

# The Crucible



The quarterly newsletter of the Minor Metals Trade Association

Summer 2006

## Letter from the Chairman: A Welcome Message from Charles Swindon

A speech given at the MMTA annual general meeting in Hamble, UK, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2006

I am in the somewhat unusual position of not being able to address you this evening on account of the impending excitements of the England v Sweden football match. For that reason, I am taking the opportunity of writing to you, and welcoming you all to the MMTA and our Regatta.

It is perhaps fitting that our sailing coincided with the World Cup. Like football, the MMTA and the minor metals industry, are all fantastically important, are all in the public eye, and part of the new global market. Football may have more fans, but there are just as many people who use our products, and of course there are football-supporting, metal-using members too!

It gives me great pleasure to thank Anthony Lipmann for the excellent job that he has done as Chairman of the MMTA. He has not only been hard working, but also vociferous in raising the profile of our Association well outside its previous confines. We are now highly respected and well received in all our activities. Anthony has been strong in his leadership, and forthright in his defence of our interests against impending new legislation. (*continued page 2*)



MMTA Chairman Charles Swindon attending the recent MMTA Regatta.

## All aboard for the MMTA Sailing Regatta!



June saw the return of the biennial MMTA Sailing Regatta and one of strongest competitions in years for the "Howards Way" trophy, named after former MMTA chairman Howard Masters of Lambert Metals and not the 1980s television show involving boats, sex and corporate intrigue.

Seven yachts battled it out from the moorings at Hamble-le-Rice on the south coast of the UK. All the crews but one had the benefit of a professional skipper with valuable local knowledge, worth its weight in gold in an area that has four tides a day giving some unpredictable currents not to mention wind pockets – all in a day's work for the average metals trader.

In the end London-based trading house SFP Metals clinched a close victory leaving in their wake a number of close friends and competitors. The SFP crew, made up of company staff and guests were full of praise for their skipper Erica Briley. An SFP source said Erica's "forthright approach inevitably drew comparisons with Boadicea and left a number of [SFP's] otherwise larger than life crew in timid awe of her presence."

With good weather and perfect wind conditions the occasion could hardly have been more different from the last regatta when hurricane-force winds forced the event to be cancelled at the last minute. The Lipmann Walton boat took second place, followed by Alex Stewart International in third and Darton Commodities (the only boat without a professional skipper) in fourth place. Congratulations to all who took part!

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## MMTA Conference Estonia 2007

See page 2 for details

## **MMTA 2007 Conference: Tallinn, Estonia, on 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> April**

After stiff competition the contract to run the MMTA Minor Metals Conference in 2007 has been awarded to Metal Events, at July's MMTA Committee Meeting. The winning proposal from Metal Events is provisionally tabled for April 2007 in the Estonian capital of Tallinn, a city with excellent transport links, superb restaurants and a wealth of unique culture.

As with previous MMTA conferences, the committee is confident that the Tallinn conference will provide a stimulating and attractive environment for speakers of the highest quality.

Anyone interested in giving papers should contact David Craik through the MMTA ([conference@mmta.co.uk](mailto:conference@mmta.co.uk)).



Estonia: Home to the MMTA's 2007 conference.

## **Letter from the Chairman: A Welcome Message from Charles Swindon (continued)**

*(Continued from page 1)* It is true that we face many new challenges. REACH is perhaps the greatest obstacle to face the MMTA. We have opposed it on all grounds; political, scientific, socio-economic, as well as its lack of practicality. As REACH faces its second reading in Brussels shortly, the MMTA is embarking on the fresh challenge of priming all our members for preparing themselves for REACH, and how to be ready to work with the legislation. This will involve pre-registration as well as lots of assistance in all aspects of REACH implementation.

It may well be that the current EU environmentally-led pressures will be rolled out across the globe. I am already seeing clear evidence of this in countries like China, Japan and India. The MMTA must learn to live within these new demands, and to grasp these new business opportunities for the greater benefit of all members. At the same time, there is absolutely no reason why we cannot be more humanitarian and fulfil an increasingly positive role in society.

My recent experience has taught me that we need to work together as a coherent team of MMTA members to share our different experiences in order to meet all the challenges ahead. I urge you to become more involved in our activities at the MMTA. As you become more active, you will find that we are moving forward as a highly professional Association organized to help you and your colleagues with your metals activities.

As just announced to all members, and in the press, the MMTA is set to become a dynamic, professional organisation. We shall probably require the technical services of various experts with specialised qualifications and skills. I assure you that this will be for the greater good of all members, and hopefully, make more people want to join the MMTA. There are many more issues, apart from REACH, with which will need this hands-on knowledge.

Thank you very much for placing your confidence in me as your new Chairman. I am fully committed to carrying on the great endeavours started by my predecessor. I intend to extend and increase the membership of the MMTA, and make us even more international. Our Conference next year will demonstrate that we can attract a much wider audience. If you agree with these objectives, please support all our activities, and contribute your part in the continued success of the MMTA.

**Charles**

## **Forthcoming Dates for you Diary:**

Quarterly Lunch at Coq d'Argent, London	22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2006
Anniversary Dinner	10 <sup>th</sup> October 2006
MMTA general meeting	7 <sup>th</sup> December 2006
Christmas Lunch	7 <sup>th</sup> December 2006
Conference 2007	25 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2007

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## Notice board

- Ti** • Two new Ferro-Titanium metal norms have been posted online in order to distinguish between Austenitic and Thermic production methods. <http://www.mmta.co.uk/norms/individual.aspx>
- Co** • The MMTA website now has 8 new cobalt norms posted: Brazilian, Moroccan, Falconbridge, Inco, Russian, Jinchuan, Sherritt and Chambishi. <http://www.mmta.co.uk/norms/individual.aspx>
- PGMs** • Platinum Metals Review has published its latest report covering PGMs is available at <http://www.platinummetalsreview.com/pdf/53-110-pmr-apr06.pdf>
- Ta Nb** • The Tantalum-Niobium International Study Center publishes a quarterly review. To receive it please visit <http://www.tanb.org/contact.html>
- Co** • The Cobalt Development Institute's July newsletter is now online at [http://www.thecdi.com/cdi/images/news\\_pdf/Cobalt\\_News\\_06-3.pdf](http://www.thecdi.com/cdi/images/news_pdf/Cobalt_News_06-3.pdf)

Comments, letters and news for *The Alchemist* to [editor@mmta.co.uk](mailto:editor@mmta.co.uk).

### Letters to the Editor

[editor@mmta.co.uk](mailto:editor@mmta.co.uk)

Dear Sir,

When are the MMTA going to hold a regatta in the West Indies?

Perhaps the committee could send over a representative to make a viability study?

Yours

Roland Chavasse,  
SFP Metals

Dear Sir,

Is there any truth in the rumour that traces of selenium in humans can influence fertility?

Yours hopefully,

A selenium trader

Dear Sir,

I think this newsletter is great!

Your fans on the Contracts Committee

Dear Sir,

When are the sampling and assaying norms going to be given the same wake-up call the metal norms have received?

Yours,

Curious of Mayfair.

### **Are you ready for REACH?**

The MMTA has teamed up with REACHReady to offer our members a great deal. More details available through [www.mmta.co.uk](http://www.mmta.co.uk) or [www.reachready.co.uk](http://www.reachready.co.uk)



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[ViceChairman@mmta.co.uk](mailto:ViceChairman@mmta.co.uk)  
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- Charles Swindon, RJH Trading  
 - Tom Abrahams, Wogen Resources  
 - Roy Walton, Darton Commodities  
 - Barry Jaynes, MMTA  
 - John Price, Trident Traders  
 - David Craik, AMC Group  
 - Roland Chavasse, SFP Metals (UK) Ltd  
 - Charles Swindon, RJH Trading  
 - Gladys Smith, SANAB Ltd  
 - Barry Jaynes, MMTA  
 - Gunther Maassen, Haines & Maassen  
 - Tom Abrahams, Wogen Resources  
 - Anthony Lipmann, Lipmann Walton & Co