

MMTA Visits Umicore's Hoboken Plant



On 22nd June an international delegation of MMTA members from as far away as China joined [Umicore Precious Metals Refining](#) (UPMR) for an

exclusive tour of their vast plant at Hoboken, Belgium. At this site cutting edge recycling of minor metals takes place; turning old mobile phones and other electronic waste into pure metals including gold and minor metals.

The first stage of the tour began at the precious metal plant to inspect gold ingots and samples of platinum group metals. There then followed a visit to the copper electro-refining tanks. At Hoboken one witnesses the unusual sight of copper being produced as a by-product from the purification of minor metals instead of the other way around. The MMTA wishes to thank Philippe Van Maele, Christina Meskers and Kris Van den Broeck and their UPMR colleagues for making this visit possible.



The MMTA also wishes to thank [C. Steinweg NV](#) for sponsoring an excellent dinner in Antwerp on the evening before the event



New General Manager for the MMTA



Maria Cox



Roland Chavasse

The directors of the MMTA are delighted to welcome Maria Cox as the new general manager. Maria comes from the security industry and has industry body experience having sat on the board of directors of the Security Institute. Maria is looking forward to the challenge of managing the MMTA and meeting all members in due course. Her fluency in German will certainly come in useful at the MMTA conference in Cologne next year!

After four years as the MMTA's first ever general manager Roland Chavasse is stepping down in September to return to the commercial side of the minor metals industry. Chairman Guy Darby said "I and my fellow directors would like to thank

Roland for his many valuable contributions and wish him every success in his new position."

Roland said "I'd like to thank everyone who has supported and helped develop the MMTA over the last four invigorating years, especially Chairmen Charles Swindon and Guy Darby for their outstanding leadership, and the directors of the main committee without whom nothing would be possible.

"Since 2007 the MMTA has doubled in membership and the association's international reputation has grown considerably, especially in North America where the annual December dinner in New York has been firmly established in the minor metals calendar. I wish the MMTA continued success in the future and look forward to attending the 38th Anniversary Dinner in October as a regular member." Roland is moving to MMTA member Maritime House, a supplier of industrial chemicals and specialist metals.

Photographs from the 2011 International Minor Metals Conference in Philadelphia, PA, USA



All presentations were well attended



Dr Duclos discussing superalloys



Roland and Emma at the MMTA desk



Attendees share a joke at the gala dinner



“We’re looking forward to attending the MMTA’s conference in Cologne next year” said many of those attending Philadelphia.



At dinner ‘Betsy Ross’ explained how the first American flag was created

The International Minor Metals Conference[©] in Cologne, Germany, April 23-25, 2012

The premier event for the minor metals industry!

To register your interest for an exclusive special early-bird registration rate **only available to MMTA members** please visit www.metalevents.com or call +44 20 7840 0145. Organised by Metal Events.



MMTA's Annual General Meeting 2011

The MMT's annual general meeting (AGM) took place on 5th May 2011 during the International Minor Metals Conference held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Philadelphia, USA.

At the meeting Anthony Lipmann, stood down as a director after 10 years of dedicated service, three of them as chairman (2003- 2006). Anthony has been instrumental in driving the MMTA forwards to becoming the professional, international organisation it is today. David Craik also announced his retirement as Chairman of the Conference Committee, although he will continue to stay on as a director.

Committee members who remain in office are: Chairman Guy Darby (Darton Commodities Ltd), treasurer Roy Walton (Darton Commodities Ltd), vice-chairwoman Sarah Frigot (Wogen Resources Ltd), Charles Swindon (RJH Trading Ltd), David Craik (Amalgamated Metal Corporation PLC), Steven Munnoch (Avon Metals Ltd), Peter Nicholson (London Chemicals & Resources Ltd), David Brown (Lambert Metals International Ltd), Michael Ihlenfeld (F.W. Hempel Metallurgical GmbH) and Arnoud Willems (Sidley Austin LLP). Three new representatives were elected for the first time to the main committee; Noah Lehrman (Hudson Metals Corp.), Donald Lambert (Penningtons Solicitors) and Deborah Stott (Firth Rixson Ltd).

Gala Dinner in Philadelphia



On Thursday 5th May in Philadelphia, USA, attendees of the International Minor Metals Conference enjoyed a spectacular evening at the Water Works Restaurant overlooking the Schuylkill River. Attendees were welcomed to the Water Works restaurant by a fife and drum player (left) dressed in period costume from the 1790s when Philadelphia was temporarily the capital of the newly independent country. Inside the restaurant guests were greeted by one of the founding fathers of Philadelphia and America, Benjamin Franklin, and his companion Betsy Ross, creator of the first ever American flag. The gala dinner provided a perfect setting to network with other conference delegates in a relaxed atmosphere. Dinner was generously sponsored [MCP Metalspecialties, Inc.](http://www.mcpmetalspecialties.com), part of the MCP Group.



Dates for your Diary

Informal Drinks	London, UK	25 August 2011
Trade and Industry Seminar and Dinner	Brussels, Belgium	12 September 2011
38 th Anniversary Dinner	London, UK	4 October 2011
Import Training Course (with ISTA)	London, UK	13- 14 October 2011
North American Dinner	New York, NY, USA	6 December 2011
Christmas Lunch	London, UK	15 December 2011
Annual General Meeting	Cologne, Germany	23 April 2012
International Minor Metals Conference 2012	Cologne, Germany	23- 25 April 2012

New MMTA Members:

Since the last editions of *The Crucible* the following companies have joined the MMTA community:

Less Common Metals Ltd (LCM) is involved in the production and supply of rare earth based alloys. Since 2008 LCM has been part of the Canadian mining company, Great Western Minerals Group. For more information please contact Ian Higgins on +44 151 652 9747, general@lesscommonmetals.com or via their website www.lesscommonmetals.com.

MetalPrices.com is a metal pricing utility and our service is specifically targeted to anyone responsible for tracking the raw material value of any metal product. For more information please contact Ralph Nero on +1 970 927 8595, support@metalprices.com or via their website www.metalprices.com.

Molibdenos Y Metales S.A. (Molymet) is a Chilean company that works in the treatment and processing of molybdenum and related products, which are used in many and various industrial activities. For more information contact Jose Elizalde on +56 23683600, info@molymet.cl or via their website www.molymet.cl.

Neo Material Technology Inc. is a producer, processor and developer of neodymium-iron-boron magnetic powders, rare earths and zirconium based engineering materials and applications, and other metals and their compounds. For more information contact Alex Iasnikov on +1 (705) 755 0159, info@neomaterials.com or via their website www.neomaterials.com.

Zhuhai Hongfan Non-ferrous Metals and Chemical Engineering Inc is involved in antimony, magnesium, molybdenum, tungsten, cadmium, manganese and more. For more information contact Mr Che Vankin on +86 (756) 3229 1980, yvw@hfmatal.com or via their website www.hfmatal.cn.

New Approved Warehouse: Keystore Ltd

The MMTA's Warehousing Committee has confirmed that following a successful independent inspection Keystore Ltd is now a fully approved member and warehouse for minor metals in Hull, UK.

The approved location is at: Earles Road, Hedon Road, Hull, HU9 1UD, UK.

Keystore was established in 1985 and has maintained a highly successful business for a number of years storing and handling commodity products all of which came through Hull's Docks. This established a good working relationship with Associated British Ports (ABP) which continues today.

For more information please contact Sue Smith on +44 1482 222481, s.smith@keystoreuk.co.uk or via their website www.keystoreuk.co.uk.



Guy Darby promotes MMTA's vision in Changsha, China



On May 16th MMTA Chairman Guy Darby gave a presentation about the MMTA and the many benefits of membership to a select group of senior managers from the Chinese minor metals industries.

This unique event was organised in partnership with Mr George Song from Shangxiang Minmetals Inc. and took place at the Dolton Hotel in Changsha, China. Many of those present are key leaders in their metals and were said to be very interested in MMTA membership.

Darby told those present that China has always played a key role in the global minor metals

industry and that the MMTA was actively working with George Song of Shangxiang Minmetals Inc to explore the possibilities of enlarging its membership in this region.

Darby pointed out that currently the first of two mainland Chinese warehouses are undergoing approval. He also pointed out the important role the MMTA plays in providing standardised contract terms and inspection norms as well as the mediation and arbitration facilities that are available to members.

In conclusion he invited attendees to discover more about minor metals and the MMTA at the 2012 International Minor Metals Conference which will take place next April in Germany.

The MMTA's conference is the largest international event for the minor metals industry and the 2011 event in Philadelphia saw record numbers attend. The MMTA wishes to thank George Song and Daphne Zhang from Shangxiang Minmetals for their help coordinating this event.



MMTA .v. Wogen Cricket Match



On 25th July, eleven honed athletes from the MMTA took the field against the mighty Wogen cricket-playing machine. At stake was nothing less than the Association's sporting honour.

The match was prompted by a friendly challenge from Wogen Resources who generously hosted the event and provided refreshments too. The weather was good and the Pimms

flowed whilst the thrilling game developed, keeping spectators on the edge of their deck chairs.

The MMTA won back the trophy after last year's defeat, with a winning score of 126 off 20 overs, which was narrowly missed by Wogen's 118 off 20 overs.

Our thanks to Wogen Resources for kindly inviting the MMTA to play and for providing refreshments (and a lamb roast!) for the players and spectators.



The Mufulira Lunch – July 20th 2011

“It was, you could say, 18 years in the making. Fifteen young people from an ordinary state school in UK were this year’s crop of youngsters to exchange with fifteen young Zambians from Mufulira. In the presence of the Zambian High Commissioner, their teachers and members of both communities, the children were welcomed to The National Liberal Club at the heart of political-historical London. Eighteen years is the time it has been since the first exchanges took place between Ansford School in Somerset and Mufulira High School in Zambia, operated by Cary Mufulira Community Partnership Trust (CMCPT). Today the communities are linked through multi-layered friendships and partnerships.



“The Mufulira Lunch was a chance for members of the MMTA to learn more. Putting the young people at the centre of the day, we heard from each student – about stays at their Zambian partners’ homes, experiencing real life in a copper belt town, visiting the local market, carrying out scientific experiments on soil, learning about the role of dance in society, women in work, issues of health, or just playing games with other children at schools, one of which included a football match with 200 players. Much is written about aid and its effectiveness in Africa. Another approach is to exchange knowledge, friendship, information across communities to the betterment of both. Looking through the lens of our metal trade, perhaps this also allows us to see

solutions to problems that some aid agencies have missed. In the case of sulphur pollution, it was possible to identify the cause - that the converters in the mining/smelter complex were blowing sulphur direct to the atmosphere precipitating sulphurous acids daily onto the west of the town. Both I and members of CMCPT petitioned the owners about this, and we now understand steps are being taken to rectify this issue. It is something we shall monitor.

“I believe our industry link has power for the good and, I believe, also taps into the sense in which all of us metal people would like to see some redress to the imbalance between the many wonderful uses to which metals are applied and the often harsh and unforgiving conditions in the countries from where these metals start their journey. I am grateful for all the members of our Minor Metals community who have so generously supported these efforts and, if you would like to know more, please just email me at lipmann@lipmann.co.uk. A number of UK 6th form and university-age children of MMTA members have either been, or are planning to go, to Mufulira in their gap years and I shall be pleased to assist any of them with their planning.”

Best wishes, Anthony Lipmann, Lipmann Walton & Co.

The International Minor Metals Conference[©] in Cologne, Germany, April 23-25, 2012

The premier event for the minor metals industry!

To register your interest for an exclusive special early-bird registration rate **only available to MMTA members** please visit www.metalevents.com or call +44 20 7840 0145. Organised by Metal Events.



Focus on

Neodymium

To discover MMTA producers, suppliers and consumers of neodymium and all other minor metals please visit our website: www.mmta.co.uk

Neodymium (Nd), one of 15 elements making up the lanthanide group, and is the second most abundant rare earth after cerium (Ce). Neodymium has few applications but those that it does have, such as magnets in motors, have become more prominent in recent years for their potentially 'green' credentials. The first pure metal sample was produced in 1925, over 40 years after its discovery.



Neodymium can be extracted from all minerals and ores which contain lanthanides; however the most important one is monazite and certain bastnäsite deposits.

China, USA, Brazil, India, Sri Lanka and Australia are where these ores can be mined, with China dominating production.

There are thought to be reserves of neodymium in the region of 8,000,000mt. Very pure neodymium metal is produced by reacting neodymium fluoride with calcium, but this is very expensive.

Non-magnet applications include as a strengthener for magnesium alloys and for specific glass products. Neodymium oxides create purple and sky-blue tints for artistic glass and ceramics, and when added to cathode-ray tube glass, picture brightness is enhanced by absorbing yellow light waves.

Over 70% of this element goes into neodymium-iron-boron (NdFeB) permanent magnets used in many applications including computer hard drives, mobile phones, and audio speakers.

These very powerful magnets have given rise to the miniaturization of these electronics and made the most of the power to cost ratio necessary, as the demand placed on the efficiency of our electronic goods increases. These magnets are widely used within automobiles and also in the generators of wind turbines and drive motors of hybrid and electric vehicles.

The MMTA's 38th Anniversary Dinner, London

October 4th

The annual 'London Metals Week' dinner will take place at the May Fair Hotel on Tuesday 4th October.

Last year tickets sold out very quickly so contact the executive to reserve your place today. The May Fair is on Stratton Street in Mayfair, central London. Group bookings are welcome (tables seat 10).

Raffle in support of Cary-Mufulira Community Partnership Trust. Prizes generously supplied by Alfred H Knight International Ltd.



London Christmas Lunch for MMTA members and guests

December 15th



The annual seasonal lunch for members and their guests will be at Lincoln's Inn's Old Hall in central London.

Full details, including sponsorship opportunities will be circulated to the membership nearer the time and will also be available from executive@mmta.co.uk or phone +44 20 7833 0237.