

Diecasting Society AGM – a promising situation

The DCS Annual General Meeting was held at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley, West Midlands (UK) on 29th April, following a council meeting.

Attendees met to discuss the activities and achievements of the previous twelve months and were treated to a traditional black country luncheon and a casting display at the J H Lavender foundry, which has been relocated to the museum site to promote the virtues of metal casting.

DCS president John Swift reported that, through a series of fundraising initiatives and events, the accounts for 2024 were in a healthier state. He thanked Ann Gough for her tireless work on behalf of the society and ICME for providing formal secretariat services.

He explained that highlights of the past year include the redevelopment of the Diecasting Society website to offer improved communication, several works and social visits, the national and Midlands' golf days and the *Die Casting Rocks* event, where DCS members engaged with the wider industry.

Members voted to keep the current membership fees with no increase for 2025 as: £235.00 (company membership) and £45.00 (individual membership).

Two member deaths were reported – Phil Roberts and Bob Freeman.

John Swift was thanked for his presidency, which he will hand over to incoming president Steve Wood in November, and Pankaj Wara of Coleshill Aluminium was elected as vice president from November. The president noted: "Wara has worked tirelessly over the years for the Diecasting Society and it is fitting that he will be serving as a senior officer."

A blast from the past to inspire the future

Following the AGM, DCS members watched a live demonstration of casting at the newly Black Country Living Museum located J H Lavender & Company Ltd, alongside members of the general public. Those conducting the demonstration highlighted the importance of metal casting in the past but also in the present and future – reminding everyone of the significance of remelting scrap into useable components for a sustainable future.

On a gloriously sunny and hot day, DCS members then had the chance to indulge in some networking over lunch and



DCS Officers – Steve Wood, John Swift and Pankaj Wara

were able to tour the open air museum, which showcases two hundred and fifty years of history, from the Industrial Revolution to post-war prosperity, through living interpretation.

The Diecasting Society would like to thank all those who attended and all the membership for the support over the past year.



DCS Council members and those attending the AGM enjoy the delights of the Black Country Living Museum



DCS National Golf Day

Friday 5th September 2025

Moor Hall Golf Club, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands (UK)



The Diecasting Society is delighted to invite participants to the DCS National Golf Day, which will be held on Friday 5th September 2025 at the Moor Hall Golf Club.

Previous attendees will be familiar with this mature parkland golf course, which has subtle but significant run off areas to challenge every level of golfer.

The course is recognised for always being in excellent condition with fantastic tree lined fairways and wonderful greens. Whether you are playing from the back tees or the front tees, this is recognised as one of the best tests of golf in the region, creating a great balance of difficulty and reward for every level of golfer.

The warning from the club is that golfers need to score well on the front nine as the last six holes are a great challenge for everyone.

The event is once again kindly sponsored by Coleshill Aluminium. Bookings are now being taken for the event. For more information and a booking form, contact: Ann Gough, Tel: +44 (0) 7908 190519, email: annie@icme.org

Welcome to new DCS MEMBER

Dominic Oates, sales representative for Alkegen is a returning member to the Diecasting Society. He and his family live in Sheffield, where outside of work he enjoys running, mountain biking and is a lifelong Rotherham United supporter. In addition, in his own words, he is also an "owner of golf clubs".

He has been working with the foundry industry for eleven years, previously selling alloys and foundry process control equipment and now selling refractory materials and products. His regional responsibilities are the UK and the Nordic countries. He is currently also vice president and treasurer for the Institute of Refractories Engineers.

Alkegen is a large global group hosting a collection of acquired and diverse refractory product and materials manufacturers. Within his division, Oates represents the following Alkegen brands:

Unifrax – vacuum formed fibre feeder sleeves, tap out cones, crucibles and hot tops, plus any other shape that can be conceived.

Rex Materials Group – a manufacturer of metal delivery systems mainly for light alloys; launders, ladles, pins and spouts, thimbles, mouldables and sealants.

Thermbond – offers a range of more than fifty different refractory concretes, these come in chemical, hybrid and cement bonded versions. Thermbond sets the standard in the industry for fast setting, thermal shock resistance, chemical and abrasion resistance and versatility of installation.

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ALKEGEN



DIE CASTING ROCKS – a successful Bühler event for the industry

The Bühler 'Die Casting Rocks' event, held in Manchester on 27th March 2025, successfully brought together the UK diecasting industry for a day of networking, collaboration, and business development.

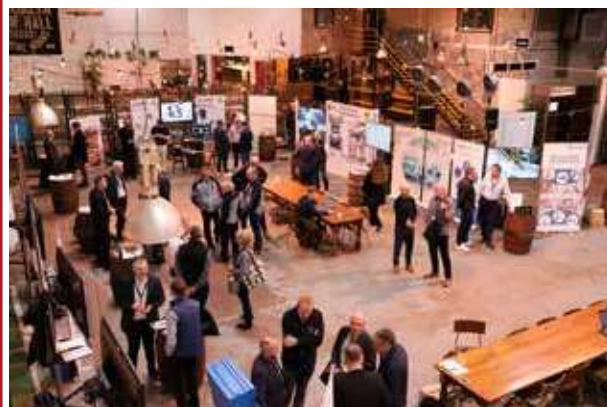
Over one hundred participants had the chance to discuss their needs and current developments with other attendees, industry suppliers, and Bühler technology experts.

The goal of the event organised by Bühler was to bring the UK diecasting community together. For this occasion, the venue of an old diecasting factory, renovated into an event space and bar, provided a unique and fitting backdrop. The event was organised in an exhibition style setup, with small booths that were run by 21 different suppliers from the diecasting industry.

The Diecasting Society was pleased to be involved and host a booth, kindly provided by Bühler, to meet with members and the wider diecasting sector, with DCS president John Swift and DCS council member Pankaj Wara in attendance, along with other members of the council.

Bühler was represented by the company's diecasting division and its grinding and dispersing and Leybold Optics divisions, showcasing their range of solutions for the automotive industry. With 85 customers representing 37 companies – primarily from the UK, but also from the Nordic countries – the event was well attended.

Participants welcomed the opportunity to exchange ideas with each other and meet multiple suppliers within one day. The discussions continued in a relaxed atmosphere in the evening, accompanied by some beers, food, and live music from a local band.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025

The following event is planned for this year.

Friday 5th September

National Golf Day 2025

Moor Hall Golf Club, Sutton Coldfield (UK)

This event is sponsored by Coleshill Aluminium

For more details and updates on events visit:
www.dcs.org.uk