

BBSA in Action

Service With a Capital S

The conservatives were in power with Mrs. Thatcher well and truly at the helm; the United Kingdom was in conflict with Argentina over the Falkland Islands and Bucks Fizz were at No. 1 in the record charts. The year was 1982 and it was significant to the BBSA because EC Skelding and Associates took over as Secretariat to the British Blind and Shutter Association.

Eric Skelding and his son Alain then set about becoming an integral part of

the Management system within the BBSA making EC Skelding and Associates indispensable to many excellent Presidents. When hard or difficult decisions were to be made they could always rely on friendly and unbiased advice. When matters of Association law were debated Eric would be the source of all knowledge and when necessary a willing soldier to carry out the wishes of the Management Committee with Alain at his side~ a latter day Batman and Robin.

Most people will associate the Skeldings with regional meetings where they would perhaps notice a subtle nod in the direction of the President or Chairman when referred to for confirmation on a point of order~ or delivery of a report on the actions of the Management Committee.

More recently Eric's other son Michael Skelding became involved in the BBSA as our requirements for immediate knowledge and accurate information grew and as you would expect the professional service role continued seamlessly.

However times move on and things change and the time has now come to pass where the Skeldings wish to change direction. After 26 years of service they will shortly cease to be the Secretariat of the BBSA. We wish them well and thank them for all their service and we feel sure that they wish an excellent future for the Association and new Secretariat when the appointment is made.



Quintus is the new Secretariat for the BBSA

The BBSA is pleased to announce that Quintus Public Affairs has been appointed to provide secretariat support. During August we interviewed possible companies to replace our long-standing provider of secretariat services, Skelding Associates.

Four companies were invited to present to the BBSA Executive. Following the very competitive pitch process it was decided that Quintus offered the standard of services necessary to meet the needs of members in constantly changing economic, political and environmental circumstances.

Quintus Public Affairs is an independent consultancy with extensive experience of working with over 150 trade associations across a variety of areas. It also has particular expertise in media relations and political campaigning. Initially Quintus will provide secretariat

support for the BBSA, working closely with all committees of the association and delivering a first class service to the members.

Chris Guyver MD of Quintus said:

"Quintus has a proven track record and I am thrilled to be working with the BBSA, a very well-respected trade association with a long history of representing the highest standards of the industry."

Dave Morgan BBSA President added:

"We have appointed an excellent company to support the running of the Association. In the longer term we will also be in a position to benefit from its political lobbying skills for developments such as the Shade Project,"



QUINTUS

BBSA Supports Cancer Research UK



Pictured here is Immediate Past President, Chris Swift presenting a cheque for £2,350 to Sally Watson of Cancer Research UK.

We would like to thank the all those who supported the event and especially the following members for their donations:

Louver-lite
Swift Blinds & Curtains
Sandridge Blinds
Lonsdale Window Fashions
Dave Morgan Blinds
Radiant
Tropical Blinds
Deans Blinds & Awnings

Thanks are also due to the BBSA Golfing Society which is a regular contributor.

Directors of the British Blind and Shutter Association for 2008/09

Dates for your Diary

Dave Morgan President
Dave Morgan Blinds Ltd

Martin Dibben Vice President
SHY (UK)

Mike Seary Treasurer
Deans Blinds & Awnings (UK) Ltd

Chris Swift
Swift Blinds & Curtains Ltd

BBSA Managing Committee 2008/09

London and South Eastern Region

Chairman **Dave Bush**
Hallmark Blinds Ltd

Secretary **Stuart Dantzic**
Caribbean Blinds UK Ltd

Representatives:

Nelson Watt, City Blinds; Philippa Marshall, Sunstopper Blinds and Awnings; Barry Ellis, Cooks Blinds & Shutter Ltd

South West Region

Chairman **Peter Gratton-Davey**
Torbay Blinds Ltd

Secretary **Paul Woodman**
Shading Systems Ltd

Representatives:

Roy Houghton, ABC Blinds (South West) Ltd

Midland Region

Chairman **Don Moore**
D&R Blinds & Shutters

Secretary **Ben Firsch**
UC Blinds

Representatives:

Glyn Evans, Sani UK Ltd; Pat Dowling, Kingfisher Blinds & Curtains Ltd; Nigel Wood, Solihull Blinds Ltd; Simon Massey, Supablind LLP

Northern Region

Chairman **Chris Swift**
Swift Blinds & Curtains Ltd

Secretary **Nigel Sharrock**
James Robertshaw & Sons (1954) Ltd

Representatives:

Steve Birtles, Louver-lite Ltd; Matthew Garnett, James Robertshaw & Sons (1954) Ltd; Eric Francis, The Waterloo Blind Co; Andrew Ullmann, Ullmann International

Scottish Region

Chairman **Scott Friery**
AP Blinds Ltd

Secretary **Mike Falla**
Incorporated Blind Systems Ltd

Representatives:

Mike Fisher, Eclipse Blind Systems Ltd; Nic Gordon-Smith, Hartley Marketing Ltd

Exhibitions

Grand Designs Live, NEC
Birmingham – 10-12 October 2008
UK's leading self build event.
www.granddesignslive.com

Interbuild '08, NEC
Birmingham – 26 to 30 October 2008
UK's leading building trade exhibition
www.interbuild.com

Ibertoldo Barcelona
Spain – 29 to 31 October 2008
Spanish solar protection industrial fair, including fabrics, fittings, awnings, machinery, curtains, blinds, accessories and textile architecture.
www.ibertoldo.com

R+T 2009, Stuttgart
Germany – 10 to 14 February 2009
Major international exhibition for the blind and shutter industry.
www.rollade-tore.de

Regional Meetings

8 Oct 2008
Midlands Regional Meeting
Coleshill

15 Oct 2008
Managing Committee Meeting
Coleshill

29 Oct 2008
London & SE Regional Meeting
Venue to be advised

12 Nov 2008
Northern Regional Meeting
National Coal Mining Museum, Wakefield

10 Dec 2008
South Western Regional Meeting
Venue to be advised

Showcase Scotland & Ireland

“Personally, it was a great opportunity to meet many new people as well as catch up with many existing customers and suppliers.”

Scott Friery
Alpine Blinds



From Left to Right: Mike Falla, Mike Seary, Steve Birtles, Stuart Dantzic, Andrew Ullmann, Paul Woodman, Matthew Garnett, Nelson Watt, Peter Gratton-Davey, Dave Morgan, Barry Ellis, Eric Francis, Martin Dibben, Nigel Wood, Chris Swift, Dave Bush (hiding), Don Moore, Glyn Evans.

Missing: Philippa Marshall, Roy Houghton, Ben Kirsch, Pat Dowling, Simon Massey, Nigel Sharrock, Scott Friery, Mike Fisher, Nic Gordon-Smith.