

Trans IMF, Presidential Editorial

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(546 words)

I was delighted to attend the IMF AGM in November 2019 and to be inaugurated as the new President. It is both a privilege and an honour for me to serve the surface finishing community in this way and I very much look forward to making the most of my time in this role. Before looking forward, I would like to look to our immediate past and thank the outgoing President, Barry Gay, for his stewardship, time and dedication. I know that we will continue to benefit from Barry's presence, experience and guidance in the running of the Institute. I am also delighted that we have been able to recruit David Neal as Vice-President. David is a fellow of the IMF and an international expert in organic coatings based at Rolls-Royce.

I am fortunate to have been involved in the affairs of the IMF for some years through interactions with the member companies, through training activities and as an academic with interests in metals finishing, surface chemistry electrochemistry and novel solvent technology. Throughout that time, I have served on the science committee, on the management committee and it has been my pleasure to publish in *this* journal. It is very pleasing to see that *Transactions* is maintaining the highest standards of science and production thanks to the efforts of the publications team in partnership with Taylor and Francis. Even from a casual look through any copy of *Tans IMF* it is apparent that the journal represents the interests of a global community with a truly multi-national authorship. As new president I see one of the most important activities for the Institute as supporting, maintaining and developing the journal.

Looking ahead, the next few months and years are likely to be characterised by much change and uncertainty as we leave the European Union and chart a separate course. This change will be experienced in different ways by our member companies and individuals as the regulatory and research/development funding environments respond to our new nation status. As much as the long run-up to Brexit has been divisive and irritable, it is my hope that the Institute can play a role in the unification of the surface finishing community through developing new opportunities and partnerships. For example, I am very keen to support our growing involvement in the parliamentary and science committee where the IMF now has representation in agenda-setting as well as our continued contributions to community development through the Surface Finishing Leadership Forum (SELF) and the REACH Cross Sector Group. Our presence at the *Surface World* event this year will be bigger than ever and a great opportunity to speak to our industry as well as encourage new membership. I am also very keen to actively pursue our links with international organisations and partners and will be representing our community at *Interfinish 2020* in Nagoya (Jp.) later this year.

Finally, I would like to thank the membership for the confidence implied by my appointment. I very much hope that my time as president will be successful in supporting the core activities of the IMF; serving needs of the members through training, education, monitoring the legislative environment, influencing policy and disseminating new knowledge & best practice. Perhaps most importantly in maintaining the health and sustainability of our membership.

Karl.

