



Welcome to the SIA Autumn 2025 News

































Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to the latest newsletter of The Solvents Industry Association, where we look back on a truly remarkable (and as Bill says below) emotional AGM and Conference. The AGM continues to grow and we welcomed just over 100 people to our main AGM. The day before this, we had 17 people play at the Annual Golf Day, followed by an informal curry evening at Amans for 50 people.

That the attendance at all of these events continues to grow is testimony to the hard work put in by our outgoing Chief Executive, Andrew Norman, supported by me and the SIA board. Andrew has made an immense contribution to the growth and success of the SIA and it was only right and proper that we gave him a good send off. I have very much enjoyed supporting him as the SIA chair for the past two years. We have seen the membership grow, we have developed new guidance and videos and we continue to be a strong voice in the sector, safety and sustainability messages.

The day's programme was once again extremely memorable. We had a very thought provoking presentation from Professor Leigh Hoath of Leeds Trinity University on stereotypes in science, we heard from ESIG Manager and friend of the SIA Norbert Hanning, on the work of ESIG and the issues facing the European chemical industry. I think everyone that was present for it, will be talking about Mick Loughran's speech for many a year. It has made me think of the safety in a whole new light, how the impact on once incident can change the course of your life.

We are grateful to Alex Gazulla for providing an update from the European Recyclers Association. Solvent recycling is going to be increasingly crucial to delivering a circular economy.

As Norbert outlined in his speech, the chemical industry in Europe has some significant challenges on the horizon. But this, in my view, strengthens the need for a strong voice for our sector in the SIA. I very much welcome under our new chair – Mark Cottrell of Tenants Distribution who will work alongside Bill Atkinson, our new Chief Executive, to work with other Chemical Trade Associations in putting forward our positions to Government and regulators. I am sure that you will join me in wishing them every success.

This is my last communication as chair of the SIA with the last two years seemingly to have raced by. The support I've been given to do the role from the SIA board and Chief Exec's has been superb and made the job a whole lot easier, thank you. It has been great to have had the opportunity to give something back to the SIA having been involved for more than 20 years. As we saw clearly at the AGM and Spring Dinner this year, the SIA exists for its members and providing we keep that in mind when making decisions, we will continue to grow and punch above our weight as a Trade Association and I look forward keep helping with this as part of the board.

Nick Key, Group Product Manager Univar Solutions

Outgoing SIA Chair 2023 – 2025

And from the Incoming Chair:

I'm Mark Cottrell and I am hugely honoured to be selected as the next Chair of our Trade Association, following yet another fantastic AGM and Conference. The SIA has been a cornerstone of our industry for over 50 years, championing the safe, sustainable, and responsible use of solvents. It plays a vital role in ensuring that regulatory frameworks are guided by sound science and best practice, while supporting our members in driving innovation and safety across the sector.

Our AGM and dinner provided me with an opportunity to give a huge thanks to my predecessor as Chair, Nick Key, and to our outgoing Chief Executive Andrew Norman.

They have both really done an absolutely first-class job, which has been reflected in the growing number of our members and in our LinkedIn followers. While Bill and I know that we both have huge acts to follow, we are truly excited to begin our work.

For the newer members who may be less familiar with my career (and karaoke abilities!), I have been working for Tennants Distribution, where I am now Divisional Manager since 2012. Prior to this, I spent 12 years at Carlsberg.

I became aware of the SIA after I joined Tennants and I joined the board in 2019.

Despite the head winds our industry faces, these are exciting times for the SIA and I look forward to meeting many of you, starting with what I hope will be a memorable Spring event at the Army Museum next March.

Thank you for putting your confidence and trust in me as your next Chair. Now, all together now "Sweet Caroline..."

Mark Cottrell, Incoming SIA Chair 2023 – 2025 Divisional Manager - Purfleet Tennants Distribution Ltd

New Chief Executive - Bill Atkinson

In September we were delighted to announce the appointment of Bill Atkinson as the new Chief Executive.

A graduate chemist, Bill joins with more than 30 years' experience in the industry, predominantly in safety and compliance, most recently as Chief

Scientific Advisor with OHES Environmental (Adler & Allan).

SIA Chair, Nick Key said, 'Bill has come through an extensive selection process and has emerged as the candidate we feel is best positioned to build on the excellent work of Andrew in supporting our members' needs, whilst overseeing the continued growth of the Association'.

'I'd like to thank all of those who expressed interest in the role and those involved in the recruitment process. It was really encouraging to see such a strong field of candidates apply for the position'.

Nick added, 'On behalf of the SIA board, thank you to Andrew Norman for helping to raise the profile of our Trade Association over the last 12 years. He hands over to Bill an SIA that has a solid foundation on which to further grow'.

In accepting the position, Bill said, 'Andrew Norman has made an immense contribution to the SIA over his tenure. He leaves some very big shoes to fill! I would like to thank the SIA for investing their trust in me and I very much look forward to working with the members'.



2025 AGM - reflections from our Chief Executive, Bill Atkinson

Review of AGM

Daytime programme

This was a momentous and at times very emotional AGM. This was my first time attending an SIA AGM, so I have to ask the question, "are they always like this?!". Of course I am being disingenuous, one of the main reasons this one was so reflective, and emotionally charged, was because Andrew Norman was signing-off from the SIA. This was our chance, as an Association and as his friends, to give thanks to him for all he has achieved in his 12 years at the helm of the SIA. Follow that huh?!

But first of all there was a golf tournament, there was an AGM and there were presentations, both technical and thought provoking, before we got to formally thank him.



I have been asked many times if I played golf. I would say that I couldn't hack it, but in truth hacking would be rather a kind description of what would happen if I had a club in my hand. I've seen the greens at Worsley Park and they are so smooth you could eat your dinner off them (and in one or two instances, I thought they may have to by the time they got round!). Instead I decided to get my step count up and went around visiting the four teams of 3 or 4 as they went round.





It seems to me I could form a lucrative sideline next year by charging fees NOT to take photographs of the players! I'm not saying my presence was the cause of certain players' techniques failing, but I was at the scene of the crime a few times!

There was an app to log the scores and it only took until the 5th hole before I was getting complaints. Naming no names but a few people were in a right Stu, sorry I mean stew...

The overall champion was Peter Handsford from Barrettine, who was in Group 4, the group expected to be put through the wringer. I think 'Wringer' must have been what the other groups were muttering, which I overheard!



The other prizes were:

Second place: Stephen Kirton from Brenntag.

Third place: Phill Ellis from Tradebe.

Longest drive: Stuart Barker from Indover (app-t!).

Nearest the hole: Mark Cottrell of Tennants – he was 2 inches from a very expensive round in the 19th!





Annual General Meeting

The AGM itself was opened by Andrew for the final time. After the Dos and Don'ts it was onto Nick Key of Univar, who was also signing off from his two-year tenure as SIA Chair. He went through the highlights of the past year, including the release of the safety films – a one-minute promo was shown to the meeting – and the expansion of the membership. This is despite losing Sasol as a member. Overall the Association made a slight loss, due to fewer training courses being held.

A new chair for the SIA – Mark Cottrell of Tennants – was proposed, seconded and approved. There were som changes in the Board, which were also approved by the meeting and more details are on the SIA website. Huge thanks are due to those who are departing their roles and we welcome the new team.

Region

The other highlight of the year was the appointment of a new Chief Executive in yours truly. It was my turn to introduce myself to the membership. Some of whom were already familiar with my work on the Technical Committee during my previous job at Adler and Allan. Those who managed to stay awake would have learned about my interests, my background, my part-time work with the fire service and my interests outside of work.



More people did manage to stay awake than I expected (i.e. some) as I had some interesting conversations later in the bar, when football rivalries were aired and I was thanked for explaining what a spuddle or a circumlocutionist were, even if the memory of their precise definitions prove to be somewhat fugacious. I blame the range of cognacs available behind the bar.

I also outlined my immediate, medium term and long term aims in the role. These include expanding the training portfolio and ensuring we continue our technical work programme but first and foremost, getting to know the members. The members are the Association and the Association is here to serve the members. My immediate reaction on being offered the job as Chief Executive (other than punching the air and accepting) was to thank Nick and the board for putting their trust in me to run the SIA. I do not intend to let you down.





The next presenter was Norbert Hannig of the European Solvents Industry Group (ESIG), which is the voice of the solvents industry in Europe. Norbert gave a reminder of how it is structured and how it reports into Cefic (for whom he was also representing later in his speech). ESIG has a similar strategy of engagement to SIA, with promotional videos and guidance, in person training and engagement on LinkedIn and social media. The last training session was held in September, attended by Andrew, Bill and Rob Oades.

ESIG is also working on an initiative to simplify extended SDS, which as some of you will have found for commodity chemicals, can be very extended indeed (or even over extended). Effective chemical communication is not really achieved by adding multiple exposure scenarios, which often do not apply, to the back of an SDS. The only winners and insomniacs and printers. Although more printing = more ink = more solvents... mmm. Maybe not such a bad idea after all!

Norbert also covered the European emissions inventory and the aims to further reduce VOC emissions. This may end up

being achieved by a loss of capacity and indeed the second part of his presentation moved onto the challenges that the solvents industry is facing in Europe in trying to remain competitive. These issues are of course known to many members and as an industry, we know that we have a challenging time ahead.



We also listened to a very thought provoking presentation from Professor Leigh Hoath of Leeds Trinity University entitled: "Education and Industry – The good, the bad and the ugly". She outlined some typical stereotypes in science. She explained that a group of children were asked to picture and draw a "scientist". You can probably guess the typical outcome – an older man in glasses with wild hair! However once children had been through an initiative designed to improve diversity and inclusion (including working with companies like BASF), they then realised that a scientist could indeed be any of them, in time.

Someone who talked about their challenging past as well as their continuing challenges in the future was the next speaker, Mick Loughran. It is fair to say that anyone who was present during his talk will not forget it. He captivated his

audience (taking a dim view of anyone seen scrolling on a phone) with describing how he had to come to terms with a decision he made in a split second, as a young apprentice on a building site on the 6th May 1983.

The details are too graphic to go into, but suffice to say that he tried to grab a paper cement wrapper from the inside of a cement mixer. It was something that he – and others - had done before. The title of his talk was "But we always do it like this" and his premise is that this is how he ended up making that mistake. He talked about his lack of thought and understanding of the potential consequences of his action and the under appreciation we all in-fact have of true risk. That mistake has had life-changing consequences for Mick. As food for thought goes, it was a seven-course banquet.





Alex Gazulla of Tradebe, representing the European Solvent Recycler Group, was given the almost impossible task of following Mick. Nevertheless, it wasn't one that he – appropriately – allowed to go to waste.

ESRG is the European based trade body representing the wider interests of organic chemicals solvent recyclers and it is very much a developing market, as he explained. ESRG has developed a series of lifecycle analyses, demonstrating the carbon footprint savings of recovered material versus virgin products, for the broad solvent types.

The challenges, including lack of harmonisation of regulations and how they are sometimes interpreted, was a message not unfamiliar to many in the audience. This was also evidenced in the questions posed to him after his presentation. As he said, they do not chose to compete with virgin suppliers but to compliment them. More information is available in the presentations circulated to attendees and on the ESRG website.

With that we concluded the AGM day programme and preparations were made for the evening dinner and ceremony.



Evening dinner and awards



There were a number of presentations made before the dinner was served. The newly installed chair Mark Cottrell of Tennants and Mottie Kessler OBE, 2M Chair & CEO presented the prizes for the golf (including Mark to himself).

Mark then delivered a testimonial to the long and valued service that Andrew Norman has given to the SIA. Andrew was presented with an engraved quaich – a two-handled, shallow drinking cup that is meant to symbolise friendship. It was originally used to toast the arrival or departure of a visitor. This wasn't the last of the gifts.

Norbert from ESIG has enlisted me in some subterfuge to procure some Belgian beer to go with the chocolate he brought with him (not necessarily to be served in the same glass!) to remind Andrew of many pleasant evenings in Brussels. We assumed that they had been sipping mineral water and playing canasta together!

Lastly, there was an online card and photo album as well as a physical one, which had been signed by many of those

present – as well as absent friends. Many had also made contributions to the online collection that totalled over £900. Thanks to all who signed either card or gave money. Andrew is already putting it to good use, I hear!

It was then time to present the Gerald Soane award. I had been sincerely flattered to receive this award, in absentia, last year and it was my pleasure to be able to present it to the next holder.

The person nominated to receive the award this year has been at the forefront of promoting safety in the sector for many years. This includes promoting the use of steel IBCs for flammable solvents, combating static electricity via earthing and bonding and has

communicated the safety message in new and varied ways, including videos, social media posts, written guides and posters.





He championed an initiative to collate data on the root cause of incidents and near misses via an anonymous reporting platform and his latest accomplishment is the re-release of the film on static electricity. The recipient of the 2025 Gerald Soane Award is Andrew Norman of the SIA.



Andrew has since responded. "I am very proud to receive this coveted Award, which is presented for an outstanding contribution to health & safety. Throughout my 12 years with the SIA, I have been passionate about safe handling of flammable solvents, having seen the consequences of what can happen if not handled correctly. I hope that during those 12 years, some of that passion has transferred to those involved with the Association and has helped to raise standards across the industry.

The list of previous recipients is a long and distinguished one and I am honoured to be included amongst so much knowledge and expertise. My late father was a health & safety professional, who instilled the importance of safe working practices from an early age. This transferred into my 30-year career in chemicals, starting with my first managerial role as a factory manager. I know that he would have been proud!

I would like to thank the members of the SIA Board and Technical Committee for their wonderful support in producing the high-quality safety materials that have shaped the reputation of the Association as a leader in providing solvents industry standards. Long may it continue.".

Last but very much not least, Nick Key was presented with a shield in appreciation of all of his hard work and dedication as the chair of the SIA over the past two years. I have latterly got to know Nick a lot better and I am hugely grateful for his guidance, his advice and his huge contribution to the SIA. He also passes on a strong legacy to his successor as chair, although I am personally very pleased that he is staying on the SIA board. We all owe a huge thank you to Nick.

In response, Nick wished "Thanks Bill - those are very kind words and my work as Chair over the last 2 years couldn't have been achieved without the help and support of the SIA board and Andrew Norman. I've been involved with the SIA for over twenty years now starting as a Technical Committee member and then as a Board member. I am proud that I've been able to Chair the association over the last couple of years and hopefully have given something back to our outstanding trade association."

£1765 raised at the AGM charity auction for our nominated charity 4Louis.

Thank you to each and every one of you, it is an impressive total – and includes the money from the golf prize being re-raffled.

4Louis is a charity that was chosen as they supported one of our members who suffered loss. The charity supports families through miscarriage, stillbirth and child loss and works across the country to support anyone affected by miscarriage, stillbirth and the death of a baby or child. We also work to improve the care bereaved families receive from health care and other professionals.



We provide memory boxes filled with keepsakes and mementos to help families create lasting memories of their loved one. We also provide useful tools, equipment, and training free of charge to hospital units, hospices, and other professionals who work with grieving families.

We understand that every family's journey is unique, and we strive to improve the services given to families who have lost a baby or child. We want to make sure that no family has to go through this alone.



Membership Update

Our membership has now grown to an impressive 52 companies and in the past 12 months we have welcomed these 5 companies – thank you for joining our community!



Greenfield Global is a world leader in the production, manufacturing, and distribution of high-purity alcohols, specialty solvents, and sustainable biofuels, delivering essential solutions to customers worldwide, from startups to Fortune 500 companies. For over 30 years, Greenfield has been the trusted industry expert servicing more than 50 countries through their extensive global supply chain, which includes 5 alcohol distilleries, warehousing, distribution, packing, testing, and blending capabilities.

Headquartered in Toronto, Canada, Greenfield offers a unique combination of sustainability, innovation, and reliability plus a world-class infrastructure, deep technical expertise, and an extensive track record of collaboration across the life sciences, food, beverage, flavourings, personal care, industrial, and renewable energy markets.

Like to learn more about Greenfield? Click here



Ambipar is a global leader in environmental management and emergency response, delivering innovative solutions for industrial incidents, environmental disasters, and risk mitigation.

With operations in 41 countries across six continents, Ambipar offers a wide range of services, including chemical spill response, waste management, environmental consulting, risk mitigation, and regulatory compliance support.

Within the chemical sector, its specialised teams provide rapid response to chemical incidents, minimising environmental impact and protecting the wellbeing of workers and nearby communities.

James Fox of Ambipar said, "As a trusted partner to chemical companies worldwide, Ambipar collaborates closely with regulatory bodies and key industry associations like the Solvents Industry Association to promote best practices and contribute to the development of industry standards and improved sustainability. We very much look forward to working with the SIA and its members".

Want to learn more about Ambipar? Click here



Established in 1997, Intermarc has a European presence across their head office in Rotterdam, with representatives in Italy, Spain & the United Kingdom.

Philippe van Woerkom of Intermarc said, 'Intermarc BV operates as a key player in the import, storage, and distribution of chemicals. As a liaison between chemical manufacturers and our customers, we bear a great responsibility: delivering the right

products, of the highest quality, exactly when needed. How do we achieve this? With decades of knowledge and experience, every situation is handled differently, tailored to the unique demands at hand and ensuring compliance with necessary regulations '. Want to learn more about Intermarc? Click here



Hertfordshire-based EWFM has joined as an Associate Member. EWFM has been in existence since 1999, and supplies high-quality engineering products designed for the safe transfer of liquids, gases and other media.

Mike Phillips said on behalf of the company, 'EWFM has been supporting customers in the solvents industry for many years,

providing safe and reliable solutions for transferring & storing liquids, gases, and chemicals. By working in close partnership with our clients, we deliver straightforward, tailored systems that meet their specific needs. We're excited to join the Solvents Industry Association and look forward to contributing and supporting fellow members wherever possible', he added.



rutpen

Berkshire-based contract manufacturers, Rutpen Limited as the latest company to join their growing list of Distributor Members. The company also specialises in Solvent Recycling, Toll Blending, warehousing and logistics.

Dave Roberts, Managing Director of Rutpen said, 'Rutpen are excited to join the Solvents Industry Association and look forward

to meeting new and existing colleagues in the solvent industry through the SIA. We are a specialist in niche solvent production and supply partnerships, blending our distillation expertise with contract production and distribution.

Rutpen has a highly experienced team of chemical specialists, with knowledge developed from over 50 years of operating in this industry. Our large and diverse client base has been grown from a desire to solve complex chemical-related problems. Our 4-acre production site in Berkshire has benefited from over £5m investment and we are proud to maintain high standards of Health, Safety, Quality and Environment. Being accredited to ISO 45001, 9001, 14001, we see these as a minimum and look forward to learning from the SIA to improve standards on site and in the wider supply chain.

Our skills are right across our core areas of Contract Manufacturing, Toll Blending and Solvent Recycling, including technical development, manufacturing, warehousing, and logistics'.

Want to learn more about Rutpen? Visit their website here for further information

Spring Dinner

Thursday 12 March – Army Museum, London More details available soon



The SIA Out and About

CHEMUK 2026: 20 - 21 May

Hope to see you in Hall 5 at the NEC where the SIA will be exhibiting.





Training Courses

The SIA were in Brussels. For the following two solvents training courses at CEFIC:

Wednesday 17th September -

An Introduction to the Solvents Industry

Thursday 18th September -

Solvents and their Applications

And once again thanks to all who attended and to CEFIC for hosting this fantastic event.

Introduction to the Solvents Industry

This training course was an introductory course designed for newcomers in the solvents sector and other professionals looking to 'refresh' their knowledge about solvents. This course is useful to those in commercial or administrative areas and is purposely kept small to encourage interaction and ensure dynamic discussions.

Content of this one-day course:

- The history of solvents.
- An introduction to petrochemicals and solvents.
- · Where solvents come from.
- Types of solvents.
- Choosing the right solvent.
- Solvent end-uses and applications.
- Regulations related to solvents.
- Transport and packaging.
- Product stewardship across the supply chain.

Solvents and their Applications

This training is designed to support the previous 'Introduction to the Solvents Industry' course and is aimed at anyone within the solvents industry who would like to acquire a greater understanding of where solvents are used in the manufacture of everyday items. Content of this one-day course:

- Re-cap of 'Introduction to the Solvents Industry' course
- What is a solvent?
- How are solvents made?
- Solvents and their key characteristics
- Solvents applications by industry.
- Interactive session.





SIA Lunch & Learn Webinars

PFAS: A forever problem? 12th June 2025

Adler & Allan gave an update – in that in recent years, the acronym PFAS – or poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances – have sometime been called "forever chemicals". But is that true and if so, what are the implications of this? The webinar will provide an overview of what PFAS is and the main concerns around these chemicals that have emerged, particularly around their persistence and health impacts. Also discussed will be how they have been used, particularly in firefighting foam. The talk also includes details of some of the challenges that could be posed to the sector as regulators respond to pressures to restrict the use of PFAS. as well as some of the treatment methods used to remove it.

The key takeaways from the talk were:

- A better understanding of PFAS and where they are used and how you can be exposed to them,
- Providing an overview of firefighting foams and their selection and use,
- Updates on proposed restrictions in UK, EU and beyond,

- To give an indication of the effectiveness of various treatment methods,
- Pass on some details of practical lessons learned from dealing with PFAS contamination,
- How PFAS could affect you as a business, for example in site contamination or restrictions to markets.

The recordings from our webinars are now stored in Vimeo as a member benefit. You will find on our vimeo channel:

2025:

Navigating Environmental Challenges, Adler & Allan Risk management, and what it means, Exsolutions

2024:

The Importance of Hose Safety Awareness, Elaflex Safe Tanker Access, Carbis Loadtec

2023:

Flammable Liquids and the Fundamentals of Static Electricity, Newson Gale

If you would like to access these and listen back to the recordings just get in touch for the access details.

Resources

Films Update

https://www.solvents.org.uk/videos/



In collaboration with the European Solvents Industry Group (ESIG) we are proud to launch an updated version of the Solvents & Static Electricity Safety Film. In part one, we will learn about the hazard of static and how it can accumulate. Part 2 will look at the practical measures to eliminate the risks associated with static discharge in flammable atmospheres.



The Solvents Industry Association would like to thank Alcohols Limited and Haltermann Carless for the kind use of their sites for the filming. Also to New Vision Productions and stakeholders for their hard work in making the film possible.

https://www.solvents.org.uk/featured/sia-re-releases-solvents-and-static-electricity-safety-film/

Review the film here:

https://www.solvents.org.uk/featured/sia-re-releases-solvents-and-static-electricity-safety-film/solvents-an

Guidance Notes

https://www.solvents.org.uk/sia-guidance-notes/

The work of the SIA's Technical Committee is often published as Guidance Notes, relating to topics important to our members and solvents end-users. These incorporate guidance associated with amendments to existing legislation, or the introduction of new regulatory compliance.



Our comprehensive Guidance Notes are available free of charge, and can be downloaded here: https://www.solvents.org.uk/sia-guidance-notes/



Guidance for the storage of liquids in intermediate bulk containers



Guidance Note 66: UK REACH Summary Document 2021



Guidance Note 65: Safe Handling and Use of Alcoholbased Sanitisers



Guidance Note 64: Safe Sampling of Solvents



Guidance Note 63: Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV) Procedures for Handling Solvents and Flammable Liquids



Guidance Note 62: PPE Selection for Working in Flammable Areas



Guidance Note 61: Summary Document – Handling of Solvents in Small Packages



Guidance Note 60: Safe Handling of Flexible Hoses and Connections in the Solvents Industry



Guidance Note 58: Hot Work



Guidance Note 57: Confined Space Entry



Guidance Note 56: % Fill of Packages



Guidance Note 55: Overview of the Classification, Labelling, & Packaging (CLP) System with respect to the Globally Harmonised System (GHS)



Guidance Note 53: Denatured Alcohols



Guidance Note 52: Assessment of Customer Bulk Facilities – Revised 2020



Guidance Note 51: Selection of IBCs for Handling Hydrocarbon and Oxygenated Solvents



Guidance Note 47: Flammable Solvents & the Hazard of Static Electricity



Guidance Note 43: Portable Tanks Used for Storage of Flammable Solvents



Guidance Note 27: Vapour Return on Road Tankers

Further guidance is available through our colleagues in the European Solvents Industry Group (ESIG) via the link below;

http://www.esig.org/category/publications/



Our Members



















































































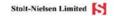






















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