

Wheelwrights' Mansion House Banquet a major success for NTDA members



On Wednesday 22nd May, the Worshipful Company of Wheelwrights hosted its annual White Tie Banquet at Mansion House, the Lord Mayor of London's official city residence. More than 220 guests gathered in the magnificent Egyptian Hall (pictured) to celebrate the 349th year of the Livery Company, which in addition to preserving the ancient craft of wooden wheel making, also supports, in partnership with the NTDA, many tyre industry skills and environmental protection initiatives.

The Lord Mayor Peter Estlin and the entire City of London civic party were in attendance and were joined by Freemen and Liverymen of the Wheelwrights, (both male and female!), and their guests, including a large contingent from the UK Tyre and associated automotive aftercare market.

Following the official drinks reception, Stephen Callow, Past NTDA National Chairman and current North West & North Wales Region Chairman presented a cheque for £1,500 on behalf of the region to Master Wheelwright Mr James Tucker. The cheque was a donation to the 2020 appeal in support of the national charity for wheelchair sport WheelPower, which provides opportunities for disabled people to play sport and lead healthy active lives. The money was raised at the North West & North Wales NTDA Winter Rubber Ball in Blackpool in November 2018.





The senior management team from NTDA full member European Tyre Enterprises Ltd, including Corporate Planning Director Takeshi Fukuda, UK Managing Director (Retail), Mark Slade, Group CEO Shinjiro Tanaka and Group CFO Mark Lynott presented a further cheque for £5,000 in support of the 2020 appeal. Every pound donated to the Wheelwrights' charity is spent on its beneficiaries as the charity is run by volunteers and has, therefore, no unnecessary expenditure or operating overheads.

Following the banquet, NTDA supplier member Continental Tyre Group Ltd was presented with the inaugural Tyre Industry Environmental & Sustainable Solution Award.

The award, which is sponsored by former Lord Mayor of London Lord Mountevans of Chelsea, was presented to Tracey Mortimer Continental's Marketing Director by the current Lord Mayor of London Peter Estlin. Commenting on being the first tyre manufacturer to be recognised, Tracey Mortimer of Continental said: "To be recognised for the inaugural Tyre Industry Environmental & Sustainable Solution Award is a huge honour and highlights Continental's commitment to environmental consideration.



Our Sustainable Natural Rubber Sourcing Policy last year went even further in highlighting our long-term commitments to employees, customers and our end goal of limiting environmental impact."

Commenting on both the award and NTDA's involvement with the Worshipful Company of Wheelwrights Stefan Hay NTDA Chief Executive and Wheelwrights' Court Assistant, (who is pictured with Richard Armstrong of NTDA supplier member Lumileds/Philips Automotive Lighting), said:

"The generosity of NTDA members over the last four years in supporting the Wheelwrights' Charity 2020 appeal has been incredible. We have been able to sponsor the Inter-spinal Unit Games at Stoke Mandeville for three consecutive years and have funded many individual wheelchair users enabling them to pursue their dreams to become wheelchair athletes.



The Livery Company has also become a terrific supporter of the NTDA, firstly by sponsoring the NTDA Tyre Technician Apprentice of the Year Award and now by introducing the Tyre Industry Environmental & Sustainable Solution Award. Continental Tyre Group is a very worthy winner and must be applauded for its outstanding environmental and sustainability work.

Many tyre industry professionals have joined, as the Worshipful Company of Wheelwrights has proven itself to be a forward-thinking Livery Company that understands both the importance of preserving heritage skills and supporting the civic work of the City of London, whilst also embracing modern industry and business.

I believe it now provides a wonderful non-partisan platform for tyre industry and associated automotive aftercare market professionals to network with each other and with other business leaders from an array of industries and at the same time, support the benevolent work of the charity and I encourage trade colleagues to join this wonderful organisation."

For further details on membership of the Worshipful Company of Wheelwrights visit: www.wheelwrights.org or contact Stefan Hay directly at the NTDA.