Contents

President’s Report 2

Director General’s Report 4

Public and Industrial Affairs 6

On-line Access to your Industry’s Voice 8

Communicating the Benefits of Plastics and The Industry 10

Enhancing the Industry’s Profile and Competitiveness 12

Business Services 14

UK Trade Development and Investment 16

BPF Groups Activities 18

Your Industry Trade Body 26

Committees & Chairmen 27

Council/BPF Staff & Affiliates 28
My first year as President is drawing to a close and it has been without question a difficult year for the UK Plastics industry with huge increases in raw material and energy prices not witnessed for many decades.

It’s not easy to pass on such increases and it has greatly affected members’ profitability. The BPF surveyed a cross section of member companies and found that average increases for gas and electricity prices would be 30% for 2005. The BPF submitted evidence to the House of Commons Trade and Industry Committee’s Fuel Prices Inquiry and held a well attended seminar on how to keep energy costs down. Once again we lobbied to reduce or scrap the unfair and unpopular Climate Change Levy – at least it was not increased in the Budget.

Depending on the process, polymer can account for between 35-70 per cent of the cost of a plastic product so the 2004 polymer price increases of 50-65 per cent have been devastating for our members engaged in processing. We discussed this serious situation with PlasticsEurope and in November the BPF and EuPC issued a statement explaining why price increases were occurring. Member companies were able to use this with their customers to encourage the passing down of costs. Of course, the launch in May 2005 of the LME futures market for two plastics materials should be an interesting development, and has the potential to offer the industry a means of locking in confidence and certainty on prices.

In his report Peter Davis writes about our agreement with the new polymer producers’ organisation, PlasticsEurope, the successor to APME. The one clear new advantage that I and our Council could see in its formation was the commitment to finance much improved communication of the benefits of polymer to co-operate on the initiative, and ensure customers move into a programme of more improvement that people bring after the benefits of placements in effect.

Its members plastics companies to fill what he describes as a ‘gaping, existing since the 1970s, over “the gap in the middle”’, pointing to people who were some of the best and sure they could do so. But they often struggle and many companies and clearly are bright with something about them.

Jeffries concluded that government, politicians and employers to, the detailed discussions and updating the old day-release schemes and being concerned when qualified talent is grades.

Pledging his presidency’s platform to promote their initiative, he added the Federation will now focus on the government and situation bodies to address the goal.

Despite early suggestions to the idea of PlasticsEurope, the new European association for polymer manufacturers, Jeffries said the paper had arrived in a “reinforced agreement of its commitment and recognition” of the association.

In his report Peter Davis writes about our agreement with the new polymer producers’ organisation, PlasticsEurope, the successor to APME. The one clear new advantage that I and our Council could see in its formation was the commitment to finance much improved communication of the benefits of
plastics. As I write this has still not happened. I am very keen that this should be done as a matter of urgency, involving end user organisations such as those in the automotive industry. A recent study has shown that over 20% of plastics applications are irreplaceable and the preferred material for a large proportion of the remaining applications. We have a great story to tell – let’s start telling it!

I am very pleased to record that despite the formation of PlasticsEurope, several major resin producers have committed to remain in membership for 2005. We appreciate the strong commitment these firms show to the UK Plastics Industry and our Federation.

2004 was the year in which our new Sector Skills Council COGENT was launched with full BPF support. The BPF is concerned that we are failing to nurture emerging talent from young employees who may not have formal post-16 qualifications, but we also have much to do to make our industry attractive to work in, at all levels, if we are to recruit and then retain talent. I am conscious and worried by the growing lack of technical management expertise in the industry. I have discussed this with COGENT and believe employers would benefit from putting promising staff through day release schemes up to graduate level so that we can ourselves create more of the industry’s future managers.

Such courses could regenerate traditional certificates such as ONC and HNC, etc as milestone qualifications. Again, it has still not happened and the BPF will dig in to help achieve this.

The Health and Safety record of our industry is simply not good enough and we will continue to work with the Health and Safety Executive to tackle this. The Stockline explosion and fatalities, although highly unusual, should be a wake-up call for all of us.

I have attended a number of meetings of BPF Groups and Committees and am impressed by the commitment and enthusiasm of both members and staff and the results achieved. I can report that the Federation is in vibrant good health and fighting fit for the challenges ahead which include REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Assessment of Chemical Hazards). If we, and EuPC, cannot get a result which is acceptable and workable, it will give converters and materials producers outside the EU a substantial advantage.

I would like to conclude by thanking Peter Davis and his hard-working staff and the many members who serve on the Federation’s Council, Groups and Committees. In the pages ahead you will read of their achievements.

Jim Jeffries
President

About the BPF

The British Plastics Federation (BPF) is the leading trade association of the UK plastics industry (representing approximately 75 per cent of turnover), a springboard for industry action, existing to exploit common opportunities and resolve shared problems. Membership encompasses polymer producers, suppliers, and processors in addition to additive and machinery suppliers and manufacturers.

“...The BPF is the authoritative voice of the UK Plastics Industry and source of unique professional services for the Membership...”

Jim Jeffries
Baerlocher UK Ltd
(President of the BPF 2004)
Peter Davis  

UK Manufacturing Competitiveness

In the summer I spent seven days on the BPF stand at the Shanghai Chinaplas show and saw for myself the huge growth in the Chinese economy. Since my last visit five years ago there are less bikes, many more cars and all Chinese have the latest mobiles. Shanghai’s universities alone produced 100,000 graduates this year. However, it’s not all good news for China. China has serious energy shortages, serious problems regarding water pollution and healthcare, and there is a risk of the economy over-heating. Low tech jobs are moving from the coast inland because the average shop floor wage, £81 per month, is too high! China faces growing competition from India and the BPF, never slow to watch for opportunities for members, will next year sign a co-operation agreement with the Organisation of Plastic Processors in India and take companies to PlastIndia in 2006.

In Central Europe, which houses many of the accession Member States which joined in May 2004, there are signs that some plastics firms are moving out as costs rise.

I mention this to illustrate that we are all in a period of great change and both the BPF and the UK plastics industry, have to watch the trends and look out for opportunities. Staying competitive does not necessarily mean going to high tech and high value products. It means investing in the latest equipment, staff training and R&D. This is essential but difficult to do when spiralling resin and energy prices hit profitability.

To assist member companies in this vein, we have promoted PICME for subsidised help with manufacturing excellence and Faraday Plastics for joint R&D projects with Universities.

60 per cent of UK exports are manufactured goods and this year with the help of Government grants we took UK plastics firms to Chinaplas, Plastpol in Poland and ‘K’ in Dusseldorf. We have therefore taken up strongly with Government its plans to cut support for export work. This seems crazy when the UK Trade Deficit in goods totalled £57bn in 2004.

Influencing Government

Essential for our industry’s competitiveness is a good climate for business. With our allies in the Nine Associations (BPF, BRMA, PIFA, BCF, PMMDA, GTMA, SPRA, NIPA and FPA) we have lobbied Government on the crushing burden of regulation with yet more on the way. In October we welcomed the Prime Minister’s commitment to ‘end gold plating of European regulations’. Let’s hope he delivers!

The Chancellor announced some widening of the criteria whereby companies can join an agreement and get an 80% rebate on the unfair and unpopular Climate Change Levy. Through a survey it was apparent that not many BPF members will benefit from this because we are not deemed to be energy intensive. We have discussed with both the Chemical Industries Association (CIA) and British Coatings Federation (BCF)
the possibility that eligible BPF members could be part of their schemes.

One success for our Nine Associations is the creation by the DTI of a new Manufacturing Forum to drive their revitalised Manufacturing Strategy. For two and a half years we have been calling for the creation of such a Forum composed of business leaders, the DTI, DEFRA, the Treasury and Trade Unions to put a strong UK manufacturing base top of the agenda.

Resin Producers’ representation

During the year a new organisation – PlasticsEurope (P(E)ur) was created to represent European resin producers and take the place of APME. P(E)ur has been set up to deliver a producers’ agenda of focussed lobbying and communication programmes through five Regional Centres in Europe. In the first half of the year there were forthright discussions on the effect in the UK and Europe with the BPF Council firmly of the opinion that the 71 years old BPF ‘One industry – One Voice’ model is both more efficient and effective than compartmentalised representation.

Both the BPF and P(E)ur reached an agreement whereby its North Region centre (covering UK, Ireland and Scandinavia) is located in the BPF building and we are contracted for three years to supply them with information, communications, advocacy and financial services. In October we welcomed their North Region Director Jan-Erik Johansson and have established a good relationship with him.

In the summer I met PlasticsEurope’s President, John Taylor of Borealis, and was pleased that he intended his organisation should work very closely with the European Plastics Converters Association (EuPC).

Staff, Premises and Recruitment

Early in the year we welcomed Alan Davey as our new Finance and Administration Director. Alan swiftly got to work making substantial improvements to our building. This included the creation of new ground floor offices, the refurbishment of offices and a meeting room for PlasticsEurope, re-carpeting the staircase in building 6 and preparing the third floor suite for a new tenant due to move in early in 2005.

A big change for the BPF is that whereas this year 75% of our income comes from members’ subscriptions, next year it will be only 50% making BPF membership excellent value as we develop even better services for members.

It has been another good year for recruitment with 38 new member companies joining, including the Flexible Foam producers and converters, whom we warmly welcome to the BPF.

I would like to end by thanking Jim our President for all his invaluable advice and support.

Peter Davis OBE
Public and Industrial Affairs

constituted the heart of the BPF’s programme in 2004 and provided the vital nexus between the BPF’s membership, EU level trade bodies for plastics, the EU’s political institutions and with world markets for plastics materials and products, and manufacturing equipment.

It embraces the BPF’s activities on:
- Issues Management and Group support
- Commercial Development, including Business Services
- Media Relations.

The continuing growth in membership was paralleled by the further development of the BPF’s electronic communications system: a further deepening of the Extranet and improvements to the e-newsletter service.

Communication on issues was assisted by a more extensive programme of issues-based one day seminars.

The BPF’s profile was also heightened by the continuation of sponsorship arrangements, and we were delighted that AON was able sponsor the Annual Dinner and that subsequently we were able to make a donation to the Teenage Cancer Trust on behalf of the industry.

2004 also marked a significant departure – the expansion of externally funded projects for the benfits of members. For example, early in the year we completed, on behalf of DTI, a "pen portrait" of the UK plastics processing industry, which was an excellent opportunity to inform Government, not only about our concerns but about the opportunities facing the industry. Other projects under the heading of "sustainability" have involved providing greater impetus to recycling of PVC building products (Vinyl 2010), composites (RECOMP) and car components (PROVE).

Against a background of tightening Government support for exports, the BPF also successfully exploited new types of overseas exhibition involvement, such as the mounting of a catalogue stand at Plastpol.

All of this marked an increase in the overall influence of the BPF. Key areas of activity were:

- The international competitiveness of the UK plastics industry was very much to the fore during the year as the supply chain was subjected to higher raw materials and energy prices. The vital role of the DTI was emphasised in BPF’s representations and we were pleased that the concept of a Manufacturing Forum involving representation from industrialists as

Influence

The BPF managed, on behalf of its members, a wide network of contacts throughout the world. This was of considerable help in helping to resolve several issues management topics with an international flavour. There is regular contact with other national plastics industry trade associations in the EU and, more widely, highly valued contacts are maintained through the BPF’s international trade work, CIPAD and the Global PVC Network.
Within the EU, the BPF maintained close co-operation with the Association of Plastics Manufacturers in Europe (APME), the European Council of Vinyl Manufacturers (ECVM), the European Council of Plasticisers and Intermediates (ECPI), the European Stabilisers Producers Association (ESPA) and the European Flame Retardants Association (EFRA). BPF was a member of the following organisations to which subscriptions were paid on behalf of its members:

- **EPPA (Windows)**
  - Philip Law – BPF
  - Mercia Gick – BPF

- **EUMEPS**
  - Peter Cooke – Springvale EPS
  - Gavin Birnie – Styropack

- **EuPC (Converters)**
  - Peter Davis – BPF
  - Philip Law – BPF

- **EUROMAP**
  - Iain McIlwee – BPF

- **EuCIA**
  - Les Norwood – Scott Bader
  - Mercia Gick – BPF

- **TEPPFA (Pipes and Fittings)**
  - Frank Jones – BPF
  - Philip Law – BPF
  - (Environmental Working Group)

David Williams, formerly of LINPAC, is a distinguished President of EuPC, the umbrella organisation in Brussels for the European Plastics Converting Industry.

Well as Government Departments was actually taken up as part of a review of the DTI. This had been a cardinal point for the BPF-coordinated Nine Associations Alliance.

- Particular attention was paid to maintaining a positive image for plastics materials and products in the eyes of the media and national newspaper coverage was achieved on several occasions. The Vinyls Group and the EPS Packaging and Construction Groups developed further their structured campaigns in support of their sectors. Misconceived information appeared in the press on a variety of subjects including the role of plastic carrier bags, local authority attitudes to PVC windows and marine litter were all corrected by the BPF.

- BPF lobbying on Sustainability issues dealt with the implications of the End of Life Vehicles and WEEE Directives including governmental consideration of brominated flame retardants. Concerns persisted over the attestation of recycling of packaging and a Government Task Force was set up at the BPF’s behest to examine the situation. In the absence of an EU policy on PVC, the industry’s Voluntary Commitment was pressed further by the BPF and the EPS Packaging Group maintained its high level of recycling effort.

- On chemical safety concerns intensified. The EC’s proposed REACH system and the so-called ‘SuperRegulation’ on plastics in contact with foodstuffs both threatened to bring new obligations to manufacturers and undermine confidential formulations, and were refined further as the year progressed. The UK Government’s Chemical Stakeholder Forum was reconstituted and following direct contact with DEFRA Minister Alun Michael, the Allied Industries Association of chemical users, of which the BPF is a member, was accorded a seat.

- Throughout the year the BPF remained a member of the tri-partite HSE-industry-unions Plastics Processing Health and Safety Liaison Committee. The industry’s above average accident record remained a concern.

Philip Law speaking at the EuPC General Assembly in Berlin, June 2004
BPF Online saw significant traffic growth in 2004 with traffic peaking at 4,000 visits in one day and approaching an impressive, overall three quarters of a million visits for the year. The BPF website has developed as one of the world's leading portals for plastics reflected by significant success with search engine optimisation. BPF Online has consistently rated highly and under key search terms such as Plastics, Injection Moulding and Plastics Events is number one on www.google.co.uk.

The BPF website is a valuable tool for harnessing sales leads for members.

BPF Online, is regularly updated to ensure that news relating to the Plastics Industry is current and appropriate. As a result the website has gathered an impressive number of repeat visitors.

The state-of-the-art BPF Online Bookshop is delivering the latest publications to members at significant discounts.

The BPF Online Plastics Industry Directory has developed over the course of 2004, offering visitors a comprehensive method of searching for suppliers. As a result of the popularity of the Directory, the system now boasts a large database of company listings.

With impressive animations BPF Online is educating the world about the value and flexibility of plastics and is placing the UK Industry at the centre of development.
Since its launch in 2003, The BPF Extranet has proved its worth as an innovative and respected web based tool.

The Extranet boasts an impressive archive of industry relevant news stories as well as offering BPF members 24 hour access to Public Sector Support and Commercial and Legal advice, to name a few.

The weekly BPF Members’ Newsletter updates members on stories new to the Extranet as well as wider issues with BPF involvement. The BPF newsletter is sent out in HTML format and has established itself as a valuable information source.

Welcome to the weekly British Plastics Federation Members’ Newsletter.

"Did you know… The BPF Extranet is an easy way of accessing Public Sector Support?"

The DTI offer several support products for businesses but working out which products suit can be time consuming and difficult to sort through. However, the BPF Extranet signposts to all Public Sector Support initiatives in a user-friendly manner, with an explanation of each one and who to contact for more information.

To find it, log on to the extranet, and click on Public Sector Support under Topics on the left hand side of the screen.
The BPF maintained a high public profile throughout 2004 receiving regular and extensive coverage in the plastics and end-user press.

BPF’s Hannah Price and Matt Clements co-ordinate media communications on the Federation’s issues management programme, ensuring the industry’s voice is heard.

The press office handled a large volume of enquiries throughout the year on an assortment of issues including materials prices, oil price hikes, Climate Change Levy (CCL) and other energy matters, plastics in the environment including marine litter. On the latter, BPF received coverage of industry’s policy in the *New Scientist* in December 2004.

The Nine Association Alliance lobbying also received a high level of media attention.

A large number of articles were written and placed by BPF staff, on request and pro-actively, covering issues including PVC, the windows industry, plastics in construction and legislative developments. The BPF also continued to identify and correct misinformation on plastics issues in the media.

Peter Davis and Philip Law remained in the media spotlight and were called upon regularly as industry spokespersons on both radio and TV in a variation of journals and newspapers.

BPF press releases were accessible on both the website and extranet sites providing up-to-date news as well as an extensive archive for the industry.

The Media Relations office continued to support the UK Trade Development team in promoting the presence of the UK Groups at worldwide exhibitions. This includes collating and distributing information on each company in the Group to the international press and also providing information on the UK industry as a whole.

Now in its fifth year, the BPF was again pleased to support Emap’s Plastic Industry Awards (PIA). BPF Media Relations also managed the Horners Award for plastics, which involved maintaining a high level of publicity for this prestigious industry prize.

The BPF’s Plastics Industry Issues Menu highlights many of the topics which form key themes for *PRW* in its reporting of the sector. Business, environment, HSE, materials and applications are all subjects we cover regularly and on many occasions we turn to the Federation for informed comment and information.

With the growing concerns about the health of UK manufacturing, the BPF has been a powerful proponent of local manufacture, a campaign which we have followed closely on the paper. As the General Election approached, Bath Place announced the formation of the Manufacturing Manifesto, crystallising opinions on the subject and once again showing its capability of working with other bodies in a concerted lobbying exercise.

The forthcoming UK Presidency of the EU has provided another avenue for the BPF to press the industry’s interests, providing us with immediate and valuable background on the discussions which have taken place.

Then there are the topics which surface suddenly where we need a swift comment from Peter Davis and his team - thanks to our long standing good relationship we can be sure that this will be forthcoming.

We look forward to continuing this good working relationship.
of Plastics and The Industry

The BPF’s key press messages in 2004: examples of Press Release headings

First Quarter

- BPF responds to Guardian’s ‘House of Horrors’ article
- BPF Seminar to Help You Reduce Energy Costs
- BPF’s Business Support Network Welcomes Atradius on Board
- European PVC Window Profile and Related Building Products Association – EPPA – appoints a new Executive Secretary
- BPF Supports PEC 2004
- Bjorn Lomborg supports BPF call for more Energy from Waste incineration in the UK
- EuPC Calls For Stricter Controls on Plastics Waste Exports
- Nine Associations tell Gordon Brown No Business Tax Increases/Cut Public Spending
- Budget Still Does Not Go Far Enough to Ease CCL Burden Says BP
- BPF welcomes LME Initiative
- Peter Davis at the Bank of England: Household Debt, Energy Costs, Plastics Future

Second Quarter

- BPF Announces New President
- Major Success on 2003 Sustainability Targets for PVC Industry
- New Chairman for BPF Windows Group Marketing Committee
- BPF Reaches Agreement with ‘Plastics-Europe’
- David Williams Re-elected as President of EuPC
- Chinaplas Only Weeks Away…
- Horners Award 2004 Open for Entries

Third Quarter

- BPF Recyclers issue guidance on Categorising Plastics Waste
- BPF comments on the Chancellor’s Spending Review
- BPF Seminar highlights reinvigorated image for PVC
- BPF launches PVC recycling project in Thames Valley
- The BPF at K’2004: Plastics Innovation Nation
- No sign of manufacturing recovery says BPF
- BPF working with DEFRA to address plastics recycling mistakes

Fourth Quarter

- BPF report a successful K with big interest in UK companies present
- BPF brings together waste management community to consider the emerging opportunities in plastics at pivotal seminar
- Nine Associations warn Gordon Brown of return to “boom and bust” ahead of pre-Budget speech
- New BPF Polymer Distributors and Compounders Buyers Guide launched
- BPF slams Government plans to slash aid for exporting
- High Raw Material Prices Cripple Early Recovery of European Plastics Converting Industry says BPF
- BPF delivers mixed response to Pre-Budget Statement BPF sees used plastics as a major opportunity
Enhancing the Industry’s Profile

The Plastics Industry Awards

The BPF once more supported the annual UK Plastics Industry Awards in 2004. The awards were divided into a number of categories including Consumer Product Design and Industrial Product Design, Apprentice or Trainee of the Year, and five awards in the Processor Awards section.

Congratulations...

...to the following BPF Members who were winners at the 2004 Plastics Industry Awards:

- **Atofina UK**  
  Polymer Producer of the Year

- **ALBIS UK**  
  Polymer Distributor or Compounder of the Year

- **Krauss Maffei**  
  Prime Machinery Supplier of the Year

- **Neale Plastics**  
  Industrial Product Design Award

Congratulations also to Richard Shilletto of member company *McKechnie Plastics Components* for picking up the Apprentice or Trainee of the Year Award.

And finally to Alan Griffiths, friend of the BPF, who was recognised for his sterling work in the plastics industry by winning the Personal Contribution of the Year Award.

The Plastics and Rubber Industry Forum (PRIF)

**Competitiveness studies for UK plastics processors**

The Forum comprises of the BPF, BRMA, PIFA, DTI and two trades unions. The first study was completed in 2004. The BPF is on the Steering Group and is giving help to the consultants with the second phase, which will be completed in late 2005.

**The Process Industry Centre for Manufacturing Excellence (PICME)**

PICME, the Process Industry Centre for Manufacturing Excellence provides subsidised consultancy help for plastics firms and is a member of the BPF’s Business Support Network. Chris Bayliss of Geberit represented the BPF on PICME’s Council. The BPF is encouraging more plastics companies to use PICME’s services.
The Horners Award 2004, the annual award for excellence in Plastics Design and Processing, was won by Omlet Limited for its highly innovative ‘Chicken House’, the ‘EGLU’. The Horners Award is organised by the British Plastics Federation and the Worshipful Company of Horners.

The ‘EGLU’ was conceived to enable domestic house owners to rear chickens in their own gardens whether in a rural or urban environment. Simon Nichols, a Director of Omlet, said, ‘Omlet was founded in 2003 by four students from The Royal College of Arts and who regard design as their core skill. To win the Horners Award is not only a tremendous accolade, it will also give great impetus to the product and company during our formative stage’.

Increasing R&D work between Universities and Companies

This initiative is administered by RAPRA and supported by the DTI and the BPF. It exists to encourage research and development between industry and academia. Peter Davis represents the BPF on its Management Board and a programme of joint academic-industrial projects is being pursued.

A New Organisation for Skills Development in Plastics

Cogent, the Sector Skills Council responsible for training in the offshore oil, gas, chemical, nuclear and polymer industries, was formally launched in February 2004. A Polymers Advisory Council has been set up and had a successful meeting in December. Industry representatives on the Cogent Board are Michael Cross and Brian McCann.
Business Services

New members 2004

The BPF attracted 38 new members in 2004.

Accuromm UK Ltd
Breasley Pillows Ltd
Caligen Foam Ltd
Carpenter Plc
Clinchplain Ltd
Comfortex
Contained Solutions Ltd.
Data Plastics Ltd
Ecoplas
Everwhite Plastics
EW Process cooling ltd
Gardiner Compounds Ltd
Gardner Denver Belliss & Morcom
Glassflake Ltd
G N G Foam Converters (Lancs) Ltd
Gough & Co (Engineering) Ltd
IKA (UK) Ltd
Imagenta Moulding Plc
John Guest Ltd
Kayfoam Wolfson
Kay Metzeler Ltd
Land Instruments International Ltd
Mecaplast
Meech Static Eliminators Ltd
Nylacast Ltd
Peerless Plastics & Coatings
Pritex Ltd
R & D Tool Engineering Ltd
Recovered Plastics Limited
Recticel Ltd
Remarkable Pencils Ltd
Rota Design
Stemaco (Raw Materials) Ltd
The London Metal Exchange Ltd
T KT Cosyfoam Ltd
Vitafoam Ltd
Wells Plastics Ltd
Weltonhurst Ltd

Spread of new members in 2004

- Additives: 15%
- Associates: 4%
- Cellular PVC: 4%
- Machinery: 19%
- Moulding: 15%
- Pipes: 4%
- Polymer Producers: 15%
- PRE: 4%
- Rotamoulding: 12%
- Specialist Processors: 8%
Members of the Business Support Network are recognised by the BPF’s Council as leading providers of services meeting the needs of the membership and the UK Plastics Industry.

The Network provides a mechanism for these suppliers to help develop and tailor services to better support UK Plastics businesses. The Business Support Network’s long-term objective is to encompass solutions for all aspects of supply into the UK Plastic Industry and to ensure that UK Plastics Businesses make effective use of this support.

There have been a series of seminars held in 2004 in collaboration with the Business Support Network and industry experts.

Energy Solutions
18th March 2004
Sponsored by John Hall Associates
This seminar was devised to give companies an action plan to limit the impact of rising costs.

Waste Management
30th November 2004
In association with Envirowise
This seminar gave insights into current waste management trends, the impact of new hard-hitting legislation and how new technologies are creating opportunities for the UK Plastics Sector.

Chemicals Policy and Its Impact On The Plastics Industry
19 May 2004
This seminar examined the issues emerging from proposals for REACH (EU Chemicals Policy) and a ‘SuperRegulation’ for food contact plastics, and how these will affect the UK sector.

PVC – Developing A Sustainable Industry
16 September 2004
Supported by IPTME, Loughborough University
Held in the West Midlands, this seminar brought together UK PVC interests to discuss progress made in the UK towards medium-term sustainability in Vinyl 2010 and other longer term thinking in the PVC Stakeholder Forum.

BPF Annual Dinner
13 October 2004
Sponsored by AON
This highly popular, yearly event once again gave the industry a chance to network in a relaxing and entertaining evening, sponsored by AON.

UK Consumption of Plastics by Market

![Graph showing UK Consumption of Plastics by Market]

- Packaging: 38%
- Construction: 22%
- Electrical: 6%
- Furniture/Housing: 7%
- Transport: 7%
- Medical: 2%
- Others: 18%

Average Bulk Polymer Prices 1993–2004 (EURO/Tonnes)

![Graph showing Average Bulk Polymer Prices 1993–2004 (EURO/Tonnes)]
Once again the BPF’s UK Trade Development Team provided support to UK plastics manufacturers seeking to benefit from globalisation. BPF work is focused on reducing risk for UK companies by providing valuable information, advice and assistance in accessing government grants and other support mechanisms. Exporters’ Workshops provided a valuable platform to draw companies together to discuss opportunities and challenges in key world markets.

In 2004 the BPF co-ordinated UK Pavilions in China and Germany as well as helping to promote a number of UK companies at the leading Polish plastics trade fair. Through presence at these shows the BPF assisted 98 British companies and helped to give our industry a global voice in this increasingly competitive international marketplace.

Chinaplas 2004

29 June – 2 July
Shanghai, China

Flying the flag for UK industry, the BPF once again co-ordinated a large and very successful UK Group at Chinaplas. The 12 strong UK contingent expressed great confidence with the level of leads they managed to generate at the show which once again saw record numbers of visitors and drew in crowds from across the globe.

I thought the exhibition was well worthwhile and I am so glad we took the time to take part this year. It really made us realise what we were missing out on by not having a presence in the Chinese market.

Greg Hammond
Managing Director
Gabriel Chemie

There was a good feeling of camaraderie between the exhibitors on the combined British stand and we generated some promising enquiries. Many thanks to the BPF for a first class effort!

Neil Marsh
Harnden
**K2004**

**20th – 27th October**

**Düsseldorf, Germany**

2004 saw the return of the largest plastics event in the European calendar, the tri-annual Kunststoffe show in Germany. The show was bigger than ever, with nearly a quarter of a million people visiting the show’s 17 halls. Over the course of the eight-day show Consul-General, Boyd McCleary, and UKT&I Trade Officer Peter Foster, managed to visit a large number of the 71 exhibitors making up the UK Group, learning about the companies and offering some invaluable advice.

> “There was a great team spirit and the help the BPF provided throughout the show was invaluable, I am very positive about the whole K experience!”
>
> **Nigel Clout**
> Sales Director
> Formech International

> “K2004 exceeded our expectations in terms of business leads and we were able to do some excellent networking – a lot of which was facilitated by introductions from the BPF.”
>
> **Peter Lloyd**
> Sales and Marketing Manager
> R&D Tool and Engineering Ltd

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**PLASTPOL 2004**

**25th-28th May**

**Kielce, Poland**

2004 saw the BPF debut at Plastpol, where through UK Trade & Investment funding the BPF co-ordinated a highly successful catalogue show. Over the course of the four-day show, the BPF distributed over 500 catalogues on behalf of 14 UK companies and generated a large number of leads in the process. In 2005 the BPF will be returning to the show with a larger UK Group hoping to gain business in this increasingly important market.
BPF Groups Activities

Dr Mercia Gick
Senior Issues Advisor

Composites Group

The BPF Composites Group continued with its core objectives of reestablishing the Group as the focal point for the UK Composites Industry, safeguarding the interests of the industry and promoting the composites industry, it’s materials and products.

The Group focussed on four key items:

- the recyclability of composites
- the safety of styrene
- regulations and standards
- international representation through the EuCIA (formerly known as the GPRMC)

The Group developed a proposal for research into the recycling of composites with Exeter University - "RECOMP"

The Chemical Plant Section maintained its representation on BSI and CEN committees and continued to develop standards under the Pressure Equipment Directive.

Fluoropolymer Group

The Group continued to work on behalf of the UK fluoropolymer industry in CEN and ISO, providing this representation on European and international standards through the BSI.

Moulders and Specialist Processors Groups

In 2004, the BPF continued to develop its Moulders Group Forum – giving a platform for moulders, machinery manufacturers, polymer producers and toolmakers to discuss critical issues facing the industry.

The Moulders Group Forum held in September focussed on the Automotive industry and proved to be a great success, bringing together companies from across the industry to discuss a number of major developments.

In 2004 the BPF launched a new ‘On-Line Lead Service’. This has subsequently resulted in large numbers of leads being developed for our members - amongst the jobs placed with our members was a £200,000 order from a leading supplier in the food industry.

In 2005 the Group is working on a benchmarking study which will add significant benefits to our members and help UK moulders maintain their competitiveness

Rotamoulding Group

The Rotamoulding Group continued its activities in 2004, providing a platform for materials suppliers, machinery and equipment manufacturers as well as the rotational moulders themselves.

- The Group was actively involved in the Pan-European Rotomoulding Conference held in Rome
- The Group continued to work with the HSE on developing health and safety guidance for rotational moulding machines, which has now been published on the BPF website
- The Group planned 2005 activities to promote the rotational moulding process to end users

Electrical Market Sector Group

The Group continued to focus on waste management issues and other relevant legislative matters.

The BPF responded to the UK consultation on the EU Directives
on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and the Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment (RoHS).

The Group maintained its watching brief on the proposed Framework Directive to promote the eco-design of energy-using appliances.

The BPF has continued to liaise extensively with ICER (Industry Council for Electronic Equipment Recycling), APME and Government representatives regarding the draft proposals for WEEE and RoHS.

Transport Market Sector Group

The Group continued to focus on the UK implementation of EU Directive on End of Life Vehicles (ELVs) and provide networking opportunities for companies in this sector.

Along with the BPF’s Automotive Recycling Task Force, contact has been maintained with ACORD (Automotive Consortium on Recycling and Disposal) and there has been dialogue over the ELV Directive’s implementation with the DTI, DEFRA and the Environment Agency.

Automotive Recycling Task Force

The PROVE project provided BPF members with:

- a leading involvement in research into the feasibility of using recycled content in plastics for automotive applications.
- reassurance to moulders in a tough business climate
- a ‘crystal ball’ into automotive manufacturers’ future needs for material specifications

Fire Committee

- The BPF Committee supported the biennial Flame Retardants Conference in January 2004
- The Committee monitored and influenced the fine tuning of the Single Burning Item test, especially in respect to the involvement of smoke and droplets, and its applicability to non-standard shapes.
- The Committee was also much involved in the environmental aspects of accidental fire in Standards and in the Governmental assessment of brominated flame retardants in the wake of Directives on WEEE
- EU ‘SuperRegulation’ on food contact plastics
- The BPF also held a regulatory seminar on these major issues in May 2004

Plastics and Rubber Equipment Group

The BPF has been working closely with EUROMAP (the European Committee of Machinery Manufacturers) throughout 2004 and has helped to develop a number of joint projects.

EUROMAP has launched the European Sourcing Service, a highly detailed single point of access to machinery manufacturers across Europe – UK inclusion is exclusively for BPF members.

The EUROMAP World Market Directory was launched in 2004 and has given BPF members exclusive access to in-depth information on the size of the plastics market for nearly 100 countries.

EUROMAP has continued to work on a number technical recommendations helping BPF members to set the standards across Europe.

Through meetings such as Exporters’ Workshops and the Moulding Group Forum, machinery suppliers have received valuable networking opportunities and industry insight both on the UK plastics industry and overseas markets.

Product Safety Committee

In 2004 the Committee continued its remit of issues management including:

- REACH and how it will impact downstream users in the BPF membership, and how the DEFRA Chemical Stakeholder Forum views plastic additives
- The BPF also engaged in dialogue with the British Retail Consortium (BRC). The BPF has been a key influencer in discussions with retailers where there has been concern regarding chemicals. This has included correcting statements in BRC’s own factsheets on chemicals used with their members.
BPF Groups Activities

Polymer Producers Group

- The Group remained a source of instinctive support for nearly all other Business Groups and Activities as well as Central Committees.
- The Group’s Specialist Compounders section increased in membership and were able to draw upon BPF’s support for SME’s on the Extranet.

Polymer Distributors and Compounders Group

- The Group continued to meet to discuss issues of common concern. It kept a particular interest in business conditions for the plastics supply chain, environmental issues and enhancing the profile of the distributor.
- The Group participated in statistical surveys for the main engineering plastics and in transport costs.
- The Group enjoyed presentations from Cogent, AMI and Interplas.
- The Group put together a new Buyers’ Guide for use at UK and international shows.

Additives Group

- The Group enjoyed an increase in membership in 2004 and met twice.
- The profile of the Group and the promotion of plastics additives has been further enhanced on the BPF website with the introduction of Additives Feature pages, sponsored by members of the Group to obtain sales leads.
- The Group kept a watching brief on legislation and regulatory issues relating to plastics additives. Some Group members were involved in the publication of a joint BPF-EuPC-EBFRIP Voluntary Code of Practice for plastics processors to reduce emissions of DecaBDE, following discussions with the UK Government.

Packaging Group

- The supply chain was kept well-informed of the key legislative developments, including the final publication of the revised EU Directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste, completed in January 2005 and the creation of a government task-force to examine the fraudulent issuing of PRNs.
- A watching brief was maintained on policies which discriminated against plastic packaging, namely deposits on one-way beverage containers in Germany, and a tax on carrier bags in Republic of Ireland. These issues saw active BPF lobbying throughout 2004.
- The perception that plastics packaging was responsible for increased litter persisted and received more media coverage. The BPF worked closely with ENCAMS, the charity running the Keep Britain Tidy campaign, to put together a Voluntary Code of Practice for fast food, which was published by Defra in November 2004.
- The marine litter issue also saw increased coverage and BPF was able to add some balance to the debate with input included in the New Scientist magazine in December 2004.

Bottle Blowers Group

- The Group met three times to discuss issues of common concern to the UK’s extrusion blow moulding sector.
- Of particular interest to the Group were presentations from the London Metal Exchange on Futures Contracts for PP and LLDPE (to be launched in May 2005), and from Recoup on the recycling of post-consumer plastic bottles.
- The Group continued to focus on formulating a Code of Ethics for conduct on Internet Reverse Auctions.
- The Group paid tribute to Graham Boram who stood down as Chairman of the Bottle Blowers Group in September 2004 following his retirement. Graham has been heavily involved with the BPF and the Bottle Blowers Group spanning 25 years of involvement. George Sweeney of RPC Containers in Llantrisant, succeeds him as Chairman of the Group.
The Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Packaging Group aims to maintain and increase the sale of EPS packaging in the UK. The objective is being achieved by a range of activities aimed at raising awareness of the excellent packaging performance of EPS and by establishing new recycling routes for the material. In 2004, the Group continued to enhance its existing programme of activity by additionally addressing market development for the industry.

Recycling continued to be a focal point for the Group. New major recycling operations based in Grimsby and South Wales worked closely with the Group throughout the year, leaving EPS recycling in a very healthy position for 2005.

Such progress is a direct result of raising awareness about the economic benefits of recycling. Ongoing support and advice for recyclers and waste holders has helped to generate useful partnerships resulting in the creation of new schemes.

The Group produced four newsletters and attracted approximately 2,000 visitors a month to its website. The website continues to provide up-to-date information on the EPS industry in an attractive and easily understood manner. It also provides technical information on EPS and the manufacturing process for students and school children.

The Group’s promotional calendar featured an amusing cartoon about EPS packaging for each month of the year. The calendar continues to be an excellent and cost effective way for members to advertise their product and foster good customer relations.

The Group began its comprehensive rebranding exercise. This will incorporate a new Group logo and revamped literature and communications. The website has also been redesigned. The Group’s rebranding will be fully rolled out during the first half of 2005.

In December 2004, Damien Packer was appointed as the new EPS Environmental Affairs Executive. The Group warmly thanked the out-going EPS Manager, Andrew Barnetson, for all his good work.

EUMEPS

The EPS Packaging Group remains an active member of the European Association, EUMEPS. The Association is established to promote recycling throughout Europe by allowing member countries to exchange information and successful experiences. 2004 saw the bi-annual EUMEPS conference held successfully in Rome.

The EPS Environmental Affairs Executive continued to act as General Secretary to EUMEPS Packaging – a role that adds to the Group’s profile.
EPS Construction

2004 was the year the EPS Construction Group decided to put their foot down; to ensure that only accredited insulation material could and should be used on building sites. All EPS used as domestic flooring insulation must comply with BS EN 13163 and be labelled accordingly. This wasn’t always the case and so the members of the EPS Construction Group joined forces with the NHBC to rid the industry of supplies from unscrupulous suppliers who flouted the law. A high profile campaign was devised to promote

22 BPF Annual Review 2004

BPF Groups Activities

Christopher Stride
Market Development Manager for the EPS Construction Group

Construction

The Construction Market Sector Group continued to focus on the major issues facing the plastics in construction industry, including the amendments to the Building Regulations, the Construction Products Directive and the harmonisation of potable water regulations across Europe. Another important issue was the development of test methods and classifications for the resistance and reaction to fire of building products.

Windows Group

In 2004 the Windows Group continued its high level of activity in all areas concerning the plastics windows industry. A dedicated website was developed, and the changes to Building Regulations, with respect to Conservatories, also figured highly on the Group’s agenda.

■ CPD Seminar The Sales & Marketing Committee initiated the development of an interactive CPD (Continuous Professional Development) Seminar in ‘HTML’ format. The aim of this seminar was to promote the benefits of PVC-U windows and to encourage architects and specifiers to use PVC-U. The seminar was completed in the summer and launched in September.

■ Vinyl 2010 The Group’s support for the European PVC Industry’s Voluntary Commitment (Vinyl 2010) continued. It has been heavily involved with a number of large scale refurbishment projects.

■ BRE Whole life costing The Group, in conjunction with the Vinyls and Cellular Group’s, opened negotiations with BRE for them to review the environmental and economic sustainability of PVC building products in their green specification products. The project will be completed in 2005.

■ Building Regulations Considerable effort was applied to issues such as the removal of the exemption for Conservatories from Building Regulation. This included the development of a draft horizontal approved document for conservatories, which it is hoped will form the basis of a new Building Regulations Approved Document for conservatories.

5 British and European Standards review The Group developed responses to the proposed amendments to UK and EU standards, including BS EN 12608, BS 7413 and prEN 14351.

Cellular PVC-UE Group

The Cellular PVC Group’s programme in 2004 had its spotlight on:

■ European Standards The Group became actively involved in the draft of a New European Standard prEN 13245 1-5. This standard will cover cellular PVC cladding and directly impact on UK industry, so the Group will continue giving its input throughout its development.

■ Vinyl 2010 The Group continued to support the European PVC Industry’s Voluntary Commitment (Vinyl 2010) and was particularly focused on the targets for the phase-out of lead stabilisers.

■ Product Sun Test Program The group continued its program of testing to evaluate the effect of photoactivity on their products.

■ BS 7619 Revision The Group finalised the revision to BS 7619, and have submitted it to the British Standard Institute for consideration and adoption.

■ Industry Statistics The Group has decided to begin collecting industry production statistics on a quarterly basis, in order to measure the performance of the industry from quarter-to-quarter throughout the year. The data collection will begin in 2005.

Adam Bright
Industrial Issues Executive

Construction

The Construction Market Sector Group continued to focus on the major issues facing the plastics in construction industry, including the amendments to the Building Regulations, the Construction Products Directive and the harmonisation of potable water regulations across Europe. Another important issue was the development of test methods and classifications for the resistance and reaction to fire of building products.
Strong contacts were maintained with the Vinyls Group. Members of the Group were also kept informed of a pan-European recycling project progressing under the umbrella of Vinyl 2010 – EPCOAT.

**Vinyls Group**

The Vinyls Group’s programme in 2004 had its spotlight on:

- **PVC Seminar**
  The Group built on the success of previous events holding a very successful seminar in September, ‘Developing a Sustainable Industry’. More delegates from the end-user group attended than ever before, and this number will be encouraged to grow further over the coming years. The Group was also involved in the planning of the international PVC 2005 conference in Brighton.

- **Vinyl 2010**
  The Group continued to support the European PVC Industry’s Voluntary Commitment (Vinyl 2010) and was particularly focused on the post-consumer waste recycling targets. The Group instigated the adoption of the Recovinyl (www.recovinyl.com) scheme in the UK and will be managing the launch of the scheme in early 2005.

- **Local Authority Attitudes to PVC-U Windows**
  A report was commissioned to investigate claims by Greenpeace that at least 27 Local Authorities (LAs) had an active anti-PVC policy. This report highlighted that at least 17 of these were still actively using PVC-U windows. Following these initial findings, a number of visits were arranged to those LAs identified as having an anti-PVC policy. The final report was published in early 2005.

- **PVC Stakeholders Forum**
  The Group became one of the founder members of the PVC Stakeholders Forum, which brings together industry, end-users, Government, NGO's and other stakeholders. A work programme was agreed towards the end of 2004 and will be progressed in 2005.

- **Smoke Acidity Test**
  In early 2004 it was proposed that a smoke acidity test be included in the revision of the European Standard for cables. The inclusion of such a test could prohibit the use of PVC for cables and the Group lobbied hard on behalf of the UK to try and prevent this. A decision is expected in mid-2005.

Sheet & Coated Fabrics Group

In 2004, the majority of the issues affecting the Group were related to the main materials used in the industry, namely PVC and plasticisers. Hence the benefits of EPS and make the Specifiers, Developers, Distributors and the Building Inspectors aware of the risks - the ‘Put Your Foot Down’ advertising campaign was a great success and now only appropriate material is available and used by the construction industry.

Although not mandatory in the UK, the Group all agreed to achieve the CE mark for their products, which once again demonstrates the EPS Construction Groups ability to work together for the benefit of the industry and to raise the quality stakes once more, thus ensuring the construction industry produces a consistently high quality product from all members - but at a very cost effective price.

A new generation of Low Lambda EPS products became available which will assist the group to maximise the benefits gained from the changes to the Building Regulations, by offering thinner boards. This will allow the group to meet the challenges placed on the building industry for higher thermal values – without unduly compromising the overall floor thickness.

There are a number of key changes in future regulations that again will benefit the EPS industry and the group is looking forward to 2005 with renewed optimism and vigour.
BPF Groups Activities

Frank Jones
Pipes Group
Director

Working for the interests of the plastic pipes industry

THE PLASTIC PIPES GROUP of The British Plastics Federation

The Group has been representing UK manufacturers of plastic pipes and fittings since 1961.

The importance of plastics as a material for pipework continues to grow steadily and they have already achieved significant shares of each category market. For example, it is estimated that plastics now account for over 53% of all new buried pressure and non-pressure installations in the UK.

In 2004, the estimated combined turnover of the UK manufacturers of plastic piping systems was £650 million and the industry employed some 7,000 people.

In Europe, The European Plastic Pipes and Fittings Association [TEPPFA] estimate that the combined European turnover for the EU-15 is €10 billion with some 30,000 direct employees.

The roles of the PPG

Core purpose

At the core of its activities, the PPG is dedicated to promoting the development, acceptance and usage of manufactured plastic piping systems at all levels in the Building, Construction, Civil and Utilities Industries.

This embraces the full spectrum of above and below ground applications, including:

- Rainwater drainage
- Soil & Waste pipework
- Hot & Cold water internal plumbing
- Pipework for Radiator heating systems and Underfloor heating
- Underground drainage and sewerage
- Pipework for Land drainage
- Ducting for cabling and communications alongside highways
- Pressure pipes for Water and Gains distribution

International representation

The directorate of the PPG, as well as representatives of its member organisations, also regularly contribute to the work and debate of international bodies wherever this is relevant to the UK industry interests.

The PPG is a founder member of TEPPFA. It also seeks to ensure an active representative presence at any international forum whose agenda could impact on the UK industry.

Monitoring and developing standards

A crucial role – both at home and abroad – is participation in the Committee structures which review and develop British, European and International standards.

The PPG is therefore at the heart of the process of defining the accepted practices for the use of plastic pipes – and of managing desirable adjustment to those standards whenever technological progress or changes in statutory regimes require it.

Serving the information needs of members

In addition to representation of their interests, the PPG is also concerned to keep its members fully up-to-date with developments – technological, statutory, regulatory or practical – which relate to the industry as a whole rather than to individual company interests.

To this end, the PPG provides a full technical advisory service to its member manufacturers – and, through those members, to the specifiers, installers and stockists of their products. This may include – for example – disseminating details, interpretation and evaluation of newly-established standards relating to plastic pipe applications.

Advice is also provided, in the form of technical bulletins and guidance notes. These cover such topics as the principles of Good Practice in the application, usage and installation of plastic pipe systems; and advice pertinent to live issues in the public domain – of which the Environment and recycling are notable subjects.

The PPG recently hosted the TEPPFA seminar, ‘Some like it Hot’, dedicated to the hot and cold water services sector. Attended by almost 100 attendees from across Europe the seminar was declared a ‘smash hit’ by the delegates.

Defending the interests of plastic pipes

The PPG is constantly ‘on watch’ for any potentially negative publicity arising from the statements or activities of external organisations or groups. It is accordingly committed to mounting, when necessary and as appropriate, a rapid and robust defence of plastic pipes as a product category and material, and of the collective interests of member manufacturers.

Structure

Organised for a broad agenda

To facilitate its commitment to this broad and detailed agenda, the PPG is organised into functional sub-groups – known as Application Groups – which report on their activities to the Pipes Group Council.

In this way, detailed and specialist issues and initiatives may be effectively progressed by nominated representatives who are drawn from member companies and who have specific knowledge of the product and application categories concerned.
Pipes Group Council
The Pipes Group Council, which meets formally twice-yearly, comprises its President, Director, Standards Manager and the Chairs of each of the five Application Groups (see below).

- **PRESIDENT** The office of President is filled on a bi-annual basis by a senior figure from the plastic pipes industry – typically from a member manufacturer. The current President is **Calum Forsyth**, Managing Director of Wavin Plastics Limited.

- **DIRECTOR** A full-time post held by **Frank Jones**. Frank has extensive experience of the industry, and particularly the plastic pipes sector, and is currently Vice-President of The European Plastic Pipes and Fittings Association [TEPPFA]. He is also Chairman of two British Standards Institute [BSI] Committees.

- **STANDARDS MANAGER** Another full-time post which is held by **Caroline Ayres**. Caroline also chairs a BSI Committee.

The Pipes Group Council and PPG Directorate are supported by three part-time staff at the BPF Headquarters, and at a subsidiary office in North Yorkshire.

In addition, senior personnel from Member companies represent the PPG at meetings in the UK, in mainland Europe, and, as necessary, at international conventions around the world. This means that the PPG fields acknowledged experts to represent the industry wherever this is required – each working to a pre-agreed and carefully-constructed brief.

Application Groups
There are 5 Application Groups [AGs], each focused on a designated pipes application category or issue. As appropriate, each AG has nominated sub-committee Panels tasked with progressing specific initiatives or functions.

Each AG comprises a nominated Chair, assisted by representatives of member manufacturers with relevant knowledge of the category or issue concerned.

**Application Group interests and activities**
The focus, Chair, and current Panel issues for each AG are as follows:

**AG1 Pressure Systems Group**
Focus Concerned with plastic pipe systems principally serving the mains distribution needs of the Water and Gas industries
Chair Jeremy Bowman – Uponor
Current Panel Issues
- Introduction of the EN Polyethylene standards for water supply and gas
- Barrier piping systems for brownfield sites and contaminated land PVC Standards
- The Environmental Approvals Scheme for materials in contact with drinking water [EAS] and its effect on approval schemes in the UK

**AG2 Above Ground Drainage Group**
Focus Concerned with plastic pipe applications for Rainwater Drainage and Soil & Waste
Chair Steve Dunkley – Hunter Plastics
Current Panel Issues
- Marketing
- Standards
- Sustainability
- Good Practice installation guide

**AG3 Recycling and Sustainability Group**
Focus Concerned with environmental responsibilities and good practice across the sector
Chair Mark Simpson – Wavin Plastics Limited
Current Panel Issues
- PVC stabilisation
- Establishment of a recycling collection scheme

**AG4 Plumbing Systems Group**
Focus Concerned with plastic pipe applications for Hot and Cold Water distribution within buildings, including applications for Underfloor Heating
Chair Keith Barker – Hepworth Plumbing Products
Current Panel Issues
- Introduction of ENs and retention of BS 7291 Class S as the UK standard
- Problems arising from the EAS and how it may or may not relate to the Construction Products Directive [CPD]

**AG5 Drains and Sewers Group**
Focus Concerned with plastic pipe applications for Surface Water and Mains Drainage, and Sewerage
Chair Jason Shingleton – Polypipe Civils Limited
Current Panel Issues
- Marketing
- Standards
- Inspection Chamber Materials

Special Working Group
In addition to the AGs, special topic-specific Working Groups may be set up from time to time to monitor and investigate more general issues affecting the sector as a whole.

**WG CE Certification**
Focus Concerned with moves towards European product accreditation and its relationship with current systems of National and European standards
Chair Michelle Fleming– Wavin Plastics Limited
Your Industry Trade Body

Set up by UK Plastics companies to provide an effective voice for the UK Plastics industry, the British Plastics Federation (BPF) provides a range of services to enable its members to maximise their profits.

**The BPF’s Mission is to:**

- Provide an effective and cohesive voice for the UK Plastics industry in Europe, at Government and through the Media.
- Help UK plastics businesses develop sales in the UK and Overseas Promote the inherent benefits of plastics.
- Provide timely updates on legislation and regulation – ensuring the membership is in the best possible position to react to and exploit changes.
- Strengthen Industry Links and create valuable Networking Opportunities.
- Highlight key issues and work to defeat industry problems.
- Manage an exhaustive knowledge network and provide Members with vital “sound-bites”.
- Protect OUR industry and Improve YOUR Business.

**Key Benefits of Membership**

Sales leads provided through the BPF Website (approaching 2,500 visits per day) and contact with buyers through The Plastics and Rubber Advisory Service.

Regular Health & Safety updates and the basic tools essential for developing a safe factory environment and complying with existing and upcoming legislation.

Legislative updates ensuring that you are prepared for regulatory change from environmental through to product safety.

Credit Management Advice through the Business Support Network.

Reduced cost Training through the Business Support Network.

Support in securing the right Insurance deal through the Business Support Network.

Help in addressing energy costs through the Business Support Network.

Marketing Support is provided through a comprehensive International contact network and presence at the world’s key exhibitions; expert support is available to help with Business Development activities both in the UK and beyond.

FREE Legal Support covering Tax, VAT, PAYE, Payroll, Employment and Personnel, Health and Safety and Commercial Legal.

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The BPF offers companies the chance to increase sales through a number of different routes. We at Morris Plastics have benefited from their support and technical knowledge, which in turn has helped us to secure and develop new business. I would say that being a member of the BPF is value for money and offers every member a real opportunity to add value to their bottom line.

**Nigel Conder**

Morris Plastics Limited, BPF Member

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As I know from my own engagement with the plastics sector, the British Plastics Federation is a powerful advocate on behalf of the industry. But more than that, it has also been a promoter and supporter of change within the industry.

**Lord Sainsbury**

Minister for Innovation
Committees & Chairmen

As of 31st December 2004

ADDITIVES GROUP
Bob Watson Ciba Specialty Chemicals

BOTTLE BLOWERS GROUP
George Sweeney RPC Containers

BRITISH FLUOROPOLYMER PROCESSORS GROUP
Vacancy

CELLULAR PVC-UE GROUP
Vince Richardson Everwhite Plastics

COMPOSITES GROUP
Vacancy

Chemical Plant Task Force
Lionel Pugh Hygrade Industrial Plastics

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Vacancy

RECYCLING COUNCIL
Mark Burstall Recycling Concepts

EPS CONSTRUCTION GROUP
Jim Andrew Springvale EPS

EPS PACKAGING GROUP
Gavin Birnie Styropack

FIRE COMMITTEE
Dr Christine Lukas Dow UK

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
Hugh Fenton Scott Bader Company

PLASTICS AND RUBBER EQUIPMENT GROUP
Vacancy

Automotive Recycling Task Force
Derek Wilkins EMR

MOULDIING GROUP
Vacancy

PIPEDS AND FITTINGS GROUP
Chairman
Calum Forsyth Wavin
Application Group 1 (Pressure)
Jeremy Bowman Uponor
Application Group 2 (Above Ground Drainage)
Steve Dunkley Hunter Plastics
Application Group 3 (Recycling & Sustainability)
Mark Simpson Wavin
Application Group 4 (Plumbing Systems)
Keith Barker Hepworth Plumbing
Application Group 5 (Underground Drainage)
Jason Shingleton Polypipe Civils

Working Group:
CE Certification and Policy
Michelle Fleming Geberit
Plastic Pipe Liaison Group
Mike Shepherd Water UK

POLYMER DISTRIBUTORS AND COMPOUNDERS GROUP
David Cope ALBIS UK

POLYMER PRODUCERS GROUP
Vacancy

PRODUCT SAFETY COMMITTEE
Dr Peter Donnelly Akcos Chemicals

Product Safety Briefing Forum
Dr Peter Donnelly Akcos Chemicals

ROTAMOULDING GROUP
Allan Joyce Balmoral Tanks

SHEET AND COATED FABRICS GROUP
Peter Baker Cova Products

VINYLs GROUP
Steering Committee
Alex Hay Atofina (now Arkema)
Applications Committee
Roger Mottram EVC UK
Communications Committee
Brian Cosgrove Solvay
Voluntary Commitment Implementation Committee
Jason Leadbitter Hydro Polymers

WINDOWS GROUP
John Ogilvie Network Veka
Marketing Committee
Mike Stevenson WHS Halo
Vinyl 2010 Committee
John Ogilvie Network Veka
The Council of the British Plastics Federation

As of 31st December 2004

President
Jim Jeffries  Baerlocher UK
(Additive Supplier)

Vice-President
Calum Forsyth  Wavin Plastics
(Processor)

Polymer Material Manufacturers
Jeremy Bentham  Borealis Polymer NV
Brian Cosgrove  Solvay Polymers
Ted Jackson  Sabic UK
Paul Jukes  Atofina (now Arkema)
David Kirkwood  EVC UK
Mike Rogers  Basell UK
Martin Sixsmith  Bayer

Additives Suppliers
Paul Turner  Kronos

Processors
Chris Bayliss  Geberit
David Cope  Albis UK
Jonathan Haddock  SCA Packaging
Phineas Jackson  Tuscarora
Philip Hilton  RPC Group
Peter Hudson  Vitafoam
Steve Isherwood  Polimoon Packaging
David Lloyd  Hallam Plastics
Brian Mann  McKechnie Plastic Components
Phillip Noble  Scott Bader
John Ogilvie  Veka
Colin Sarson  WH Smith & Sons
(Tools)
Brian Taylor  LINPAC Automotive

Machinery and Engineers
Robert Sayers  Battenfeld UK

PIFA Representative
David Kay  PIFA

Ex Officio Members
Peter Davis OBE  Director General, BPF
Philip Law  Public & Industrial Affairs Director, BPF

Secretary
Alan Davey  Finance & Admin. Director, BPF

Current Staff of the British Plastics Federation

Peter Davis OBE  Director General
Adam Bright  Issues Executive
Matt Clements  Senior Issues Executive
Alan Davey  Finance & Admin Director
Dr Mercia Gick  Senior Adviser Issues
Doreen Greenaway  Events/Admin Executive
Lorna Hewson  PA to Director General
Stephen Hunt  Trade Development Executive

Kerry-Anne Jackson  Finance Assistant
Justyna Jaworska  Receptionist/Clerk
Paul Jervis  Windows Tech. Consultant
Frank Jones  Director of Pipes Group
Angella Ladner  Finance & IT Executive
Philip Law  Public & Industrial Affairs Director
Iain McIlwee  Business Services Manager
Damien Packer  EPS Environmental Affairs Executive
Rene Perrott  Caterer Communications Executive
Chris Stride  Market Dev. Manager
Lauren Tavener  Secretary Pipes /EPS group

Affiliated Associations

British Rigid Urethane Foam Manufacturers’ Association (BRUFMA)
Flexible Packaging Association (FPA)
Gauge & Toolmakers Association (GTMA)
Northern Ireland Polymers Association (NIPA)
Packaging and Industrial Films Association (PIFA)
Plastics Consultancy Network (PCN)
PlasticsEurope UK Ltd (from January 2005)
Polymer Machinery Manufacturers’ and Distributors’ Association (PMMDA)
Scottish Plastics & Rubber Association (SPRA)
The Polymer Cluster Centre (PCC)