

A fascinating part of the FTBA's history could be preserved if a plan to digitise old records finds financial support

FTBA HOPES FOR HISTORIC SAVE



The furniture department of Buckinghamshire New University – now home to the High Wycombe Electronic Furniture Archive (HWeFA) – hopes to digitally archive 38 fragile volumes of early FTBA minute books. It will significantly improve access to records of monthly meetings – currently restricted due to deterioration caused by red rot.

Headed by Professor Jake Kaner, the project would take two years and require serious funding – each scanned image

costs around £25 and some 11,500 are needed. Industry, educational and philanthropic bodies have been approached for financial help.

Says Professor Kaner: “*The records offer an important historical resource and digitisation will provide many real benefits. It will offer a user-friendly 24/7 website which will increase accessibility and ensure that the good work of the FTBA is properly placed in British manufacturing and cultural history.*”

If you are able to offer support or funding, or for more information, contact Professor Kaner on 01494 522 141, ext 3556 or email: furniturearchive@bucks.ac.uk

Recording the sporting heroes of yesteryear

The FTBA is also working with Professor Kaner to document our collection of cups and trophies for inclusion in the electronic archive. Many date back to 1933, the names a poignant roll call of companies down the years: Bainbridge, LPK Upholstery, Maple and Company, Stanley Perring. Much newer cups won at the annual Big Shots competition will also be included.



FTBA supporters of the year announced



Former FTBA president Mark Webster and UBM Live have been named as Individual and Corporate Supporter of The Year for 2008.

Presented during the Interiors Birmingham show in January, the awards recognise the outstanding service both have made in support of our charity.

Mark, chairman of Mark Webster Designs, took the Individual Supporter award in

Nigel Blake (left) and Individual Supporter of The Year Mark Webster

recognition of the personal time, effort and money he has given to the FTBA.

UBM Live (formerly CMPi) took the Corporate Supporter title for its active support, over many years, by way of donations, fundraising activities and the involvement of senior executives. It was accepted on behalf of the company by event director Andy Vaughan.

Nigel Blake (left) and Corporate Supporter of The Year Andy Vaughan of UBM Live



Fundraising can be fun

The FTBA depends on the generosity and ingenuity of companies and individuals within the UK furnishings industry to raise the funds that enable us to continue our work.

There are many ways in which you can help:

Become a Patron of the FTBA by making a minimum personal donation (by standing order) of £120 a year by for at least four consecutive years and increasing the value of your support by completing a Gift Aid form

Become a Friend of the FTBA with a minimum annual donation of £10 by standing order

Become a Corporate Supporter of the FTBA: £1000+ for a Platinum Star; £500+ for a Gold Star; and £100+ for a Silver Star

Sign up for one of our sporting events (see pages 4–5). There's everything from clay pigeon shooting to sailing via golfing

Organise a fundraising event – either nationally or regionally

Remember the FTBA in your will

Take part in a sponsored event

Organise a collection of printer cartridges and CD ROMs or send us your old mobile phone or iPod. These can be recycled in exchange for a donation (see page 8)

Make a one-off donation or give regularly through your payroll or via direct debit.

Donate prizes for raffles

Sponsor all or part of an FTBA event

To find out more, visit the ‘Supporting the FTBA’ section on www.ftba.co.uk or contact us (see page 8)

THE BRIGHTEST STARS IN THE FTBA SKY

We are grateful to the following ‘Platinum’ Star Supporters. Each donated a minimum £1,000 in 2008:

CMP Information Ltd (now UBM Information)

Park Furnishers

Harrison Spinks



United Business Media



THE FTBA TEAM

In addition to new chief executive Charles Kerrigan, here's who's who at the FTBA:

Cheryl Crawley
OFFICE MANAGER AND GRANTS AND WELFARE MANAGER

“As the grants and welfare manager I help all applicants with their approach to the FTBA for a grant. I also process those applications, service the grants and welfare committee meetings, raise grant cheques and make welfare visits. After nearly nine years at the FTBA I know all the beneficiaries by name and enjoy hearing from people we have helped to go on holiday or with a grant which improves their life. As office manager it's also my job to keep things running smoothly and effectively.”

John Owen
ACCOUNTANT
“There are four main elements to my role: financial control which includes preparing the annual budget and overview for the board; reporting which takes in the annual accounts, preparing quarterly reports for the board and monthly reports for the chief executive; accounting – the law requires us to “keep the books straight” – and it's essential anyway because we want to be here next year!; the overview – the world about us changes and there are financial consequences all the time for FTBA.”

Rebecca Lack
FUNDRAISING SECRETARY
“The role of fundraising secretary is a varied one. I share with Cheryl the job of answering the phone and updating the FTBA website, my sections being the non-welfare items such as the events pages. I also write news stories about our fundraising activities, sign thank you letters for donations and do much of the admin relating to the National Golf Championship, board meetings and the AGM. I also look after the recycling campaigns and the Christmas Card Scheme.”

FTBA holds out a helping hand

The FTBA has launched a new initiative – its Helping Hands campaign – in response to the economic downturn and increase in redundancies across the furnishings sector.

Designed to increase awareness of the FTBA and what it does, the campaign kicked off in October 2008 and two companies have already signed up. As a result, employees at **Victoria Carpets** and **Cintique** have received information packs in their wage packets about how the FTBA can help. To get involved organisations should contact the FTBA (see page 8).

visit www.ftba.co.uk