Don’t work in isolation
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The British Plastics Federation (BPF) is the leading trade association of the UK Plastics Industry, representing approximately 60 per cent of its turnover. The BPF is a springboard for Industry Action that exists to exploit common opportunities and resolve shared issues.

Set up by UK Plastics manufacturers in 1933 to provide a voice for the industry, the BPF has evolved the service offering to members to be far more than simply a voice. Members themselves are increasingly seeing the BPF as a much broader vehicle that delivers on a range of Group-driven objectives that run in parallel and feed into their own commercial strategies.

The BPF tool-kit includes:

1. **Information** essential to helping companies adapt to new and changing legislation and commercial pressures is made available to the membership. This is supplemented by unique Business Trends information and Benchmarking data. Members receive weekly updates and quarterly roundups on key commercial and regulatory issues impacting on the plastics sector. Detail can be accessed 24/7 through the Extranet.

2. **The BPF Website**, receiving 3,000-4,000 visits per day (ranks number one out of about 80 million sites on Google.co.uk for “plastics”), and from 2006 onwards to include a new revamped directory providing sales leads from customers with specific requirements.

3. **Sales leads delivered by Email** to Members’ desks through the BPF’s Plastics and Rubber Advisory Service (PRAS) linking International customers with UK manufacturers.

The BPF Council of Members supervises the Federation’s activity, and is made up of 25 senior level Member representatives elected from the Membership.

We count our decision to join [the BPF] as one of our best.

Kevin Sheppard
Agentdraw
4 **Group Activity** – The Group network, bringing together different sectors of the industry and activity, each chaired by an industry representative. Each group provides a platform to focus BPF support on the needs of that particular sector and provides a platform to establish projects or steer existing activities. Meetings provide a valuable Networking forum and an opportunity to discuss key issues.

5 **International Development** – In addition to organising participation and grants for companies visiting overseas exhibitions and markets, BPF Members have access to an extensive database of international information and BPF experts are on hand to support Members’ strategic development into new markets.

6 **Health and Safety** – Industry professionals collaborate to ensure members receive regular Health & Safety updates and the basic tools essential for developing and maintaining a safe factory environment and complying with existing and upcoming legislation. Safety alerts and case studies are exchanged.

7 **Legal Support Helpline** – All BPF Members can access FREE Legal Support covering Tax, VAT, PAYE, Payroll, Employment and Personnel, Health and Safety and Commercial.

8 **Grant finding Support** – Members can access support finding appropriate Grants, Awards and Venture Capital, through the BPF’s Grant-finding software.

9 **A Lobbying Voice** – the BPF is the Members’ collective voice to the Media, Government and other Decision Makers and Stakeholders across the UK and the EU, working to protect and promote the interests and views of Members in a range of areas including energy costs, unjust discrimination of plastics, emerging legislation, and training.

The BPF employs **16 specialist staff** and engages a number of consultants to meet the needs of the membership.

> 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 Ltd

The BPF remains “non-profit”. All income is ultimately directed to support the UK Plastics sector’s broader aims and objectives.
As I write this, my second year as President is now drawing to a close. Undoubtedly, during the year the top issue in our Boardrooms and at the BPF was the huge rise in polymer and energy costs, which reduced already thin margins and eroded our competitiveness.

On rising polymer prices the BPF wrote in April to all customers’ trade associations in retail, food and drink, electronics, aerospace and automotive, explaining why the increases had occurred and asking them to inform their member companies. Hopefully this helped our members pass on the cost increases. We had two packed seminars on how to use the London Metal Exchange’s Plastics Futures market in LLDPE and PP, a way to hedge polymer price and build in stability.

The huge increase in energy costs in the autumn, on average +58 per cent for gas and +56 per cent for electricity seemed to catch our Government completely by surprise. They seemed unprepared that the UK would become a net importer of energy and that infrastructure and storage was not ready. Yet the BPF in late March last year sent a note to all its members warning them of possible energy shortages and price increases for the next two winters – a prediction which has since been echoed by the Government’s own Trade and Industry Select Committee in their Fuel Prices Report.

The BPF has written to the Energy Minister warning of job losses and cuts in UK investment as a direct result of UK energy price rises, which have been much higher than in mainland Europe.

If you add in the burden of final salary pension cost increases to those of raw materials and energy it is easy to see why margins are wafer thin and UK business investment growth has only averaged 1.6 per cent a year since 2000. In addition taxation and regulation have increased and become more complex and the Chancellor has added 3,500 pages or one million words to UK tax legislation in just five years.

So it is of little surprise that our industry is not investing as much as it should be in training its staff.

Cogent, the Sector Skills Council for the plastics industry, has identified skills shortages and training needs in our industry. We all now need to support the creation of a Sector Skills Academy to directly address these needs which go from the shop floor to management.

In his speech at our Annual Dinner Sir Howard Davies, the Director of the London School of Economics, said that in Germany six out of ten of the best university graduates wanted to go into manufacturing. In the UK it is only one in twenty. We have to show that careers in our industry are attractive and well rewarded and be prepared to support them.

When I was Director-General of the CBI many Trade Associations were a waste of space. The BPF is one of the best, with distinct issues to pursue, and well placed to advance them.

Sir Howard Davies
Director of the London School of Economics, Speaker at the BPF Annual Dinner 2005
promising young people in higher education.

A highlight of the year amongst the many events the BPF ran or supported was the IOM\(^1\) International PVC Conference in Brighton in April and the BPF’s own UK PVC seminar in the autumn. Both were strongly supported with many European delegates and speakers.

2005 was also a year for exhibitions, but I don’t think the industry is well served by having two major shows in the same year. Interplas in October had 7,500 visitors, and we were very pleased with the contacts made on the impressive BPF stand, where I signed a co-operation agreement with the Organisation of Plastic Processors in India. The PDM show in April specialised in moulding and had 2,700 visitors. It is vital that the UK has a strong exhibition platform, but unless some rationalisation takes place we could end up with no UK plastics exhibition at all.

Like the rest of the EU, the UK has been coming to terms with the prospect of REACH legislation on chemicals. During 2005 progress was made at European level, in part encouraged by the UK Presidency, on developing REACH. These regulations are recognised as important for the whole chemicals sector to improve its reputation and image in the marketplace although the industry is determined to see a workable system which does not put the economic sustainability of downstream users at risk, and which recognises the immense value which industrial chemistry brings to society.

I took part in the BPF/EuPC meeting with British EU Presidency officials on REACH. They seemed surprised when I said my company has 20,000 individual additive formulations for customers, incorporating a miscellany of active components and some in very small concentrations. I believe we played a part in getting the registration requirements reduced for non-high risk substances in the 1-10 tonne band.

I am very keen that the BPF is pro-active in promoting the benefits of plastics to a wide external audience. The BPF website is the top plastics site on Google and we introduced two Benefits of Plastics pages: Automotive; and Aerospace. I want our customers to help us show the clear advantages of our wonderful material.

At the end of the year we assisted BBC Radio 4 with a very positive hour long programme “The Future’s Plastic” on the history and future of the materials and products. Peter Davis was amongst those interviewed, and it was broadcast at the best possible time between the Christmas and New Year holidays.

We had a very busy year championing the industry’s interests and I would like to thank Peter Davis and his team for their hard work when demands on their expertise are growing fast. The pages ahead show the progress and achievements of both staff and members involved in our Business Groups and Committees.

Jim Jeffries,
President of the British Plastics Federation
Managing Director, Baerlocher UK
Director General’s Report

Peter Davis
Director General

Telephone
020 7457 5000
Email
pdavis@bpf.co.uk

As one of UK manufacturing’s largest trade bodies, the British Plastics Federation is committed to making Government and decision makers aware of the impact of policy on UK manufacturers. As BPF Director General, Peter Davis is extremely well positioned at the forefront of our high-level lobbying work, and is a well-recognised figure as the “face” of the BPF.

UK Competitiveness and Overseas Trade

It is by no means an understatement to say that 2005 was a very tough year for the UK plastics industry with huge increases in energy costs taking their toll on many UK manufacturing operations. Tougher business conditions were the backdrop for the British Plastics Federation’s forward-looking conference, “Plastics, The Industry of Tomorrow”, held in December 2005. At this event, board-level management was exposed to a range of future scenarios and discussed the potential of tools available to plot their way to a successful future for their respective firms.

A major challenge for UK plastics processors facing ever increasing costs, has been recognising another important reality - that passing down costs is a crucial success factor. For its part, the BPF has been particularly active in lobbying the UK Government and EU institutions to ensure the decision makers are aware of the industry’s plight. In addition, media campaigns have been used to help the industry communicate its situation to end-users.

Yet despite these and other pressures, the UK Plastics industry can still proudly market itself as a global player, often operating at the cutting edge of technology. Sales account for approximately £17.5 billion (approximately two per cent of UK GDP), the industry employing about 230,000 in material and additive manufacture, material processors and machinery manufacture. The sector in the UK remains strong with over 5,000 firms processing plastics and with material usage increasing year-on-year.

Nearly 25 per cent of all plastics products manufactured in the UK are destined for export, including to important growth markets such as China, India and Poland. This means the UK plastics sector has a very important role to play in addressing the UK’s record Trade Deficit, the difference between imports and exports, - £65.5bn in 2005. However, it is both astonishing and frustrating to report that the valuable export support work the BPF undertakes is in jeopardy due to cuts at UK Trade and Investment. Only new-to-export companies who can demonstrate they meet key “SME criteria” will be eligible for financial support, and the BPF had a meeting in March with the then Head of UKTI Sir Stephen Brown to try and get this absurd policy changed.

The BPF has also been addressing competitiveness issues in 2005 in the following ways:

- My regular meetings with the Bank of England to discuss business conditions for plastics manufacturing have helped us influence others on UK competitiveness
- The BPF is a member of the Department of Trade and Industry’s (DTI’s) Plastics and Rubber Industry Forum and has assisted with the Plastic Processors Competitiveness Study to be published in 2006. As the President has written we are trying to assist Cogent, our Sector Skills Council, in engage with

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
employers on skills needs. We were delighted that they sponsored our Annual Dinner in October.

Throughout the year we have worked closely with PICME (Process Industry Centre for Manufacturing Excellence), Faraday Plastics and PERA (who joined the BPF’s Business Support Network in 2005), to help our member companies to improve process efficiency and innovation.

Influencing Government and the UK Presidency of the European Union

Throughout 2005, several major opportunities were seized by the BPF to influence the Government in both Westminster and Whitehall.

The BPF used the platform of the General Election in May to influence and inform the candidates of all political parties. In partnership with the Engineering Employers Federation, Chemical Industries Association, Society of British Aerospace Industries, Construction Products Association and the Manufacturing Technologies Association, we produced a Manifesto for Manufacturing - “Manufacturing in the UK - Priorities for the new Government”. We received many promises of support from the candidates as they scrambled for votes and we will be looking to build on this campaign in 2006.

With our allies in the Nine Associations Alliance (BPF, BRPPA, PIFA, BCF, PMMDA, GTMA, SPRA, NIPA and FPA) we lobbied the Government on issues greatly affecting our members’ competitiveness: the huge increase in energy costs; excessive regulation and taxation; pension costs. We also expressed our concern to the Chancellor Gordon Brown that the UK economy is unbalanced since it relied too much on heavy consumer and government spending and too little on manufacturing and exports.

The United Kingdom’s Presidency of the European Union from June to December 2005 was also a crucial period for the BPF to influence decision makers. In the spring prior to the Presidency the BPF had two strategic meetings with UK Government officials. At the first in March, with the support of the European Plastics Converters Association (EuPC), we presented our concerns about REACH and the increasing regulatory burden on plastics firms, proposing the UK replicate and promote its creditable Better Regulation philosophy to the EU policy arena. At the second meeting in May, with the support of PlasticsEurope, we gave a briefing on plastics in waste management, and the opportunities to exploit waste plastics as an energy resource, to influence the review of the Waste Framework Directive.

Staff, Premises and Recruitment

The BPF team continues to go from strength to strength, with an increasingly high commercial drive and outlook – attributes which will only make the BPF itself stronger, more efficient and more effective in the years to come. To boost our commercial focus in 2005 we introduced for all staff, a self-financing “Incentive Plan” to reward good performance.

Fortunately our staff were unscathed by the 7th July London bombs and we carried on ‘business as usual’. Messages from Associations in other cities affected by terrorism, Madrid and Istanbul were much appreciated.

2005 was a positive year financially and Alan Davey, our Finance and Administration Director has effected further improvements to our building, including a new telephone system, painting and recarpeting the fourth floor, the Meeting rooms and the Members’ lounge and refurbishment of the kitchen.

2005 was also a good year for membership recruitment with 37 companies joining the BPF. Only 50 per cent of our income comes from member subscriptions, making us the best value plastics association in Europe.

I would like to thank our excellent President, Jim Jeffries, for all his advice and support and all our other members who serve on Council and Committees for giving up their time for the good of the plastics industry.

Peter Davis
Director General  OBE, FRSA
In 2005 “Don’t Work In Isolation” became the new strapline to promote BPF membership, and press the undeniable benefits of joining the UK plastics industry’s leading organisation. Membership entitles companies to participate in a first-rate marketing platform, share experience with like-minded firms to formulate joint policies and projects, and respond to Government consultations on issues affecting the industry.

The continued growth in membership, (37 new members in 2005), demonstrates our organisation’s genuine attractiveness, and is evidence that the BPF is making a positive difference. Clearly our service offering has grown in parallel, including:

- Expanding the On-Line Plastics and Rubber Advisory Service (PRAS) including the introduction of internet-based enquiry forms
- Providing increased opportunities for sales, marketing and networking through the BPF’s Processor Clinic at Interplas 2005
- Broadening our Business Support Toolkit, including a Members’ Grant-Search facility to help find local sources of financial assistance for R&D, environmental initiatives and training, specific to their own requirements
- Implementing a series of one-day issues-based seminars, building on our growing role as an organiser of cost-effective networking events – in 2005 this included helping Members familiarise themselves with the potential impacts of the introduction of Futures Contracts for LLDPE and PP on the London Metal Exchange in May 2005
- Strengthening our Export Support resources, to adapt to policy changes in UK Trade and Investment
- Putting renewed emphasis behind the BPF’s Industrial Health and Safety Committee.

The Major Issues
Our industry continues to face an array of increasingly complex legislation, as well as pressure on environmental and product safety matters raised by NGOs and the Media. In 2005, the BPF was active in the following:

- Raising the Profile of UK Competitiveness Issues – the BPF pushed the energy costs story through an intensive press campaign, supported by Energywatch, which resulted in substantial trade press coverage as well as a Daily Telegraph feature in October.
- Lobbying UK and EU decision makers – the BPF closely monitored developments as the European Parliament voted on proposals for the REACH regulations. Consumer concerns about the safety of chemicals in plastics featured heavily in the media as NGOs attempted to influence the Parliament to push for an over-strict regime. However, BPF lobbying contributed to a more pragmatic outlook in both the Parliament and the Council of Ministers.
- Making an impact on user industries – massive increases in oil and energy prices led to extensive, and occasionally misplaced, media attention on plastics. Some users announced cuts in the use of plastic in the face of higher oil prices. BPF was able to emphasise that higher oil prices affect all packaging manufacturing through rising energy and transport fuel costs, which could not be digested by one sector alone.
Network

The BPF – an International Plastics Association

The BPF, whilst firmly anchored as a UK body, has a strong international dimension, working very closely with sister trade bodies based in Brussels.

Peter Davis continued to be a Board member of EuPC (the European Plastics Converters Association) and Philip Law as chairman of its Communications Committee. We have established a good working relationship with the resin producers’ organisation PlasticsEurope. We are glad to see greater co-operation between PlasticsEurope and EuPC. The BPF is a member of six other European associations (see right).

For example, in January the BPF played host to a critical EuPC Packaging Division meeting with Perchards, the UK-based consultants enlisted by the European Commission’s DG Enterprise to study the impact of the EU’s Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive on the Single European Market. This meeting of European minds provided views on the Perchards draft report before it was finalised.

Also, the BPF was well-supported by both PlasticsEurope and EuPC in calling for a defferment of the EU Super-Regulation for food contact plastics to give the industry more time to develop more effective and efficient legislation.

In the spring, the BPF also gave full support to PlasticsEurope’s “Aqualastics” campaign, raising charity for developing countries and promoting the role of plastics in the delivery of clean drinking water.

The BPF continued to play its part as the UK platform for Vinyl 2010 and the Voluntary Commitment of the European PVC Industry to address sustainable development challenges.

On critical issues concerning manufacturing, the BPF doesn’t work in isolation. Instead, it joins forces with other like-minded trade bodies to form an alliance of Nine Associations, representing over 6,150 companies and 315,000 employees in the plastics, rubber, coatings and associated machinery and tool making sectors.

These are:
- British Plastics Federation (BPF)
- British Coatings Federation (BCF)
- British Rubber Manufacturers Association (BRMA)
- Flexible Packaging Association (FPA)
- Gauge and Tool Makers Association (GTMA)
- Northern Ireland Polymers Association (NIPA)
- Packaging and Industrial Films Association (PIFA)
- Polymer Machinery Manufacturers and Distributors Association (PMMDA)
- Scottish Plastics and Rubber Association (SPRA)

The BPF manages a wide network of contacts throughout the world. There is regular contact with other national plastics industry trade associations, 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 maintains close co-operation with PlasticsEurope, the European Council of Vinyl Manufacturers (ECVM), the European Council for Plasticisers and Intermediates (ECPI), the European Stabilisers Producers Association (ESPA) and the European Flame Retardants Association (EFRA).

The BPF is a member of the following organisations to which subscriptions were paid on behalf of its members or by specific Business Groups:

EuPC (European Plastics Converters Association)
- Peter Davis (BPF)
- Philip Law (BPF)

EPPA (European Plastic Profiles Association)
- Philip Law (BPF)
- Mercia Gick (BPF)

TEPPFA (The European Plastic Pipes and Fittings Association)
- Philip Law (BPF)
- Frank Jones (BPF)

EUMEPS (European Manufacturers of Expanded Polystyrene Association)
- Gavin Birnie (Styropack)
- Damien Packer (BPF)
- Chris Stride (BPF)
- Mike Hutchinson (Vencil Resil Ltd)

EUROMAP (European Committee of Machinery Manufacturers for the Plastics and Rubber Industries)
- Iain McIlwee (BPF)

EUROPUR (European Association of Flexible Polyurethane Foam Blocks Manufacturers)
- Dr K Hillier (British Vita Ltd)
- Dr David Waite

EuCIA (European Composites Industry Association)
- Philip Law (BPF)
- Anthony Roberts (BPF)

David Williams, formerly of LINPAC and former BPF President, is currently a distinguished President of EuPC, the umbrella organisation in Brussels for the European Plastics Converting Industry.
Communicating the Benefits of

In 2005, the BPF gained a wide array of coverage in trade, regional and national press.

One of the main issues faced by the industry in 2005 was that of increasing energy prices and the Climate Change Levy to which the BPF responded and even conducted its own survey of plastics firms. Environmental issues, as always, played a key part in the BPF’s public relations work and the BPF continued to boost the profile of the BPF’s export initiatives, exhibitions and events.

The media has become a 24-hour industry in the past few years. With access to news now possible through the internet and email, as well as print, TV and radio, people have quickly become used to getting information as soon as they want it. This places demands on industry representatives, including the BPF and other trade associations, to be prepared for any question thrown their way at any time.

The BPF has adapted to these demands and has been quoted in national newspapers on a regular basis. Its spokespeople have even been heard on BBC radio in the past year.

PRW has itself speeded up its news services, adding daily internet and email bulletins to its traditional weekly newspaper.

The BPF is always helpful and quick to respond to our questions, whether that is seeking information or some quotes to provide opinion on an issue or industry development.

Rising costs for plastics processors have become one of the most pressing issues over the past year. In particular, the steep hike in electricity and gas bills has been a recurring problem highlighted both by the BPF and PRW.

There are many other issues - technical, regulatory and business-related - which the BPF has dealt with. The spread of issues, from recycling and environmental concerns to EU directives and Whitehall legislation, are increasingly occupying the industry’s time and this is reflected in the efforts of the BPF and PRW to keep the industry informed.

Hannah Price
Communications Executive

Telephone
020 7457 5032
Email
hprice@bpf.co.uk

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David Eldridge
Editor, Plastis & Rubber Weekly

The BBC Radio 4 programme "The Future’s Plastic"
The BPF was able to seize upon a golden opportunity to have a positive impression of plastics spelt out to radio listeners nationwide in an hour-long, two-part documentary devoted to plastics directed by Martin Redfern. The BPF gave key member firms the centre stage including LINPAC Recycling’s Alan Davey, who had the opportunity to explain the recycling process and Hi-Technology Group Sales and Marketing Director, Richard Brown, who was able to talk about the contribution of good design to the moulding process.

The BPF’s Peter Davis was also interviewed as an integral part of the programme, commenting on a breadth of issues including the outdated use of the word “plasticky”. On discussing the “waste” issue he reinforced the view of the BPF that plastics waste is a valuable raw material and wherever, economically and environmentally viable, plastics products should be recycled. In cases where this is not feasible, energy from waste should be considered, a relatively unexplored concept in the UK.
Plastics

Key BPF Messages in 2005

First Quarter
- Industry encouraged to “grasp sound understanding” of new LME tool
- Packaging Directive: The BPF plays host to a meeting of European minds
- BPF calls for deferment of food contact SuperRegulation
- BPF welcomes latest ENCAMs Environmental Quality Survey
- The BPF: Countdown to Chinaplas 2005
- Nine Associations Seek To Dissuade Treasury From Future Business Tax Rises
- BPF launches promotional brochure on PVC in construction
- BPF calls for higher profile for regulatory reform in EU
- BPF press statement on the issue of plastics litter on UK beaches
- BPF comments on the publication of the Commons Trade and Industry Committee’s report on fuel prices

Second Quarter
- BPF statement following Rover announcement
- Political challenge to Climate Change Levy
- BPF lobby on behalf of Manufacturing as the Countdown to the Election begins
- Don’t let the Queen’s Speech be a wasted opportunity for firmer action on Better Regulation warns BPF
- Industry Associations to showcase Innovation and Problem Solving at Interplas
- BPF welcomes stronger language on Better Regulation from HM Treasury
- BPF and PlasticsEurope meet to discuss the forthcoming UK Presidency with UK Government officials
- BPF Helps Polish Plastics Show Reach Record Numbers

Third Quarter
- BPF Director General tells Parliamentarians “used plastic must be recycled or energy recovered – not landfilled”
- BPF Adds Value to Interplas
- BPF Press Statement following Reckitt Benckiser announcement on plastic packaging
- BPF warns Government as Manufacturing GDP declines
- New Breakthroughs in the Use of recyclate by the Automotive Sector at Interplas
- The UltraCane wins the Horners Award 2005

Fourth Quarter
- BPF Appraises “Challenging Times” for the Plastics Industry
- The BPF forges closer ties with India at Interplas
- Nine Manufacturing Associations tell Chancellor “optimism down due to huge increases in raw material and energy costs”
- BPF supports Innovation and Training
- BPF reacts to huge gas price increase
- BPF instigates extensive moulding survey
- BPF response to the Pre-Budget Statement

Raising the profile in National Press
In October, the BPF was approached by The Daily Telegraph on the issue of increasing energy costs and specifically the impact of the Climate Change Levy. The article published on 21st October, helped boost the BPF’s lobbying campaign and raise its profile, as well as helping end-user industries understand the issues facing the plastics sector.
The Horners Award is presented annually for imaginative or innovative contributions to the plastics industry. It is run jointly by the Worshipful Company of Horners and the British Plastics Federation with 2005 marking its 60th year.

The winner of the Horners Award in 2005 was the UltraCane, an inventive mobility aid for the blind and partially sighted which is developed and manufactured by Sound Foresight Ltd in the UK. The UltraCane emits ultrasonic waves at all levels and these waves bounce off obstructions, causing a button within the handle to vibrate according to the proximity of the obstacle. Plastics are fully utilised throughout the product from the ABS hand piece, the folding carbon graphite cane and the nylon lower probe.

Winners of the Horners Award have received distinct marketing advantages as a result of the accolade, gaining increased press coverage through BPF Online, as a highlight in BPF newsletters and the trade press. Winners also have their details engraved on the substantial “Horners Trophy” which resides in the BPF offices but is also taken to exhibitions and events.

Winning the Horners Award in 2005 took us a huge step forward and helped widely promote the reputation of the UltraCane, giving us invaluable media coverage as well as access to the plastics industry.

Jane Fowler
Manager Director,
Sound Foresight Ltd

In 2005 the BPF continued its support for the Plastics Industry Awards, held annually at the London Hilton Hotel.

The Plastics Industry Awards are dedicated to rewarding innovation and exceptional performance across a wide range of categories which include Best Technology Achievement and Product Design of the Year.
Congratulations to the following BPF members who won in 2005:

- JFC won Best Environmental Initiative
- Distrupol won Polymer Distributor or Compounder of the Year

In a focus on innovation, the BPF has developed a section of its website to the benefits of plastics within the aerospace and automotive industries. The pages look specifically at how plastics have aided technology through being versatile, durable and offering significant weight savings.
In 2005, BPF Online reached close to One Million unique visits- the highest level of traffic ever recorded. This can be attributed to the growing reputation of the website as the Home Page of the UK Plastics Industry, the high rankings of key plastics terms in search engines and to the investment in improving the BPF Industry Directory.

www.bpf.co.uk has been consistently developed and updated over the course of 2005. As a result of the PRAS service offered on BPF Online, an increased level of sales leads has come in, with members receiving around 30 per week.

Under the search term “plastics” the BPF has progressed from being number one out of 8,800,00 to being number one out of a massive 78,700,00 other sites on Google in 2005.

Work has been completed to improve the BPF Industry Directory, with faster and more refined searching facilities, a more sophisticated range of package offerings, better design and usability as well as visit-tracking statistics, making it an extremely valuable tool for member companies.
The Business Support Network E-Zine has continued its bi-monthly circulation to the BPF’s extended marketing list, reporting on services working in support of the plastics industry from health and safety initiatives to investing in export markets.

The wide use of the BPF Extranet (the password protected, members-only, web-based resource) has continued across the board. The weekly BPF Members’ Newsletter includes updates made on the BPF Extranet and reports on other industry news.
The BPF Membership product is enhanced by a strong events and training programme that engages leading experts from a variety of fields. This activity is underpinned by the Business Support Network, a fast-growing brand that harnesses the knowledge and support of leading suppliers to the plastics industry.

Activities in 2005

The BPF organised a Processor Clinic at Interplas 2005 to address the key business concerns of the UK plastic sector. As a Business Support Network incentive, the following member companies exhibited: Aon, Atradius, Envirowise, IPTME at Loughborough University, IMSM, John Hall Associates, Listgrove and PTL.

How the Business Support Network Benefited Membership

Members Travers Smith and John Hall Associates both received substantial coverage in plastics trade press as a result of the BPFs media links.

The Business Support Network successfully recruited two new members; PERA - an international technology-based consulting and training group and Polymer IRC, formed from a core partnership of four Universities with polymers expertise- Bradford, Durham, Leeds and Sheffield.

BPF Events

Practical Environmental Management in the Plastics Industry

Held: At BPF Offices, London on 23rd February 2005
Supported by: IMSM and Envirowise
Focus: Processes for improving profitability and developing business

Energy Solutions

Held: At Loughborough University on 21st April 2005
Supported by: Loughborough University and John Hall Associates
Focus: Managing energy costs and improving competitive advantage in turbulent times

The LME – A Practical Approach

Held: At BPF Offices, London on 19th May 2005
Supported by: The LME
Focus: A workshop to help plastics businesses evaluate and access the LME

Grant Support and Venture Sourcing Advice

In 2005, the BPF invested in j4b Advisor – a comprehensive database of public funding for business from European, national, regional and local sources. This tool, which boasts a sophisticated search engine to ensure relevant results, is available to BPF members through their Group’s executive.

Business Support Helpline

A free legal helpline for members, accessible on the BPF Extranet focuses on Tax, VAT, PAYE, Payroll, NIC, Employment, Health & Safety and Commercial matters. BPF members also have exclusive access to a wide range of free fact sheets.
PVC Seminar 2005
Held: Moor Hall Hotel, Sutton Coldfield on 23rd November 2005
Supported by: BPF Vinyls Group
Focus: A focus on the future

Plastics The Industry of Tomorrow
Held: At Holywell Park, Loughborough on 8th December 2005
Supported by: Barclays and PERA
Focus: Glimpsing into the future of the UK Plastics Industry

‘Plastics, The Industry Of Tomorrow’ seminar addressed head-on, key concerns within the plastics industry. In the compass of one day delegates were exposed to a range of future scenarios and were provided with the tools to plot their way to a successful future for their firm.

Plastics Industry Safety: What you can do
Held: At PTL, Telford on 14th December 2005
Supported by: Aon Ltd, PTL and IMSM
Focus: Practical steps forward and resources available to help

Other Events held in 2005 include: Chemicals Policy, Car Manufacture Using Recycled Plastics and BPF Annual Dinner.

Business Support Network members:

With the abundance of companies offering services, referral from a trusted source, such as through the BPF Business Support Network, is always the best selection method.

John Thorp
LINPAC Group

We are pleased to have been associated with the BPF on the Processor Clinic and are happy with the large turnout of plastics companies at Interplas.

Guy Raithby-Veall
Envirowise

A very worthwhile show allowing John Hall Associates to provide the plastics industry with greater energy awareness.

Clive Ferrey
John Hall Associates
2005 saw a full year for the BPF Trade Development Team with two large shows and a highly successful trade mission undertaken by the BPF. Through these events the BPF assisted 60 companies and helped to give a global voice in this increasingly competitive market.

The BPF’s work focuses on helping companies to reduce risk, providing valuable market intelligence, advice and, crucially, securing assistance in accessing government grants and other support mechanisms.

Export Support from the BPF
Assisting international growth is fundamental to the BPF’s mission.

A range of export support resources are available to members to:
- Advise on international trade and investment matters
- Assist in project managing exhibition participation
- Secure development grants for UK manufacturers
- Provide networking opportunities for exporters
- Deliver updates on key and emerging markets

Members can access:
- International plastics-specific market data and information, for example through the World Market Directory
- Worldwide contact lists including trade journals and trade bodies
- Free Workshops drawing in recognised market specialists
- Expertise in International Business Development

Interplas, Birmingham, UK
10 – 14 October 2005
Interplas, although not as large as it once was, is still by far the largest plastics show in the UK and managed to attract nearly 500 exhibitors and 7,500 visitors to the NEC Trade Halls in Birmingham. At the show the BPF ran a highly successful ‘Processor Clinic’, which was linked to the Business Support Network and was made up of top class service providers supporting the plastics industry. The processor clinic consisted of 13 companies and acted as a major draw to both exhibitors and visitors at the show.

Great trade shows such as Interplas are the best source of enquiry going.

Richard Beacham
IMSM

The combination of an excellent value for money stand and the availability of the Processor Clinic lounge was a winning formula for us.

Steve Fewkes
Loughborough University
Plastpol 2005, Kielce, Poland  
31 May – 30 June  
2005 saw the return of the BPF to the largest plastics show in Poland where a highly successful UK Pavilion made up of 10 companies was co-ordinated. A further 15 engaged in the catalogue show also organised through the BPF.  
Business at the show was brisk and saw a number of orders being placed with two separate exhibitors selling machinery straight off their stand.

Trade Mission to Moscow, Russia  
13-16 December 2005  
The BPF with the support of UK Trade and Investment led a highly successful Trade Mission to Moscow to coincide with the Interplastica and Upackovka exhibitions. The group consisted of 25 representatives from 19 companies and made up the largest Trade Mission to Russia in the last two years.

Our machines generated a great deal of interest, our stand has been exceptionally busy and we nearly ran out of magazines and cards. To top it all off we have sold a machine straight of the stand and I am very happy with the outcome of this show! The support the BPF gave was exceptional and their translator was invaluable.  
David Harry  
Sales and Marketing Director  
C R Clarke

The organisation from the BPF was incredible and the support from the group was superb! The show was very well attended and the people who came to see us on the stand were genuinely interested in us. Poland is clearly a growing market and the people who came on our stand were keen and excited. I would definitely come to Plastpol again, we are very happy!  
Mike Tibbetts  
Director, EFI Ltd
The BPF Groups – Platforms for

POLYMER DISTRIBUTORS AND COMPOUNDERS GROUP
Chairman: David Cope – ALBIS UK

The BPF provides this Group with an important sales and marketing platform, from which we can demonstrate solid credentials as high calibre plastics suppliers. The key is not to work in isolation, but take advantage of the networking opportunities and knowledge base the BPF provides.

David Cope
ALBIS UK

This Group’s mission is to maintain a strong networking platform, to promote and enhance the polymer distribution and compounding business throughout the UK to both customers and suppliers alike. This includes:

- To maintain the Group as the leading voice of polymer distribution and compounding
- To promote and raise awareness of the applications for plastics materials
- To support the important principle of a ‘supply partnership’
- To achieve a ‘seamless’ supply chain between the polymer producer and end user
- To promote the technical support that is widely available to the processing sector
- To actively encourage and assist with market development opportunities
- To continue to focus on the potential benefits and added value of this sector.

The Group’s membership increased with two companies joining.

The Group met all key objectives for 2005 including:

- Completion of benchmarking surveys on polymer market share, warehousing, transport and logistics costs
- Progression of a common policy on health and safety manual handling of 25kg material sacks
- Tackling credit risk management with the involvement of Atradius and Experian to consider the range of tools available to the Group.

ADDITIVES GROUP
Chairman: Bob Watson – Ciba Specialty Chemicals

The BPF Additives Group is, we believe, the only one of its kind in a plastics trade association. It is highly strategic and forward-thinking both in terms of promoting member companies and their additives.

Bob Watson
Ciba Specialty Chemicals

This Group’s mission is to maintain a strong networking platform, to promote and enhance the plastics additives business throughout the UK to the plastics supply chain, from processor to specifier and to the final customer.

This includes:

- Managing the reputation of chemicals, additives and plastics and their promotion in plastics applications;
- Influencing and Handling significant legislative change and cost-effective implementation;
- Acquiring better exposure to end-market trends and new additives’ contributions to the marketplace.

Matt Clements
Senior Issues Executive
Telephone 020 7457 5037
Email mclements@bpf.co.uk

POLYMER PRODUCERS GROUP

The Group remained a source of instinctive support for nearly all 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 SMEs on the Extranet and via export support tools.

This Group’s mission is to maintain a strong networking platform, to promote and further enhance the polymer distribution and compounding business throughout the UK to both customers and suppliers alike. This includes:

- To maintain the Group as the leading voice of polymer distribution and compounding
- To promote and raise awareness of the applications for plastics materials
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- To actively encourage and assist with market development opportunities
- To continue to focus on the potential benefits and added value of this sector.
Action and Networking

- Prioritising relevant markets for export, with a view to harnessing appropriate support through the BPF to explore these;
- Focusing on the delivery of appropriate health and safety policies to plastics processors.

The Group’s membership increased with five companies joining

The Group met all key objectives for 2005 including:
- Surveying the Group to construct a downloadable Additives Buyers Guide which links to the BPF Online Directory
- Discussing the potential for a Group “code of ethics”
- Managing a proposal to form a BPF Masterbatch Group
- Planning for an additives-themed BPF event in 2006, potentially focusing on plastic packaging
- Identifying the key trends in the PVC Industry’s approach to sustainable development, including receiving a presentation from Dr Stuart Patrick on behalf of Loughborough University on the VinylSUM project.

MASTERBATCH AND TECHNICAL COMPOUNDS GROUP
An exploratory meeting of UK masterbatch suppliers was held in November in Telford with a view to forming a new BPF Group in 2006.

PACKAGING GROUPS:

BOTTLE BLOWERS GROUP
Chairman:
George Sweeney – RPC Containers

The BPF Bottle Blowings Group maintains a strong networking platform for independent manufacturers of plastic containers including both extrusion and injection blow moulders. This includes:
- Operating in a business climate progressively characterised by increasing materials and energy costs, and increasing members’ dexterity with which these costs can be passed down the chain
- Responding to the increased pressure of customers’ procurement tactics, including members’ exposure to the increased use of internet reverse auctions, as an example of customer-power, undermining the value-added aspects of plastic packaging manufacture
- Influencing attitudes to plastics containers in terms of their environmental footprint, product safety, and their value as compared to their cost, amongst all relevant stakeholders including customers, political decision makers and the media
- Managing cost pressures associated with the implementation of UK Packaging Waste legislation, including inputting relevant points to the various ongoing consultations relating to the UK laws and the EU Directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste
- Monitoring the impact of imports of semi-finished and finished goods on the UK bottle blowing sector
- Maintaining an active awareness of the latest research and development in the design and manufacture of plastic bottles and containers to retain a competitive edge
- Sustaining a fundamental commitment to address industrial health and safety issues.

The Group met all key objectives for 2005 including:
- Initiating a recruitment plan to expand the Group to injection blow moulders and others in bottle blowing generally
- Ensuring the BPF took swift action on the energy costs issue both in terms of political lobbying and supply chain awareness
- Progressing a BPF Code of Ethics for Internet Reverse Auctions
- Analysing the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of LME Futures Contracts for polypropylene
- Acquiring an update on child-safe packaging issues from Stephen Wilkins, of the Child-Safe Packaging Group
- Examining the potential for the use of biodegradable plastics for bottles.
The BPF Groups – Platforms for

EPS PACKAGING GROUP
Chairman: Gavin Birnie, Styropack

The BPF recognises the commercial realities which companies like our own face on a day-to-day basis, including insurance and health and safety issues, with a wide variety of support tools available for us to plug into.

Gavin Birnie
Styropack

This Group's mission is to maintain and increase the sale of EPS packaging in the UK, through promotional communications campaigns, market development and addressing sustainable development by increased recycling.

The Group met all key objectives for 2005 including:

- Completing a rebranding exercise incorporating a new logo and revamped literature and communications
- Working closely with new major EPS recycling operations in Grimsby and South Wales contributing to a UK recycling rate of 29 per cent in 2004
- Providing ongoing support for UK recyclers and waste holders
- Continuing to implement fish box recycling schemes
- Promoting local consumer EPS recycling points on member sites with three additional sites added in 2005
- Producing the annual EPS calendar and three newsletters including a prototype emailed electronic version with links to the EPS Packaging Group website – helping to attract 2,000 visitors per month
- Teaching students and school children about EPS through the website and a presentation at a regional science fair. The Group looked at the potential of an educational "science kit" for schools
- Providing the General Secretariat to EUMEPS (European Manufacturers of Expanded Polystyrene).
**Action and Networking**

**EPS CONSTRUCTION**

Chairman:

Mike Hutchinson, Vencil Resil Ltd

In the quest for reduced energy consumption and conservation of material resources EPS insulation is already playing its part by cutting the consumption of energy used for space heating. The EPS Construction Group, in conjunction with the British Plastics Federation, have consolidated their lead by ensuring that standards organisations, specifiers, contractors and environmentalists are better informed of new developments, in particular high performance products that meet current and future legislative requirements.

Mike Hutchinson

Vencil Resil Ltd

This Group’s mission is to take the lead and drive the ongoing and increasing use of expanded polystyrene (EPS) insulation in remarkably innovative ways, and in 2005 in particular in Insulated Concrete Formworks construction. EPS makes construction simple for the one-off self-build home market but now it is being used extensively in some Local Authority Housing schemes, and not only low-rise but some high-rise applications as well.

The Group met all key objectives for 2005 including:

- Promoting the use of EPS in Insulated Concrete Formworks (ICF), which is now showing real dividends with a number of hospital and institutional buildings now taking advantage, demonstrating design flexibility, cost-effectiveness, energy efficiency and construction simplicity of using EPS in ICF.
- Pulling together installers of Cavity Wall insulation as a coherent group to seize opportunities as a united front in the 2006 Building Regulations and UK Government grant schemes to promote EPS “low lambda” beads as an alternative to traditional mineral wool.
- Monitoring market trends and responding to a culmination of negative factors including changes to the density of housing. This has meant more flats, which inherently require less floor insulation than detached houses, are now being constructed. Houses that are being built have a ground floor plan that is some 35 per cent smaller than houses built five years ago. This is in spite of the Government’s own predictions about the dramatic increase in insulation thickness following the 2002 changes in the Building Regulations which followed with investments in production capacity.
- Promoting the benefits of EPS flooring insulation through a hard hitting ‘Questions’ advertising campaign, to arrest the decline in this market.

2006 will be a challenge to the group. There are further changes to Building Regulations coming into effect in April and these will entail the already stretched members to control insulation specification by offering SAP calculations to designers. Low lambda insulation material will become the norm, giving the group the opportunity to compete head on with most other insulants. The EPS industry is already seeing the benefits in offering innovative products and this will continue - so watch this space.
The BPF Groups – Platforms for

VINYL GROUP
Chairman:
Alex Hay, Arkema Group

The BPF provides us with a vehicle to take the UK PVC industry forward with pro-active communications and environmental programmes at a cost-effective level.

Alex Hay
Arkema Group

The Group:
- organised the annual BPF PVC Seminar, in November in Sutton Coldfield to discuss the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing each of the PVC sector groups.
- continued to monitor the perception of PVC in public affairs circles, media and amongst customer stakeholders.
- supported the IOM3 Brighton Conference "Adding Value To Society”
- established a PVC Compounders section, chaired by Steve Harrington, INEOS Vinyls

The Windows Group continued to support the RIBA CPD On-Line Seminar tool, aimed at improving architects’ and specifiers’ appreciation of the economic, social and environmental benefits of PVC-U windows.
Action and Networking

WINDOWS GROUP
Chairman:
John Ogilvie, Network Veka

“The BPF is an important umbrella for the PVC construction sector, well-connected to the European and international associations and initiatives, but mindful of the sensitivities and issues facing the local marketplace.”
John Ogilvie Network Veka

The BPF Windows Group’s mission is to promote and further enhance the PVC-U window sector throughout the UK to both customers and suppliers alike. This includes:
- Increasing the profile of PVC-U windows and their benefits to all stakeholders in 2006
- Safeguarding members by encouraging dialogue and influencing current key stakeholders
- Improving society through the inherent benefits of PVC-U windows
- Educating and promoting the sustainability credentials of PVC-U window to stakeholders.

The Group met all key objectives for 2005 including:
- Working with BRE on a scoping study to agree on a more realistic service-life figure for PVC-U windows
- Planning a national PR campaign to boost the image of PVC-U windows amongst local authorities and their housing tenants
- Visiting key local authorities known to be anti-PVC – working with Rupert Pearson Consultants, meetings were held with the following authorities: Brent, Lambeth and Camden.

CELLULAR PVC GROUP
Chairman:
Russell Pankhurst, Celuform

As a sector we need to speak with one voice on Standards and environmental issues, and the BPF provides us with that all-important voice.
Russell Pankhurst Celuform

The Group’s mission is to promote and further enhance cellular PVC-U products throughout the UK to both customers and suppliers alike.

The Group:
- Actively contributed to the BRE scoping study on service-life
- Reinforced ties with the Vinyls Group to provide synergies across all PVC construction interests
- Contributed to the development of European Standards and two new Codes of Practice for the installation of roofline and cladding products.

SHEET AND COATED FABRICS GROUP
The Group maintains strong links with the BPF Vinyls Group as the main platform for responding to flexible PVC issues. Among other activities, the Group contributed to the ongoing EU Risk Assessment on DEHP to avoid a Europe-wide restriction on its use in outdoor applications.
The BPF Groups – Platforms for

**PIPES GROUP**

President: **Giles Cook, George Fischer**
Vice President: **Chris Nunn, Marley Plumbing and Drainage**

The BPF Plastic Pipes Group is an extremely active Group promoting plastic pipes systems in a wide variety of applications.

The directorate of the PPG, as well as representatives of its member companies, regularly contribute to the work and debate of national and international bodies wherever this is relevant to UK industry interests. The PPG is a founder member of TEPPFA, The European Plastic Pipes and Fittings Association. It also seeks to ensure an active representative presence at any international forum whose agenda could impact on the UK industry.

The importance of plastics as a material for pipework continues to grow steadily and they have already achieved significant shares of each market sector. For example, it is estimated that plastics now account for over 53 per cent of all new buried pressure and non-pressure installations in the UK. Plastic piping systems are the market leader in many sectors.

To support a dynamic pipes market, the PPG provides a full technical advisory service to its members – and, through those members, to the specifiers, installers and stockists of their products.

Images courtesy of Wavin Plastics
FLEXIBLE FOAM GROUP

Chairman:

Peter Hudson, Vitafoam

This Group came under the BPF umbrella at the beginning of 2005, representing the interests of the UK flexible polyurethane foam manufacturers and converters, supplying to the furniture, mattress, automotive and packaging sectors. The Group’s main objectives include:

- Responding to the needs of emerging health, safety and environmental issues and legislation, including appropriate networking with UK Government departments and agencies
- Proposing and participating in new research projects, including maintaining Flexible Foam Research Ltd as a registered company
- Representing the Group in EUROPUR (European Association of Flexible Polyurethane Foam Blocks Manufacturers)
- Participating in the relevant BSI, CEN and ISO Standards Committees

The Group met all key objectives for 2005 including:

- Carrying out a research project with the University of Strathclyde on the preparation of TDI based nanocomposite foams containing clays which would show fire retardancy properties with reduced use of additives
- Discussing with the University of Nottingham a research proposal on the syntheses of urethanes not involving the use of isocyanates
- Reviewing the existing CEN Standard on “Band Knives Cutting Machines for Block Foam”
- Continuing support for ARMADA, the Alliance for Removal of the Medical Device Anomaly
- Participating in the DTI’s Furniture Industry Strategy Group
- Participating in the construction of the EUROPUR “CertiPUR” Standard, launched in June 2005, for flexible PU block foams used in bedding and upholstered furniture

FIRE COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Dr Christine Lukas, Dow Chemical

The Committee:

- Continued to support the preparations for the 2006 Flame Retardants conference organised by BPF and Interscience
- Monitored developments to the fire testing requirements in the EU Construction Products Directive and the potential ramifications for the plastic cabling and ducting industry.
The BPF Groups – Platforms for

COMPOSITES GROUP
Chairman:
Vacancy

The Group’s aim is to become the focal point for the UK composites sector, focusing on recyclability, the Styrene Risk Assessment, regulations and Standards, and contributing to the representation of EuCIA. 2005 achievements included:
- Disseminating the findings of the RECCOMP project, undertaken with Exeter University, assessing the recyclability of thermosets in automotive applications, including at Interplas 2005
- Maintaining active representation on BSI and CEN committees to develop Standards under the Pressure Equipment Directive through the Group’s Chemical Plant Section
- Working closely with EuCIA to improve European representation of the composites industry, including preparing a new Composites Europe exhibition to be held in Germany in September 2006.

ROTAMouldING GROUP
Chairman:
Allan Joyce, Balmoral Tanks

The BPF is the ideal platform for UK rotational moulders, raising the profile of the rotational moulding process on behalf of material suppliers, toolmakers and design services as well as the moulders themselves.

Allan Joyce
Balmoral Tanks

The Group provides a platform for the Rotational Moulding supply chain. The Group’s long-term principal objectives are:
- To promote the rotational moulding process and its advantages to designers and downstream users
- To develop an authoritative picture of the size and dynamics of the UK Rotamoulding Industry
- To position the group as a key player within the Rotational Moulding Industry, in the UK and globally
- To encourage dialogue between member firms in order to disseminate industry knowledge and understanding within the Group

In 2005 the Group:
- Successfully exhibited at both PDM and Interplas, creating new sales leads and contacts for individual members, and drawing new interest to the rotational moulding process
- Continued to support ARMO (Alliance of Rotational Moulding Organisations) including contributing to the preparations for the Inaugural ARMO Conference in Berlin, Germany, September 2006
- Prepared a 2006 Benchmarking Survey for all UK rotational moulding to give the Members a fuller appreciation of the size and dynamic of the sector and to measure their own individual performance
- Supported the Queen’s University (new member) Polymer Processing Research Centre’s Tenth Anniversary Conference.
Action and Networking

Moulding Group Chairman:
Brian Mann,
McKechnie Plastic Components

The UK plastics fraternity needs an effective voice and the BPF is certainly the best vehicle for this. Join the BPF and help us to ensure that the UK moulding sector survives and remains amongst the best in the world.

Brian Mann
McKechnie Plastic Components

The BPF Moulding Group provides a framework for the representation and promotion of BPF members involved in the plastics moulding industry, providing a springboard for collaborative initiatives that support the sector’s evolution. The key issues facing the Group include:

■ Ensuring the moulding sector remains a strong and major contributor to the UK economy and society
■ Responding to rising energy and materials prices which impact on members’ competitiveness
■ Boosting commercial focus in the face of increased global competition

In 2005, the Group:

■ Undertook the first ever Moulding Benchmarking Survey giving companies access to information hitherto unavailable
■ Developed further the BPF Online Leads service, now totalling over 1,000 moulding leads since its launch
■ Ran two highly successful Moulding Group Forums at Bradford University and WH Smith and Sons, with record levels of attendance

PLASTICS AND RUBBER EQUIPMENT GROUP

Chairman:
Brian Murray, Rondol

The Group’s aim is to support market development for UK machinery manufacturers and distributors both here and overseas, and to help them inform UK processors of latest developments that will advance British plastics processing.

The BPF has continued to work closely with EUROMAP (European Committee of Machinery Manufacturers for the Plastics and Rubber Industries), and has continued to develop a range of projects.

The Group:

■ Contributed to two EUROMAP Trends Surveys in 2005, giving it valuable insight into the state of the European equipment industry
■ Coordinated two successful Exporters’ meetings providing invaluable information on the world’s plastics markets and essential networking opportunities
■ Continued to work with EUROMAP on a number of technical recommendations helping BPF Members set the Standards across Europe
■ Benefited from increased use of the ever-growing EUROMAP World Market Directory giving Members access to plastics information on over 100 countries.
PRODUCT SAFETY COMMITTEE
Chairman:
Vacancy

The growth in regulation and legislation combined with constant media focus make Product Safety a vital area of the BPF’s issues management programme. EU and UK regulation for plastics in contact with food, medical devices, toys, fire safety and potable water, along with the emergence of REACH, are all monitored by the BPF’s Product Safety Committee. Work in 2005 included:
- Monitoring the potential impact of REACH and how it will impact downstream users of chemicals and preparations in the BPF membership, including running a Chemicals Policy seminar to allow attendees to connect with industry experts and Government officials who gave presentations
- Calling for a deferment of the Super-Regulation for food contact plastics to give the industry more time to develop more effective and efficient legislation. This move was well-supported by both PlasticsEurope and EuPC.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE: AUTOMOTIVE RECYCLING TASK FORCE
Chairman:
Derek Wilkins, EMR

Plastics play a vital role in the ease the manufacture and assembly of cars, being lightweight, durable, cost-effective and offering considerable design freedom. As a result, the recyclability of such plastic components are a major issue, particularly when considered through the lens of the EU End-of-Life Vehicles Directive. In response, this committee has taken the lead with the PROVE project (see also following page), to provide a “crystal ball” into automotive manufacturers’ future needs for material specifications.

In 2005, the PROVE II validation exercise was completed and its results publicised both on the web and through two seminars held at Interplas. The Task Force will continue its work assessing the future needs for materials in automotive and the future opportunities for recyclers and recylcate.

INDUSTRIAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
Chairman:
Jason Jones, British Vita
Vice-Chairman:
John Taylor, Springvale EPS

The BPF is a key source of expertise and information on Health and Safety issues, and is dedicated to ensuring continued improvement in this crucial area. This Committee devises and holds regular seminars to update industry health and safety practitioners, conducts surveys enabling companies to benchmark their performance, and ensures close cooperation with the Health and Safety Commission and the Health and Safety Executive.

Work in 2005 included:
- Putting renewed emphasis behind a restructured Industrial Health and Safety Committee with a newly appointed Chairman and Vice-Chairman
- Developing the BPF Members’ Health and Safety newsletter
- Managing the BPF Annual Accident Survey and helping Members interpret its results
- Developing a seminar programme to disseminate the expert knowledge of the Committee – the first seminar took place in December at PTL, Telford ‘Plastics Industry Safety: What you can do.’
Supporting Innovation

Boosting Industry’s Research and Development
The BPF supports a number of valuable research and development activities in key areas where the plastics industry’s knowledge base needs extending. The BPF is in a position to offer project management, budgeting, and dissemination channels – all of which provide further income streams for the Federation as well as an information hub for members. Full information including the latest details and outputs from these projects can be found on the BPF Extranet and the main BPF website.

FREEFLOW
An EC funded project led by RAPRA, with a 14-strong European consortium including the BPF, this aims to improve the industrial plastics extrusion process by the use of supercritical CO₂.

POLYCOND
“Creating a competitive edge for the European POLYmer processing industry by driving new added-value products with CONDucting polymers.” This RAPRA-led project involving the BPF aims to develop conductive plastic composites that are eco-friendly, cost effective and of high added value.

PROVE - Plastics Reprocessing Validation Exercise
This DTI-funded project, led by the BPF’s Automotive Recycling Task Force and in collaboration with the Consortium for Automotive Recycling (CARE) is now complete. Findings were presented at Interplas 2005. It developed industry-wide standards, dispelling myths about quality, volume and cost. Details and reports are available from the PROVE website: http://www.prove-recycling.org/

RECCOMP
Led by the University of Exeter, this DTI-funded project is investigating best practices for recycling of composite materials from the transport industry.

RECIPE - Reduced Energy Consumption in Plastics Engineering
Following an initiative established by the Faraday Plastics Partnership and led by Rapra, this project is part of the European Commission’s “Intelligent Energy” programme, and aims to establish and promote best practice for energy saving in plastics processing across Europe. An energy-manager’s “toolkit” is being developed.

VINYLSUM
VinylSUM is a new research initiative led by IPTME at Loughborough (a member of the BPF Business Support Network) and involves the BPF. Funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) under the ‘Sustainable Use of Materials’ initiative, this was set up in April 2004 to help address some of the long term sustainability challenges facing PVC.
BPF Council, Staff and Affiliates

The Council of the British Plastics Federation
As of 31 December 2005

President
Jim Jeffries Baerlocher UK

Vice-President
Calum Forsyth Wavin Plastics

Polymer Materials Manufacturers
Brian Cosgrove Solvay Polymers
Paul Jukes Arkema
Roger Mottram INEOS Vinyls
Glenn Wycherley Bayer Materials Science

Additives Suppliers
Mike Ashwood Gabriel-Chemie UK
Paul Turner Kronos Ltd

Processors
David Cope ALBIS UK
Jonathan Haddock SCA Tuscarora
Philip Hilton RPC Group
Peter Hudson Vitafom
Brian Mann Meckhnie Plastic Components
John Ogilvie Network Veka
David Openshaw Micropol
Joseph Reeve Data Plastics
Colin Sarson WH Smith & Sons (Tools) Ltd

Machinery and Engineers
Stephen Forster Eaton-Williams

Recyclers
David Wrigley Epwin Group

Distributors
Mike Boswell Plastrification

PIFA representative
Vacancy

PlasticsEurope representative
Chris Easdown Dow Chemical

Hon Treasurer
Philip Watkins Gabriel-Chemie UK

Ex Officio Members
Peter Davis BPF
Philip Law BPF

Federation Secretary
Alan Davey BPF

Affiliated Associations
Listed below are associations either with whom the BPF is affiliated or who are affiliated to the BPF.

British Rigid Urethane Foam Manufacturers’ Association (BRUFMA)
Flexible Packaging Association (FPA)
Gauge and Toolmakers Association (GTMA)
Northern Ireland Polymers Association (NIPA)
Packaging and Industrial Films Association (PIFA)

Machinery and Engineers
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Distributors
Mike Boswell Plastrification

Staff of the British Plastics Federation

Peter Davis OBE Director General
Christine Aitken Pipes Group Secretary
Caroline Ayres Pipes Group Standards Manager
Matt Clements Senior Issues Executive
Alan Davey Finance and Admin Director
Michell Dixon Receptionist (part time)
Mercia Gick (Dr) Senior Issues Advisor
Doreen Greenaway Events and Admin Executive
Lorna Hewson PA to Director General
Stephen Hunt Trade Development Executive
Kerry-Anne Jackson Finance Assistant
Justyna Jaworska Receptionist and Finance Assistant
Paul Jervis Windows Group Technical Consultant
Frank Jones Pipes Group Director
Angella Ladner Finance and IT Executive
Thomas Lant Industrial Issues Executive
Philip Law Public and Industrial Affairs Director
Iain McIlwee Business Services Manager
Damien Packer EPS Environmental Affairs Executive
Kirti Patel PA to Philip Law (part time)
Rene Perrott Caterer
Hannah Price Communications Executive
Anthony Roberts Public Affairs Executive
Chris Stride EPS Construction Market Development Manager
Lauren Tavener Assistant to Pipes, EPS Packaging and PlEur
David Waite Flexible Foam Group Divisional Executive