

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF MACHINE TOOL MERCHANTS

**THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF MACHINE TOOL MERCHANTS**

***COUNCIL 1970-1971***

**PRESIDENT**

K. J. EXETER

K.EN.T. Machinery & Engineering Co. Ltd.

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

L. W.PRATT

M. C. Layton Ltd.

**IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT**

P. SIMPSON

P. Simpson & Co. Ltd.

**HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS**

A. W. BELL G. B. BLACKBURN C. G. NEWBURY W. E. NORTON G. J. TRY

**HONORARY TREASURER**

E. J. F. BRADLEY

**FELLOWS**

E.J. F. BRADLEY

W. R. CLARKSON

G. E. WHITTAKER

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

J.G. BAYLES

William Watts Ltd.

A.J.BENTLEY

Elliott Machine Tools Ltd.

L A. BELL

L. A. Machine Tools Ltd.

F.BONGERS

Capital Equipment & Machinery Ltd.

A.H. COWAP

Southern Engineering & Machinery Co. Ltd.

J. DUPONT

Newall Engineering Co. Ltd.

A. KISSACK

Thos. W. Ward Ltd.

J.B. METCALFE

Metcalfe Machine Tools Ltd.

P.B.NORTON

W. E. Norton (Machine Tools) Ltd.

A.W.OLIVER

W. &J. Oliver Ltd.

E.RUSSELL

Robert Kelly & Sons Ltd.

G.URQUHART

Scot Urquhart Ltd.

J.O.F. WARD

Stedall-Pidgen Ltd

F.M. WHITTAKER

G. E. Whittaker Ltd.

H.A. WINGROVE

Gale Machinery Co. Ltd.

**SECRETARY:**

M. V. NUTTALL

## THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF MACHINE TOOL MERCHANTS

### **PRESIDENTS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

1940-41	F. WIDDOWSON	Herbert Widdowson & Sons Ltd.
1941-42	J. E. RAISTRICK	J. H. Raistrick Ltd.
1942-43	H. VERNON	Thos. W. Ward Ltd.
1943-45	R. J. AUSTIN	Centaur Tool Works
1945-46	E. J. F. BRADLEY	Pidgen Bros. Ltd.
1946-47	R. URQUHART	Wm. Urquhart
1947-48	W. POTTS	G. & W. Potts (Sunderland) Ltd.
1948-49	S. A. DUNN	C. H. Joyce Ltd.
1949-50	C. H. PAYNE	W. Forrest & Co. Ltd.
1950-51	W. R. CLARKSON	Southern Engineering & Machinery Co.
1951-52	G. E. WHITTAKER	G. E. Whittaker Ltd.
1952-53	G.A.PARKER	M. C. Layton Ltd.
1953-54	A. W. V. AGUTTER	Centaur Tool Works
1954-55	A. V. GRAVES	E. H. Jones (Machine Tools) Ltd.
1955-56	E. HELIOT	Heliot (Machine Tools) Ltd.
1956-57	A. W. BELL, B.Sc.	H. Bell (Machine Tools) Ltd.
1957-58	H. WIDDOWSON	Herbert Widdowson & Sons Ltd.
1958-59	S. PLASTOCK	F. J. Edwards Ltd.
1959-60	R. GIDLEY	Gidley (Machinery) Ltd.
1960-61	W.E.NORTON	W. E. Norton (Machine Tools) Ltd.
1961-63	C. OLDFIELD	C. & G. Oldfield Ltd.
1963-65	G. B. BLACKBURN	Wm. Watts Ltd.
1965-67	C. G. NEWBURY	Acbars Ltd.
1967-69	G. J. TRY	Gordon Try Ltd.
1969-70	P.SIMPSON	P. Simpson & Co. Ltd.

### **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

#### ***Constitution***

The President, Vice-President, Immediate Past-President and Treasurer for the time being, also Messrs J. G. Bayles, F. Bongers, C. G. Newbury and G. Urquhart.

### **AREA COMMITTEES**

NORTH—*Hon. Secretary:* P. SIMPSON

SOUTH (Including London)—*Hon. Secretary:* J. O. F. WARD

### **REGISTERED OFFICE**

20/21 Tooks Court, Cursitor Street, Chancery Lane, London, EC4A 1LB.

*Telephone:* 01-242 3885

### ***RESERVE THIS DATE***

## **THE B.A.M.T.M. TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE**

Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London, W.1 . Friday, 14th April, 1972

***Report on behalf of the Council to the Thirty-first Annual Ordinary  
General Meeting of the Association at the Waldorf Hotel, Aldwych,  
London, W.C.2, on Tuesday, 7th December, 1971.***

At the time of the publication of our last Annual Report, we had a newly elected Government and measures were being taken to reduce taxation to provide the necessary incentives for economic expansion, which your Council hoped would result in a greater volume of orders for machine tools. Unhappily, this improvement has not occurred; in fact the reverse has been the case in spite of successive efforts by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to stimulate the economy. We have been assured several times that expansion is definitely on the way and that greater investment will be a natural consequence, but up to now the promised land seems to be as far away as ever.

It is axiomatic that the machine tool industry is the first to suffer and the last to recover from the frustrations of the trade cycle. At the present time there is much spare capacity which must be absorbed before any large up-turn in orders can be foreseen. These are most depressing facts to report to our members, but it does seem that the bottom of the trough has been passed and that the coming months will see a slow improvement, so that 1972 will turn out to be a better year than 1971, which must be one of the most depressing on record for the machine tool trade in general.

The Machine Tool Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Sir Richard Way, K.C.B., C.B.E., stated in their report, published at the beginning of the year that the British Machine Tool Manufacturers must increase output substantially in the next few years if they are to fulfil their task of supplying the necessary machines for the modernisation of British Industry. As a result of previous surveys and reports the industry has as its objective the doubling of its 1965 capacity by the year 1975. The experts' report expressed doubts concerning this and recommended that the target figure could be reduced somewhat to a figure that would just allow this country to maintain its world position as a supplier of machine tools. Since this report appeared the low level of orders has forced the majority of manufacturers to lay off skilled workers, some important factories have been closed down so that when there is a revival and demand it is doubtful whether the home industry will be able to meet the requirements of its customers, let alone increase output to anything like the figures envisaged in this report.

***Rolls Royce Limited—Disposal of Surplus Machine Tools***

The Rolls Royce crash brought immediate fears that the market would be flooded at a bad time with many modern and sophisticated machines which might be declared redundant by the Receiver. The Association learnt with alarm that 5 merchants had been selected to handle all disposals that might arise. The Council decided that strong action was necessary and in co-operation with the Machine Tool Trades Association representations were made to the Receiver. As a result a meeting was held on April 2<sup>nd</sup> in London, which was followed a week later by a meeting held in Derby. The outcome of these meetings was reported to members by the late secretary on the 20<sup>th</sup> May last, and the more pertinent points are reiterated below in precise form as further guidance on this whole matter.

1. While the original policy had been to separate the company into 5 main areas and to allocate one merchant to each area, it was later considered that in the changing circumstances after the appointment of a Receiver, that the entire outlook had been altered and in the interests of the creditors other methods should be adopted.
2. The alternative method put forward was that sale by auction or tender would be

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a more equitable means of disposal and would obtain for the Receiver a better return than the arbitrary suggestion of dealing through 5 appointed merchants. It was subsequently recommended to the Rolls Royce directors that as a first move they should suspend the present method of disposal through the medium of the said 5 selected merchants.

3. On the 27<sup>th</sup> April, the Association was informed that with immediate effect this temporary suspension would be put into practice, for a period of time at least, and that items for disposal would be sold by public auction.

4. A further assurance from the Rolls Royce representatives was given that all interested members would be notified of such auctions and, since taking up the appointment of secretary in the latter part of October last, the Association has been in contact with them again in order to ascertain how these negotiations were proceeding and they have informed us as follows:

Two auction sales were held around the middle of the year, one at Hillington and one at Derby and with an additional auction to be held at Burnaston planned for December 2nd. They further expect to continue with central auction sales from the Derby area for some time to come at the level of about 3 or 4 per year. We are also informed that since the negotiations started in April of this year some 40 members were put on their circulation list and that since then they or their auctioneers have been circulating all our members 100%. We have, in any case, now sent them an up to date booklet listing all our members so that they can re-check their circulation.

### ***Value Added Tax***

While it is appreciated that purchase tax has never applied to the Machine Tool Industry, it is considered likely that VAT will be applicable to both new and used machine tools, and will operate in the same fashion as that already in existence, in 5 out of 6 of the Common Market countries, in that it is a consumer tax and it is designed to fall on the ultimate consumer. Although a report in general outline has been published by NEDO, together with the Government Green Paper, neither of these publications seems to predict with any certainty how the proposed tax will operate in this country. However, contact has been made and is still being kept with MTTA and other official bodies.

In the last few days prior to this report going to press, indications have been given in the House of Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that the Government were not finding the drafting of the tax legislation as straight forward as had been expected. Contrary to expectations that the proposals might be in standing committee by Christmas, and would be introduced as a separate bill, the Chancellor said that legislation would be included in the Finance Bill next Spring. He further indicated that more time was required for the Commissioners of Customs and Excise, who have the job of preparing the Bill, to consider the many representations that they had received. Members are therefore urgently advised to give due consideration to this matter of representation, in their own interests.

### ***National Economic Development Office***

In April of this year Sir Frank Figgures, K.C.B., C.M.G., succeeded Sir Frederick Catherwood as director general of NEDO.

### ***Directory and List of Members***

While it has been considered impracticable to issue a new Directory this year, owing to the fact of the considerable expense that is involved and also that a Directory was published in

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1969, a circular giving details of additions, including new members, their activities, changes of title, and addresses etc., is now available.

### **GENERAL REVIEW**

At the Annual General Meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 1970, Mr. Kenneth J. Exeter of K.E.N.T. Machinery and Engineering Company Limited, was elected president of the Association for the year 1970/71, and Mr. L. W. Pratt of M. C. Layton Ltd., was appointed to the office of Vice President for the same period.

Mr. Exeter has carried out his duties of his office with enthusiasm and vigour and has been ably assisted by Mr. Pratt.

During the period extending to nearly 6 months of the current year, while the Association has been without a Secretary, a special word of thanks should be extended to the President, Vice President, Treasurer, other Council Members, and also to Mrs. Burr of the Secretary's Office, for carrying on so much of the work of the Association and in giving a considerable amount of their time to keep the essential functions of this office running smoothly.

### **EXHIBITION**

" Machinex Exhibition 1971 " was arranged to take place in Leeds at the end of November, 1971. This unfortunately had to be postponed due mainly to poor response to the invitation to participate, possibly due to the current depressing trading conditions.

### **SECRETARIAT**

It is with the deepest regret that we have to report the sad and untimely death of the late Secretary, Mr. George Wright Miller. During the 6 years he was Secretary of our Association, he was always aware of the necessity to promote its interests to the fullest possible degree, and will be very much missed by his many friends both inside and outside the Association.

As already circulated, a new Secretary has now been appointed, Mr. Michael Vernon Nuttall, who took up his duties during the latter part of October.

### **DEATHS**

It must also be recorded with the deepest regret the death of Mr. John DuPont which occurred on the 8th October last. Mr. DuPont was elected a member of the Council in 1963, and did invaluable work in promoting the general interests of the Association.

Two further deaths occurred during the latter part of 1970 and therefore could not be included in last year's Report, and these are recorded with the greatest sorrow.

Mr. Eric Heliot was President in 1955/56, and mention should be made of the tremendous amount of work he undertook on behalf of the Association. Many will recall that he was a tower of strength in Council deliberations and his splendid advice and clear thinking will be sadly missed.

Mr. Barry Cashmore will also be remembered with much sorrow, whose death also occurred in the latter part of last year.

### **NEW MEMBERSHIPS**

In the period covered by this report the following new Membership applications have been approved :

Allcut Machine Tools Ltd., 209 Tudor Estate, Abbey Road, London, N.W.10.

Coventry Machine Tool Company, 49 Henrietta Street, Coventry.

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### ***SOCIAL AND OTHER FUNCTIONS***

The 20th Annual Dinner/Ball was held on the 16th April 1971, at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, and was attended by some 325 Members and their guests who appeared to have a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

The attendance was a little lower than last year, but the general enthusiasm for this function appeared to be quite undiminished, nevertheless.

The next Dinner/Dance will be held on the 14th April 1972, also at Grosvenor House, and we look forward to seeing as many members as possible with their guests on that date.

The Annual Golf Tournament was held at Walton Heath Golf Club, Tadworth, on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 1971, and while the Inter-Association Golf Trophy was keenly contested for again by M.T.T.A and G.T.M.A. as well as this Association, B.A.M.T.M. proved to be the final winners, with G.T.M.A. as runners-up.

The Presidents weekend was held this year from the 15th to the 18th October, at the Imperial Hotel, Torquay, and some 50 members and their guests appeared to have an enjoyable time. In spite of the rather inclement weather which put paid to any golfing activities, this did not deter certain members from making good use of the hotel's excellent open air swimming pool.

During the dinner/dance held on the Saturday evening a presentation was made to Mr. Ken Exeter on behalf of the members, by the Treasurer Mr. E. J. F. Bradley, in appreciation of his excellent services as President during the year.



## **OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION**

1. To promote, safeguard and protect and further the common interest of the Machine Tool Merchant's trade in Great Britain in general.
2. To watch and provide for the study, consideration and discussion of all questions relating to the said trade and to collect and disseminate any information which may be useful thereto.
3. To promote and support, or to resist any measures, which may or be likely to affect the said trade or the Association or its interests and to assist the furtherance of the objects of the Association by consultation or co-operation with any other trade association, the legislature or any other body.
4. To take such independent, joint or other action as may be considered desirable in the interests of the Association including the defence or initiation of legal proceedings which in the opinion of the Association ought to be defended or initiated and paying or contributing to the costs of such legal proceedings and of legal proceedings which the Association may consider properly to be defended or initiated provided that the laws relating to champerty and maintenance shall in no case be infringed.
5. To enter into any arrangements with any government or authorities, supreme, municipal, local or otherwise, and to obtain from any such government or authority all rights, concessions and privileges that may seem conducive to the objects of the Association or any of them.
6. To amalgamate or become affiliated with or to enter into any arrangement to work in conjunction with any company, association, institution or society not formed for profit and having objects in whole or in part similar to the objects of this Association.
7. To print and publish any news-papers, periodicals, books or leaflets that the Association may think desirable for the promotion of its objects.

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP**

*(Extracts from Articles of Association)*

1. The Members of the Association shall be the Subscribers of the Memorandum of Association, and such other persons as in the case of individuals shall be resident and in the case of Corporations shall be established within the United Kingdom and shall apply for admission and be admitted as Members by the Council.
2. At the next Meeting of the Council after the receipt of any application for Membership such Applicant shall be considered by the Council who shall *in its absolute discretion* determine upon the admission or rejection of the Applicant. In no case shall the Council be bound to give any reason for the admission or rejection of an Applicant.
3. Every Member of the Association shall immediately on becoming a member pay the \* *Entrance Fee* at the time ruling at the date of admission to membership and shall also pay an \* *Annual Subscription* to the Funds of the Association such Entrance Fee and Annual Subscription respectively to be fixed from time to time by the Association in General Meeting. The said Annual Subscription shall become due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September in every year in respect of the year commencing on that date.
4. The first payment of such Annual Subscription shall be made immediately upon admittance to membership of the Association provided that in the event of admittance to membership of the Association after the 1<sup>st</sup> of March in any year the Member shall *forthwith* pay in addition to the said Entrance Fee a sum equal to half the Annual Subscription for the period from the date of joining to the next succeeding 31<sup>st</sup> August. Provided also that in the event of admittance to membership between the 1<sup>st</sup> of June and the 31<sup>st</sup> August in any year the Council may in its absolute discretion waive the payment of this sum or any part thereof. Provided further that if any Applicant having been notified in writing of admission to membership of the Association shall not pay the entrance fee and subscription due within one month the Council may at its absolute discretion cancel such admission to membership whereupon notice of such cancellation shall be sent in writing to such Applicant to the address given on the form of application for membership and shall be final and binding on all parties.
5. Any Corporation which is a member of the Association may by resolution of its Directors or other governing body authorise such person as it thinks fit to act as its representative at any Meeting of the Association as provided by Section 139 of the Act, and the person so authorised shall be entitled to exercise the same powers on behalf of the Corporation which he represents as that Corporation could exercise if it were an individual member of the Association.

### **RESIGNATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

A Member wishing to resign from Membership of the Association shall give notice of his intention to do so on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> June in any year, otherwise the annual subscription due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September in the same year shall be payable by the resigning Member.

\* The present Entrance Fee is Ten Guineas and the Annual Subscription Fifty Guineas.

*Forms of application for membership will be sent on application to the Secretary*

**MEMBERSHIP**

The Council regard the following as being the essential qualifications and conditions for Membership, i.e., Members should be:

1. In the case of individuals, resident, and in the case of Corporations, established, within the United Kingdom.
2. Bona-fide Machine Tool Merchants buying new or second-hand Machine Tools for re-sale to in-dependent concerns and on a scale which the Council could be expected to accept as reasonable.
3. Continuously engaged in the Trade for a minimum period of three years immediately prior to the application for Membership—*other than in exceptional circumstances*.
4. Able to demonstrate machines under power and to render 'after-sales' services on all machines handled.
5. Sponsored by two present Members able fully to assure the Council concerning their reputation, trading methods and financial standing and their eligibility and desirability as Members of the Association.

*\*NOTE. The Council have powers to waive the three-year minimum trading period qualification in certain exceptional circumstances and will consider any reasons advanced by applicants for so doing.*