 'founding' annual dinner in 1930. (See image).

In the 1930s, the Midlands dominated the tyre trade, both in terms of manufacturing and distribution and of course a number of NTDA members still have a strong Midlands presence to this day. The last dinner the Association held at the ICC in 2015, attracted 620 guests from across the UK tyre and associated automotive aftercare market and, according to the NTDA, already, many of the 2019 sponsorship packages have been taken, by leading tyre manufacturers such as Continental, Hankook, Pirelli and Trelleborg, with other confirmed sponsors being insurer to the tyre trade Jelf Beaumonts and the Worshipful Company of Wheelwrights.

The Association is planning to make sure this event truly commemorates the work of the NTDA, but also the UK tyre and associated automotive aftercare market and hopes that members not only attend, but also enter for the 2019 NTDA Tyre Industry Awards, especially across categories such as Tyre Retailer of the Year, Tyre Wholesaler of the Year, REACT Commercial Tyre Technician of the Year and Tyre Technician Apprentice of the Year, which are probably the most 'representative' of



the traditional trade of members, but of course, will welcome entries across all other categories.

The ICC is a world class, multi-award winning conference and events venue, which sits in the heart of Birmingham City Centre immediately adjacent to the restaurants, bars and clubs of Brindley Place and Broad Street and with dozens of leading hotels nearby to choose from. In order to negotiate preferential room rates and to ensure guests are accommodated very close to the venue, the NTDA has appointed an official accommodation agency to help you with your bookings, the details of which will be provided upon receipt of a completed booking form.

As aforementioned, the official booking form for the 2019 event is now available in hardcopy and as an electronically

editable pdf. To avoid disappointment, the NTDA recommends that you book at your earliest convenience.

NTDA Chief Executive Stefan Hay said: *“Everyone is welcome, member and non-member alike and the NTDA Executive Officers, NTDA staff, our many industry sponsors and I look forward to seeing you in October 2019 as we celebrate not only the Association’s 90th Annual Dinner, but also look forward to 2020, our 90th year of representing the UK’s Tyre and Automotive Aftercare Professionals.”*

Should you require a booking form, have any questions, require further assistance or if you are interested in sponsorship opportunities, please do not hesitate to contact the NTDA Membership Secretary Alison Keitch via E: alisonkeitch@ntda.co.uk or T: **01296 482128**

NTDA REACT & TTPDS Schemes “Paramount” to Tyre Technician Safety

Since the NTDA issued the 5000th Roadside Emergency Action Concerning Technicians (REACT) licence to Commercial Tyre Technician Keiran Smith of Lodge Tyre Company on Tuesday 18th September, the scheme has continued to go from strength to strength. The Association’s Chief Executive Stefan Hay said: *“Since September, a further 178 Commercial Tyre Technicians have been trained, assessed as competent to work safely at the roadside and have been issued with their REACT licences and certificates. REACT has become even more significant as more and more Motorways are changed to SMART Motorways with the resulting loss of the hard-shoulders across most of the network. Unfortunately, the refuge areas are often too small for an HGV and the Commercial Tyre Technicians van and leave very little room in which the technician can work safely. Greater safety awareness is, therefore, paramount.”*



REACT licensed Commercial Tyre Technicians can be found across all four countries of the United Kingdom, and as a result of a recent agreement with the Irish Tyre Industry Association, now in the Republic of Ireland. In October this year, the UK’s three largest breakdown organisations joined forces to call for enhanced motorway safety rules to protect recovery patrols and other road users. The RAC, AA and Green Flag wrote to Jesse Norman MP, road safety minister, calling for the introduction of a ‘slow down, move over’ rule when drivers pass a broken-down vehicle, or a recovery vehicle with flashing amber beacons. The call followed several serious incidents involving vehicle recovery staff – including the death of an RAC roadside technician.

Stefan Hay continued: *“The NTDA has recently become a stakeholder of the Slow Down or Move Over UK group. The group’s vision, is to build a culture of awareness for all road users so when they are presented with a temporary hazard on the road network it will assist them in taking the appropriate action to avoid the danger. We believe that more organisations and companies need to engage with Slow Down or Move Over UK to give the campaign more momentum”.*

The NTDA has also reported that its Tyre Technician Professional Development Scheme (TTPDS) is also doing well with a total of 297 licences issued to both commercial and retail tyre technicians in 2018 to date. For further information on REACT contact the NTDA on E: info@ntda.co.uk or T: **01296 482128**