

PAA News

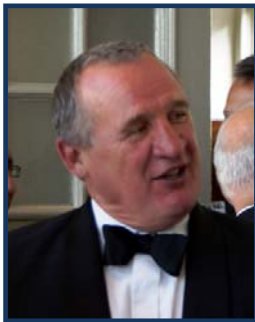


Issue 28

A Newsletter of the Paper Agents Association

January 2010

A Message from the President



2009 has been an unusual year for the industry; for most of us the only demand for paper we saw in the first six months was for bank notes for quantitative easing. The second half

has seen something of a recovery, but a strange one, caused more by mill closures, both permanent and temporary, than by a massive recovery in demand.

Each cycle looks the same, but they are very different.

For the PAA we had one of the most memorable May Dinners ever, many thanks to Barry Campbell for arranging the venue and Charles Harvey, whose friendship with Henry Blofeld was instrumental in getting him to speak, for their contribution to a fantastic evening. With our active social committee (John Paine) having already booked the National Liberal Club for what might be election night we are looking forward to another great night in 2010.

The Christmas Lunch was overbooked, but John and Balls Brothers worked hard to increase the capacity, and the event was once again a success. Next year the Albert Hall?

But life can't all be socialising and good fun, unfortunately.

During the year the council has worked very closely with both the CPI and NAPM, partly to do with my own pet project, the PR initiative, but also enlarging the Environment Committee to include

AGM Reminder & Change of Date

The AGM and Annual Lunch of the Association will be held at

The Goring Hotel
on **Friday 5th March 2010** starting at 11.00am

Full details available from the Director

jrpaine@paa.org.uk

Andrew Barnetson from the CPI, who works closely with DEFRA on food safety issues, many thanks to all the members of that committee.

The Statistics Committee also continues its excellent work; thanks to Peter Beckwith for that.

The NAPM initiative on PR, The Two Sides Campaign, has become Europe wide, with funding from Eugropa and Cepifine.

We hope to have a packaging committee, including a seat for the PAA working within 2 Sides early this Year.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM on the 5th March – please note that the date has been moved to avoid a conflict with the PICT AGM and Lunch which I know a number of members wished to attend. Details have already been circulated, but if you need any more information please contact John Paine.

A very happy 2010 to everybody.

Chris Bell

Section 2 met on the Friday of "Children in Need"
Gareth Jones sought the support of members present for his local Round Table appeal and writes:
"Locally the Round Table raised £3,900 on Friday, Nationally they raised £69,000 which is some achievement.
Members of the PAA were very generous and it was much appreciated."

Section Reports

Section 1

No formal report was received from Section 1, but they met three times during the year with mixed attendances reflecting the competing demands imposed by a difficult market. Whilst Newsprint and some publishing grades have clearly suffered during the year, those members supplying niche markets from specialist (usually small) mills have found themselves struggling to obtain supplies for a market which is unattractive because of the exchange rate.

Vicky Doleman and John Uwins will continue as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively through 2010.

Section 2

We met 5 times in 2009 (January, March, June, September and November). The September meeting preceded the annual customer lunch and took place at the Goring Hotel, the others at Davy's Wine bar. Attendances were very good, averaging 15 members per meeting, which, in very difficult trading conditions, continues to demonstrate the support that the members have for the section (especially in the first 6 months of the year).

The first of the social events took place at Lord's Cricket ground, during which members had a tour of the ground, its facilities and museum, which most members and guests found interesting. This followed by dinner in the Long Room and a robust after dinner speech given by Henry Blofeld, which seemed to go down very well.

This was followed by the Section 2 customer lunch, as referenced above. 12 Customers and 15 members made the atmosphere at the Goring very cosy. Lunch was excellent as usual and was followed by an after lunch speech given by John Pollard of Unilever. His speech seemed to be very positive about the future and sustainability of corrugated board as a packaging medium for Unilever products going forward (in comparison with other packaging grades).

In corrugated promotional related meetings, the "Making Waves" seminar was held at the Holiday Inn in Stratford during September.

The seminar was very well attended by members of the CPI and Sheet Plant Association with a fair spread of paper suppliers too. It was a very informative meeting with speeches by industry related players. If it is repeated it may be worth arranging something more formal in terms of attendance from Section 2; it may also offer the PR vehicle that the industry has been looking for.

During the year Smurfit Kappa Group took the decision to withdraw as active participants in section meetings, thereby forcing Martin Ferrari's resignation as Vice Chairman. Phil Bond (Emin Leydier) was elected as his replacement (at the November section meeting) in a close run contest with Gareth Jones (Bearsted). Phil formally started the role in January.

The year was rounded off by the Christmas lunch, which took place at Balls Brothers on Mincing Lane, as usual. Problems had occurred with customer invitations although this was in part due to the record demand for tickets both across Section 2 itself as well as the rest of the Association. Despite the fact that some customer invitations were late going out, a cause of some embarrassment, once table plans were change to 2 tables by 20 it seemed to work very well, although even cosier than the Goring. 30 Members and 9 Guests attended and enjoyed a good meal followed by the usual carol recital. This year changes will be made to the customer and member invitation process for Section 2, which will ensure that all are given sufficient notice. This is especially important now the Fleet Street lunch is cancelled as, to quote a former President, "now the PAA Christmas lunch is seen as being the premier industry event" and as such the demand for tickets is very strong.

Looking forward into 2010 the year's planned meetings should follow a similar pattern to 2009, but hopefully business conditions will improve !!

Christian Dale

*The Paper Trail invites all members to celebrate its 10th Anniversary at one of two open days to be held on the 19th February and 19th March.
Details from the Director*

Section 4

Section 4 has met 3 times during 2009 under the joint Chairmanship of John Tomkins and Paul Woollett. John has contributed this report on the BPIF Cartons Seminar held in Coventry over 24/25th November 2009 which was attended by Carton and Associate members.

Workshop 1 – Migration – Issues Relating to Cartonboard Based Food Packaging in Contact with Food.

Peter Vincent head of BPIF's Technical Action Group gave an overview on BPIF's progress in finalising a GMP (Good Manufacturing Process) document to address all the recent issues relating to this very topical subject. Unfortunately the draft document is still confidential and cannot be shared with members of the PAA. After listening to a debate on recent proposals to use low migration inks and their benefits/non benefits it was concluded that the BPIF Technical Action Group Committee will try to agree testing standards for the UK Industry as a whole.

The BPIF will seek to form a joint approach with a number of related parties, such as Ink, Varnish, Coating, Glue and Board Producers. This could be an opportunity for Section 4 to contribute to this important topic. More to follow.

Workshop 2 – Industrial and Home Compostable, Plastic and Packaging Certificated Schemes.

'Oh! what a can of worms', sorry to use that pun but after 3 hours of dialogue my head was spinning. Anyway, I will try to summarise this topic in a few sentences.

Wrap are moving to find alternative methods of disposal for food-soiled packaging. This covers paper and board packaging as well as certain types of plastic packaging that can compost fully.

I stress this is for material that would go to land fill and not fibre that can be used for recycling back into paper and board.

The compliance for compostability can be exercised industrially (centrally) and certificated under EN 13432 (gained recently by Iggesund – Sweden for Invercote).

Certification once achieved expires after three years. An indicated cost provided by the presenter was 18,000 Euros for a 'family of products'. However, any product that has a major difference needs to be tested separately. For carton makers this needs greater clarity because if board or inks change then re-testing and certification would need to be done. Compostability can also be certificated under a Home Compostability Scheme with separate certification. Under this scheme compostability is 'allowable' under lower temperature.

Both schemes will allow the retailers to add logo's to their packs stating the product packaging meets either or both certifications. So all cartons will need an increased panel size to show FSC/PEFC, Recycling, Recycled Fibre Content and now compostability logo's!! Where will it all end!

Next update February 2010.

John Tomkins

May Dinner - 27th May 2010

**One Whitehall Place
(National Liberal Club)**

Tickets £72.50 per head

(including VAT but excluding wines)

Dress: Black Tie

(Numbers limited to 200)

Full details and booking forms available in early March

Put the date in your diary NOW !

Statistics Committee.

The Statistics Committee is formed from members of each PAA section, the CPI and PPL Research. We continue to meet twice yearly to review apparent consumption data for all paper and board grades relevant to PAA members.

Clearly the current global economic situation is having an impact on all our businesses and not surprisingly the current year on year consumption trend is downwards in all areas. However, there is one exception ... toilet tissue is a growth market!

Forecast percentage changes for this year compared with last range from a negative 30% to a positive 3%, with an overall figure for total paper and board consumption of around -10% compared with 2008 volumes.

Clearly there are some very big variations in demand across the industry, although to quote a member of the debating panel at the recent industry forum held at Stationers' Hall, "... it's about the direction of the tide, not how high the waves are."

Peter Beckwith.

PAPER AGENTS GOLFING SOCIETY

Barry Campbell has submitted the following details of the 2010 programme:

Wednesday 19th May .

Spring Meeting at Burnham Beeches G.C.,
Burnham, Bucks

Wednesday 2nd June

Whitehead Salver Match at R.Blackheath G.C.
(this is a 12/side match between PAGS, PICT and PTGS)

Thursday 24th June

Summer Meeting at Clandon Regis G.C.,
Leatherhead, Surrey
(this will also incorporate the Dandy Roll Match with PICT)

Wednesday 22nd September

Autumn Meeting at Nevill G.C., Tunbridge Wells,
Kent

Guests are welcomed to the 3 meetings by invitation of the Members.

The meetings will be joint meetings held with PICT Golfing Society.

OBITUARY - Rodney Farkas 1935 - 2009



Rodney was born in Chiswick, West London in 1935, to an English mother and Hungarian Father.

In 1938 He travelled with his mother to visit his Father in Hungary. Unfortunately, while out there they got caught up in the start of World War

two and remained in Hungary until 1945. Then, with the war in Europe coming to a close, and the Russian army advancing from the east, the Farkas family planned their return to England. This was a daunting task as virtually all of continental Europe was in utter turmoil at the time. Remarkably, they made their way to Romania where his Father commissioned a train from Bucharest to get refugees and his family out and head for safer countries to the west. After a very long and dangerous journey, they eventually arrived at Paris and returned to England in 1946.

In 1948 Rodney attended Westminster School where he excelled at rowing and was part of the school's rowing team. Being a Westminster boy, Rodney was lucky enough to be in the Abbey during the Queen's coronation in 1953.

1955 saw Rodney called up for national service. He joined the Royal Navy and served as a sub-lieutenant on minesweepers. Rodney was on active

service in the Mediterranean during the Suez crisis of 1956.

In 1959 he met his wife to be, Lilo.

Like most paper industry men of that time, you either started out as a Bowater or a Reed man. Rodney opted for Bowaters and this proved to be wise move as he was put in charge of their new Paris office in 1960. While in Paris, he witnessed first hand the general strike and student riots of 1968 that very nearly toppled the de Gaulle Government. After Bowaters, Rodney moved to Sterling International and then to International Forest Products in 1977, where he remained as Managing Director until his retirement in 2000. One of his greatest achievements during his IFP days came in the early 90's with the signing of a single source kraft liner supply agreement with Bowater Containers. From 2000 until recently, Rodney kept active in the paper industry, marketing Tembec newsprint and with other projects.

Rodney was fluent in French, German and Hungarian. He loved geology and had a university place lined up to study it, but being called up for national service put a stop to that.

He is survived by his wife Lilo, and daughter Nadine.

Denver Watkins