

# SteelNews

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Your community magazine



# Electric arc furnace plans shared

Tata Steel UK has started sharing information with its local communities on plans to build an electric arc furnace in Port Talbot.

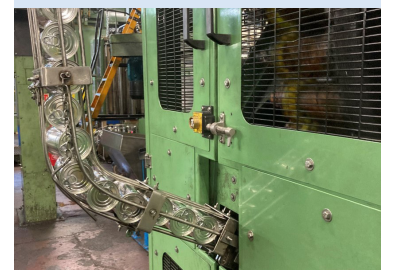
The start of consultation marks another step towards making Port Talbot one of Europe's leading centres for green steelmaking.

The company held a series of public consultation events in the town, including three drop-in sessions at local venues and an informative webinar. It also shared the same information with employees through a drop-in event and a webinar.

The sessions provided residents, particularly those living near the steelworks, the opportunity to learn about the electric arc furnace proposal, ask questions, and provide feedback.

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## No bombs please, we're drilling!

A bomb-disposal expert is part of the team that is drilling bore holes all around the Port Talbot site as a ground investigation is made in preparation for the construction of the new electric arc furnace on site.

Project Engineer Mike James explained that 31 bore holes are being drilled around the wider area of the steelplant, some of which have already reached 90m deep!

"It's critical that we understand what we're about to build on top of", said Mike.

"We know there are lots of old mine workings under the site as well as lenses of peat or soft material that wouldn't support anything.

"The samples are sent off for geotechnical testing, which go back to the design team who can then design the appropriate foundations."

However, with Port Talbot being so close to Swansea, which was bombed heavily during the war, the team have to make absolutely sure that they are not drilling into any old explosives. The team includes an ordnance expert who uses a magnetometer to detect anything suspicious in the early stages of each bore hole.

Not only that, we shouldn't forget that the material that surfaces at the end of each core sample will not have seen the light of day for many millions of years.

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## Key topics and community feedback

Port Talbot residents asked a range of questions during the events, with a particular focus on the local environmental aspects of the project.

During discussions, the company confirmed the proposed furnace is expected to reduce dust emissions from the site's chimneys by about 90%, which would lead to environmental benefits for local residents.

There was also interest in understanding the electric arc furnace process, its potential impacts

on the future of steelmaking in Port Talbot, and the implications for Tata Steel's workforce and supply chain.

The company reiterated its commitment to supporting its employees and the broader community during the transition.

## Employee engagement

Tata Steel's Head of Decarbonisation Communications, Rob Simpson, said: "Input from our local residents is crucial as we work to create a long-term steelmaking future for Port Talbot.

"We also recognise the importance of keeping employees informed

about the planning proposals and transition to low-CO<sub>2</sub> steelmaking. That's why we hosted a drop-in event at the Port Talbot steelworks, where employees could ask questions of the project team.

"Additionally, more than 400 employees joined a dedicated webinar, where they learned more about the electric arc furnace technology and its implications for the future of steelmaking in Port Talbot."

## Next steps

Rob added: "This initial public consultation is just the first step. It

follows extensive discussions with local political representatives, the UK and Welsh governments, and Neath Port Talbot Council.

"Looking ahead, the statutory pre-application consultation process is due to be launched in September, offering further opportunities for feedback. This will be followed by the council's own consultation on the planning application."

**• Tata Steel is encouraging anyone with questions or feedback about the electric arc furnace proposal to email [contact@EAFcommunications.com](mailto:contact@EAFcommunications.com).**

# In the pilot seat with new NVQ training for operators



A pilot for operators to gain a recognised qualification is underway this week in Port Talbot

A couple of weeks ago, operators had the opportunity to enrol in a City & Guilds NVQ Level 2 Performing Manufacturing Operations qualification, which took place in Port Talbot's Training Academy.

The initial cohort from the Coke Ovens have enrolled with Bridgend College, the programme is five days in the Academy, where they will work through six modules consisting of four mandatory and two area specific.

Margaret Hughes, Process

Support Manager, said: "This is a great opportunity for our existing operators to gain a recognised qualification that supports the skills and experience they already have."

"Secretary of State, Jo Stevens visited Port Talbot last week in her new role as Transition Board Chair, and we had the opportunity to share this pilot with her. She was very positive and supportive of the work that's been put in to support employees."

This is not a teaching & learning event, it is all about individuals

utilising their knowledge and experience, along with prior learning before being awarded accreditation for existing skills and competencies they have gained during their time at Tata Steel.

On completion of the modules, evidence will be gathered in the form of 'on the job' competence/ workplace observations and/or witness testimonies from the works area.

The programme will be reviewed following the pilot and offered to all operators affected by the

transformation.

Chris Jaques, Chief Human Resources Officer, said: "It is important that we support our employees through the transition and expected changes in the business.

"This programme is an important part of that support. We are pleased to be working with Bridgend College to offer a programme that enables our operators to gain a nationally recognised qualification, based on their on-the-job skills and experience."

# Port Talbot Transition Board announces funding support for steel industry and supply chain

Last week, 15 August, the Port Talbot Transition Board met for the second time under new Chair, Welsh Secretary Jo Stevens MP.

The meeting saw the announcement of £13.5 million in funding to support supply chain businesses and workers affected by Tata Steel UK's decision to transition to greener steelmaking and a more sustainable business.

The funding is the first release from the Transition Board fund, which will support local businesses that are heavily reliant on Tata Steel as their primary customer, allowing them to turn towards new markets and customers where necessary.

The Board also announced that more than 50 businesses so far have signed a pledge to support any workers who leave their jobs in the steelworks.

The businesses, which include Fintech Wales, The Royal Mint, Cardiff Metropolitan University, RWE Energy, Ledwood Mechanical Engineering and Pro Steel Engineering, have committed practical support for workers ranging from guaranteed interviews, to providing training and coaching.

Welsh Secretary Jo Stevens said: "Under this government the Transition Board has moved from discussion to delivery. Today's release of an initial £13.5m in



Jo Stevens is joined by Eluned Morgan at recent Transition Board

funding demonstrates that we will act decisively to support workers and businesses in Port Talbot, working with Welsh Government, unions and the wider community.

"We are also harnessing the generosity of the local community, with dozens of employers so far pledging practical support for workers. Steelmaking is the lifeblood of communities in Wales, but so too is the support of local businesses. What they are offering will make a real difference to suppliers and staff."

Tata Steel UK's CEO, Rajesh Nair,

said: "The Transition Board plays a very important role in supporting the transformation of our business to low-CO2 steelmaking and encouraging regeneration and inward investment to the area, whilst helping to mitigate the impacts those changes may have on our people, our supply chain and our communities.

"The Transition Board has been set up to support both Tata Steel employees and those in local supply chain companies, so today's announcement and the ambition to

help the region and local communities grow in line with the changing needs of the developing industrial ecosystem here in South Wales, is very much welcomed."

More details will be released soon on how local businesses and affected workers can access the initial £13.5m Transition Board funding.

Businesses and individuals can register an interest in the funds or send any enquiries to the following email address: [tsukqueries@npt.gov.uk](mailto:tsukqueries@npt.gov.uk).

## First 'EAF' food cans roll off production line

Tata Steel UK has worked with global food giant Heinz to produce the first set of cans made from imitation electric arc furnace (EAF) tinplate.

In what is a huge step forward in the business' green steel journey, the Packaging team joined forces with experts at Port Talbot's Secondary Steelmaking to first create the right type of slab, before processing it at Trostre into coated steel for the packaging sector.

Together, they have debunked the myth that packaging steels – especially for the food industry – would be out of reach for an EAF.

Martin Evans, Customer Technical Services Manager, Packaging, said: "With huge support from James Davies and his team in Steel and Slab, we successfully cast and processed slabs of imitation steel chemistries, typical of what we could achieve via the EAF route.

"The steel chemistry was chosen to align with current functioning EAF operations in the US, that typically use 80% recycled scrap, but with



additional controls on scrap sorting and selection.

"The slabs were then rolled at Trostre under typical processing conditions, and made to specifications that would allow can making trials to be carried out by some of our customers.

"Extensive metallurgical and

mechanical property fingerprinting was completed within the Trostre Technical department, coordinated by Metallurgy Specialist Jack Vaughan.

"We concluded that the chemistries made achieved the necessary mechanical properties to be used in much of our product

portfolio."

The results were shared with some of Packaging's largest customers – such as Eviousys, Trivium and Heinz – and were met with huge enthusiasm.

"They were extremely excited by what they saw and very complimentary of the foresight shown by Tata Steel UK in progressing this," said Martin.

"One of them said it was the best 'real' piece of work that had been presented to them around the journey to sustainable packaging steel.

"We have now successfully made a welded 'Heinz' food can from the imitation EAF tinplate, and the feedback from the customer was that it hit the same standard as existing cans, without having to make any adjustments to their processing.

"This starts to show that EAF can, in fact, satisfy one of our toughest markets.

"The next step is to conduct the same exercise using actual slab cast from an EAF."

## Canned recipe



### Rhubarb and custard blondies

There is a good chance the steel in the canned food you purchase in the UK will likely have been made in Port Talbot and Llanwern, and produced into tinplate for the food industry in Trostre. So, why not light up the faces of your family and friends and bring some bling to the table with this tasty treat.

#### Ingredients:

- 225g salted butter
- 200g light brown soft sugar
- 150g plain flour
- 50g custard powder
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 3 medium eggs
- 1 canned rhubarb
- 75g caster sugar
- 1 pink food colouring (squeeze)
- 4 tbsp canned custard

#### Method:

Heat up the rhubarb and sugar until the rhubarb has broken down in the pan. Next, add pink food colouring until desired colour, then leave to cool in pan.

Grease and line a 20cm x 30cm tray with baking parchment. Melt both sugars and the butter in a pan on a low heat, then leave to cool for ten minutes.

Sieve the flour, custard and baking powder into a bowl.

Beat the eggs into the cooled butter mixture and fold in the flour mixture.

Pour mix into the lined tray and put dollops of the rhubarb sauce and canned custard on top of the mix – run a cocktail stick through to create a marbled effect.

Bake in a pre-heated oven at 160C fan, bake for 35-40 minutes until the edges are starting to come away from the tray – leave in the tray to cool.

### Canny fact

**Steel is impact-resistant, heat resistant, puncture-resistant and virtually unbreakable. It is the strongest packaging material. Resistance parameters of steel for packaging against crushing, perforation and denting are much higher than alternative packaging solutions.**

# End of an era for Blast Furnace 5

It outlasted 14 prime ministers, witnessed decimalisation and the privatisation of the steel industry, had a front row seat for the construction of the M4, survived the Winter of Discontent, and was there at the height of Beatlemania and the miners' strike.

Through it all, the gargantuan structure – a complex, beautiful web of industrial architecture – has been an icon of steelmaking and a beacon of the South Wales landscape.

But last month, amid hugely emotional scenes, operations at Port Talbot's Blast Furnace 5 were safely brought to an end, as the last iron was tapped after 65 years of production.

Dean Cartwright, Works Manager for Coke, Sinter and Iron, said: "It was a bittersweet moment. Although we knew it was never a question of if this would happen, it was more when it would happen, that still does not make it any easier.

"Despite the incredibly difficult circumstances, though, I am so proud of this team – the process was carried out in textbook fashion, and everything has gone as well as anyone could have hoped or asked for.

"A significant number of people worked on this for many months, with every last detail being meticulously planned.

"Things naturally ramped up during the final week of operation with the pre-blowdown stop and extra instrumentation being installed, but that's just the tip of the iceberg.

"It's very rare that you perform a task like this with no glitches, and we did have one or two minor ones in



the background, but the team dealt with them professionally, and in a calm and composed manner, with the furnace being successfully and safely brought offline."

Project Campaign Manager Paul Evans, a third-generation ironmaker,

said: "Around 15,000 hours of planning have gone into this operation, so it's been a mammoth task. To see it executed professionally and safely, to plan, was hugely rewarding.

"I cannot over-emphasise how

proud I feel, not just of my Tata Steel colleagues, but also the huge amount of contractor support we've had.

"This plan could not have been executed without everyone being on the same page, and I genuinely could

not have asked for a better team of professionals.

He added: "It fills me with pride the amount of people who, over and above doing their day job, have wanted to support what was a massive decommissioning project and play their part in something that will go down in history.

"Following the make safe period for Blast Furnace 5, we are actively working on the decommissioning plan for Blast Furnace 4 ahead of its planned closure at the end of September."

Despite the emotion of the occasion, Dean pointed to its significance in marking the beginning of a new chapter for Tata Steel UK.

"This is a major milestone in our transition to a green steelmaking future," he said.

"It's important to remember that while this has been an immensely difficult and emotional process for many people, it is also the start of a new chapter that will hopefully secure steelmaking in Port Talbot – and, indeed, the UK – for a future generation of steelworkers associated with electric arc furnace production.

"That opportunity is really important to reward everybody who has given their dedication over the years."

Since being blown in in May 1959, Blast Furnace 5 has produced around 38 million tonnes of liquid iron.

As well as the furnace itself, operations were also safely brought to a close on associated energy assets, including Turbo Alternator 8, No.5 High Pressure Boiler, and the Mitchell Boiler.

## A special place in our hearts

Tata Steel UK's Chief Executive Officer Rajesh Nair has paid tribute to the generations of ironmakers who helped cement Blast Furnace 5's place in history.

"Blast furnaces are iconic structures of steelworks around the world that have a particular place in the heart of anyone involved in the steel industry, and there is a special type of person who works in a blast furnace and a special bond that exists between them," he said.

"Our Blast Furnace 5 has served the UK steel industry incredibly well over the course of its operational life, and those who were fortunate enough to work there should feel an incredible sense of pride at having played their part in nurturing such an iconic engineering asset.

"It is very much 'part of the family' for so many generations of steelworkers, and it will forever hold a special place in their hearts and memories.

"We must never forget the terrible tragedy of 8 November 2001, when three of our colleagues

lost their lives. It was a shocking moment in the history of our business and one that I believe changed the whole industry's perspective on the importance of process safety."

While recognising the huge emotion of the moment, Rajesh also emphasised the significance of the event as the business looks forward to a green steel future.

He said: "While I understand this is an incredibly difficult time, our actions now will put our business on a more stable financial footing and enable us to focus all our efforts on building a truly sustainable future steel industry.

"It may be the end of one chapter in our history, but it is important we do not lose sight of our future ambitions.

"We are about to turn the page to start a brand new chapter that will define a new generation. We are working on the strategic investment project to build a new three million tonne capacity state-of-the-art electric arc furnace, as well as investment for many other upgrades across our Port Talbot



site. "Finally, thank you to everyone who has played a part in the history of Blast Furnace 5 over many decades – your efforts have not

only underpinned our UK supply chain, but the whole of the UK manufacturing industry, and created so many products and structures that will outlive us all."

### Key moments in history

A timeline of Blast Furnace 5's defining milestones:

- May 1959:** Hearth blown to begin molten iron production
- 1960:** BF5 is producing 11,800 tonnes a week and is one of 27 blast furnaces in UK
- 1961:** Introduction of automatic pneumatic tapping drills
- 1968:** The first British blast furnace to be computerised
- 1973/4:** Relined and enlarged, allowing BF5 to produce 23,000 tonnes a week
- 1979:** 10,000th cast
- 2001:** Explosion kills three men – Stephen Galsworthy, Len Radford and Andrew Hutin
- 2002:** The furnace undergoes a £65m rebuild
- 2003:** A newly-refurbished BF5 is officially opened by HRH The Prince of Wales
- 2009:** Production hits an all-time high of 57,246 tonnes a week
- 2012:** Four-week mid-campaign stop for gas plant repairs and taphole rebuild
- 2018:** Life extension project
- July 2024:** Ceases operations

# Last iron ore discharged at Port Talbot harbour



The last ever shipment of iron ore to feed Tata Steel UK's Port Talbot Blast Furnaces has been unloaded at the site's deep water harbour this week.

The cargo of 55,000 tonnes of iron ore pellets, imported from New Orleans USA, came in on the 200 metre-long CMB Van Dijk after 16 days at sea, which finished unloading late on Tuesday 30 August.

With the closures of the site's blast furnaces, there will no longer be any requirement to ship millions of tonnes of raw materials across the world, with future electric arc furnace-based steelmaking using UK-sourced steel scrap instead.

Production Specialist Rachel Hammond said: "It's an emotional day for our employees and our key contractor partners."

"This harbour has been operational since 1970 (when it was opened by Queen Elizabeth on the

same day as opening the Basic Oxygen Steelplant). In that time, we've discharged about 400 million tonnes of raw materials."

The last iron ore shipment also saw the last use of the 808 stacker, which deposits the materials from the conveyor belts into the ore yards.

Once the last ship has left the harbour, a process of making the whole area safe, and decommissioning the harbour cranes and conveyors, will start.

Rachel added: "The team have been working incredibly hard on planning for that for months, and there's a huge amount of work still in front of us."

Dean Cartwright, Works Manager Coke Sinter and Iron, said: "All those who have worked at the harbour, past and present, should feel immensely proud of the contribution they have made not only to the business, but to UK

steelmaking and the whole of UK manufacturing.

"As we transition to a new operating footprint, our first priority is to keep our people safe, and that includes throughout all the decommissioning work and the new build programme.

"The end of importing raw materials through the harbour is another important moment in history that we should recognise, but we will now start to focus on the green steel future that will secure steelmaking in the region for generations to come."

After more than 50 years of continuous operation, the very last shipment of raw materials will take place at the end of August with a shipment of Mitsubishi coke from Japan.

Swansea and Port Talbot Docks Website ([swanseadocks.co.uk](http://swanseadocks.co.uk))

## Caster's legacy will never be forgotten



Some of the last samples being taken as production on Caster 2 enters its final stages

Steelworkers in Port Talbot gathered to witness the last steel slabs being cast on Continuous Caster 2.

The asset had performed an integral role for the business since it was first commissioned in 1992, at one point producing the widest slabs in the world.

But now, following 32 years of service, it has been decommissioned as the Port Talbot site gears up for the dawn of electric arc furnace steelmaking.

Rob Deeney, Head of Works Operations, Continuous Casting, said: "While this has been a raw and emotional occasion for the team – some of who were here on day one when the caster was first commissioned – it is important we recognise and celebrate the life of Caster 2 and the major role it's played in the business."

"A groundbreaking asset at the time, during its formative years Caster 2 was a single-strand caster. It was originally designed for the North American market, casting one-of-a-kind 'jumbo slabs' – at the time, the widest slabs in the world at 2.75m wide.

"Caster 2 was a really important part of our orderbook and granted

us access into the North American market and, later, the high silicon market.

"It has also played a crucial role in phasing people into our organisation and to continuous casting, acting as the first stepping stone for so many young engineers and production specialists.

"So, it leaves behind a real legacy that will live on as we transition to an exciting new era of steelmaking."

Rob was full of praise for the planning and preparation behind the decommissioning process, while also recognising the significance of the moment as a key milestone in Tata Steel UK's transition to green steelmaking.

"I can't fault the team behind the scenes, who have been working on this since the end of last year," he said. "They've put their heart and soul into making sure the process went as planned.

"Time moves on and there's a new world coming. We now look forward with optimism to more than £40m of Capex investments in Casters 1 and 3, which will allow us to produce different types of steel in line with electric arc furnace steelmaking."



# First female leader for Wales



New Welsh First Minister met with Tata Steel UK CEO, Rajesh Nair

Last week, it was confirmed that Cardiff Baroness Eluned Morgan would be the next First Minister of Wales, making her the first female leader since devolution began in 1997.

The MS for Mid and West Wales received 28 votes out of the possible 60. Opposition members, Andrew RT Davies, the Welsh Conservative Leader, received 15 votes, followed by Plaid Cymru's Rhun ap Iorwerth who received 12.

Baroness Morgan gained a degree in European Studies from the University of Hull, meaning she was well equipped for her election into the European Parliament, where she served as a MEP for 15 years before returning to receive a peerage in 2011.

During her time in the Senedd she has held varying cabinet roles including the responsibility for international relations, the Welsh language and the tough job of

Health Minister under Mark Drakeford in 2021, where she inherited the NHS in the wake of the pandemic and increased waiting times.

Her political experience will come in handy for the challenges that await her. Notably, she will have to unite her party and fend off any threat from Reform UK in the Senedd elections in two years' time.

But a more pressing matter is that of Wales' steel industry and Port Talbot specifically. Morgan has stated that Tata Steel UK's transition plans are a top priority for her entering into office.

In the last couple of weeks she has met with Tata Steel UK's CEO Rajesh Nair to be brought up to speed with the decarbonisation project, as well as sitting on the latest meeting of the Transition Board alongside the Secretary of State for Wales, Jo Stevens.

# First slab trial held



The snakelike 25 wagons carrying around 2.3KT of slab into Port Talbot in what will be daily deliveries for the next three years until the EAF is up and running

The development of a logistical network to support the handling of two million tonnes of slab and one million tonnes of coil into the UK to support the transition toward the electrical arc furnace received two major milestones last month.

A trial of what will be five services every day pulling 25 wagons filled with slab from Newport Docks to Port Talbot was deemed a success. The trial tested the route, the timings, the safety systems and new track installation

in Port Talbot.

"It was great to see the hard work the cross-functional team have put in over the last few months complete the first trial slab service delivered from Newport Docks to the Hot Mill in Port Talbot," said Simon Morgan, Head of Internal On-Site Logistics.

"The trial tested the ability to pull 25 wagons with a trailing weight of nearly 2300t of slab into what will be the receiving point for all incoming slab over the next three years until the EAF is up and

running.

"This is a successful milestone met and I'm sure will give reassurance to our customers in our journey to a sustainable future.

"This was a tough challenge set which had to be completed in a short and tight window of around three months.

"I'd like to extend my thanks to the team in On-Site logistics, the Hot Mill slab yard team, the Rail engineering team, the stores team, and contractors such as Celtic Electrical and Protech."

# Wagons roll as DB Cargo modernises its rail wagon fleet

A new contract with the UK's largest rail freight company, DB Cargo, is set to pave the way for further improvement to Tata Steel's rail wagon fleet.

The contract was signed earlier this year and runs for the next three years, and a key part of the agreement is the focus by DB Cargo on a £1m continuous improvement programme to enhance its wagon fleet.

The fleet is critical to moving material through the UK value chain and activity has already started with 60 wagons being converted, in a phased approach, from covered to open based wagons to carry either

coil or slab.

Paul Bradshaw, Head of Logistics, Business Planning & Supply Chain, said: "The conversion programme will offer greater flexibility in the movement of material.

"For instance, wagons leaving the Hot Mill will have load restraint systems fitted to carry 'topple sensitive' coils, this will allow greater capacity across the supply chain."

The first modified wagons are already in service, and all 60 wagons will be in service around September. "DB Cargo will also build a further 60 new wagons to strengthen its fleet.

"These will be capable of carrying

slab initially but can be converted to carry either coil or scrap over time as required," said Paul.

"The programme will offer a larger, modern and more flexible wagon fleet throughout the UK supply chain.

"Modernisation of the wagon fleet will give us more choice and flexibility over how to move a much wider range of material, along with greater movement capacity to support business demands.

"And this work hasn't been done in isolation as the involvement from operations, central and works area schedulers, and DB Cargo has been critical to ensure we can maximise value for the business."

## Crossword and Sudoku solutions

Across: 1 Vivid; 4 Affect; 7 Never; 8 Play-off; 10 Milligan; 11 Kiwi; 13 Drinking water; 15 Wake; 17 Foolscap; 20 Stable; 21 Grist; 22 Cinema; 23 Testy. Down: 1 Venom; 2 Vivaldi; 3 Derricks; 4 Alpha and omega; 5 Flag; 6 Croci; 9 Friar; 12 Twilight; 13 Dawns; 14 Tactics; 16 Khaki; 18 Putty; 19 Dice.

9	3	7	8	6	5	1	2	4
1	5	6	4	2	7	8	3	9
2	4	8	9	3	1	6	7	5
8	6	2	5	1	9	7	4	3
5	7	1	3	4	8	2	9	6
4	9	3	6	7	2	5	1	8
7	8	5	2	9	4	3	6	1
6	2	9	1	8	3	4	5	7
3	1	4	7	5	6	9	8	2

# Graduate Challenge Awards

It has been almost a year since Tata Steel UK's new graduates joined the business. In this time they have settled into their roles, started to learn important skills and built a vital network.

A few months ago, the graduates were set a task to think, create and develop an idea to support their local communities.

*Steel News* caught up with Laura Rowles, Talent Acquisition & Development Advisor, to find out more.

She said: "The challenge enables participants to dedicate time and effort to support charities and initiatives that are important to them. Working in teams, our graduates have been tasked with planning and delivering a community-focused project.

"There are seventy-four graduates, split into 15 different teams across all UK sites."

The diverse challenges included combating period poverty, enhancing a local school's green area, supporting the mental health charity; Mind, creating a Pen Pal service to address isolation among the elderly, and improve a local woodland area.

Some of the groups included; 'Margam's 'n' Roses' a group dedicated to restoring a local landmark in the community.

Team captain Thomas McNee



Graduates up and down the country are spending part of their working life to support community charity and initiatives close to their hearts

said: "Our idea is to visit Margam Park to improve their entrance for guests who come to visit."

Another group: 'Writing Hope' thought outside of the box with an idea of combatting loneliness in care homes with a pen-pal service. Captain of this team, Niamh Davies said: "Our project aims to reconnect vulnerable individuals in the Port Talbot community by alleviating the isolation felt by care home

residents and improve mental health through the art of letter writing."

With July marking the end of the challenge, an awards ceremony hosted by the UK management team highlighted all the good work the teams had done in local communities.

The team who scored the highest and therefore awarded the Judges Choice Award was Writing

Hope.

Tata Steel UK CEO, Rajesh Nair awarded the Judges Choice Award and summed up the event: "Every team is a winner in this. You have gone into the community and made it a better place by supporting some incredible charities and community events.

"Well done and congratulations to everyone who took part and for our award winners!"

## Pitching in for local charities

The new football season has just kicked off, with fans flocking to grounds up and down the country.

And the Port Talbot steel heroes are no strangers to football fever, boots being laced and team-mates hitting the training pitch ahead of the annual Tata Steel 7-a-side football tournament.

Organiser Rob Deeney, Head of Works Operations, Continuous Casting, said: "Following the huge success of the previous two years, we are delighted to host the tournament again.

"Thanks to people's kind support, we have managed to raise more than £2,000 for local charities, so hopefully the return of the tournament – this time even bigger and better – will again help us to reach our goal and raise plenty of money for good causes.

Charities that have previously benefitted include Margam Stags Inclusion Football, Taibach Male Voice Choir, Marauders Men's Health, Ysgol Cwm Brombil and the Andrea Breeze Cancer Trust.

The event will take place from 1pm on Friday 30 August. All games will be played at Tata Steel's own theatre of dreams – otherwise known as the Tata Steel Sports Club in Port Talbot.

• **Contact Robert.deeney@tatasteelurope.com or martyn.wagstaff@tatasteelurope.com for more information.**

## Family Fun at Port Talbot



A couple of weeks ago Tata Steel UK had the pleasure of hosting Noah's Ark Children's Hospital's Family Day in Port Talbot, giving the chance for young children and their parents to meet steelworkers, have a tour of site and see inside a fire engine.

This unique opportunity was championed by Rob Dare, Fire and Rescue Manager, Works Protection, as an ambassador for the charity.

*Steel News* caught up with him to

find out more about the day: "When the charity asked all the ambassadors for their help with organising this family day I knew how special it would be to the kids to have it take place on the steel works, so I made it happen.

"As an ambassador of the charity, I see the vital work Noah's Ark carry out at the hospital firsthand.

"They can support roughly 70,000 children and their families in one year alone.

"So if we could supply a day of light relief for them all then I am happy."

This was echoed by Kath Fisher, Community Fundraising Manager for the charity.

She said: "I'm so grateful to Rob and his colleagues, who were able to support the charity and ensure we could deliver such a great day!"

So all is left to say is well done to Rob and everyone behind organising it.



## 60-second interview

We caught up with Julia Angeles, Human Factors Placement Student, to find out more about the highlights, challenges and focus areas of her role in Process Safety.

**You joined Tata Steel in September 2023. Tell us a bit about your role and what you enjoy most about it.**

My role is to improve human performance through assessing the way individuals work and interact with the systems around them. This takes into account the working environment, the nature of the job, and personnel factors such as fatigue and competence. I have learnt to risk assess potential errors that occur before putting appropriate mitigations in place, which is called Human Failure Analysis. This is one of my favourite parts of the role as I get to meet so many different people and hear their views on how work is done.

**What has been your biggest highlight?**

When I had the opportunity to visit Blast Furnace 4. It was truly incredible to see the site from such a height and to learn more about the process from where it actually occurs. I won't ever forget seeing the molten iron being tapped at the bottom of the furnace and the sparks flying up into the air.

**In your view, what is the most important thing for colleagues to focus on over the coming months?**

Without a doubt I think everyone should focus on their mental health, considering everything that has happened over the past 12 months. Make the most of the summer sunshine while we have it. Ultimately, your health is your wealth, and everyone should take a break when they feel they need to.

**What would you say to others who might be considering a placement with Tata Steel UK?**

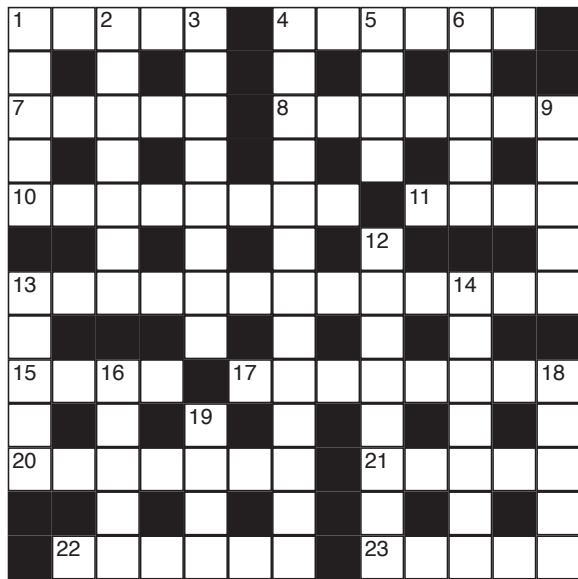
Tata Steel has plenty of opportunities for those who are willing to take advantage of them. Don't be afraid to ask questions about anything you are unsure about, as everyone wants to help you understand the process better.

**Describe your year with Tata Steel UK in three words.**

Collaborative. Challenging. Insightful.

# Round the Pier Swim returns for another year

## Crossword... solution on page 6



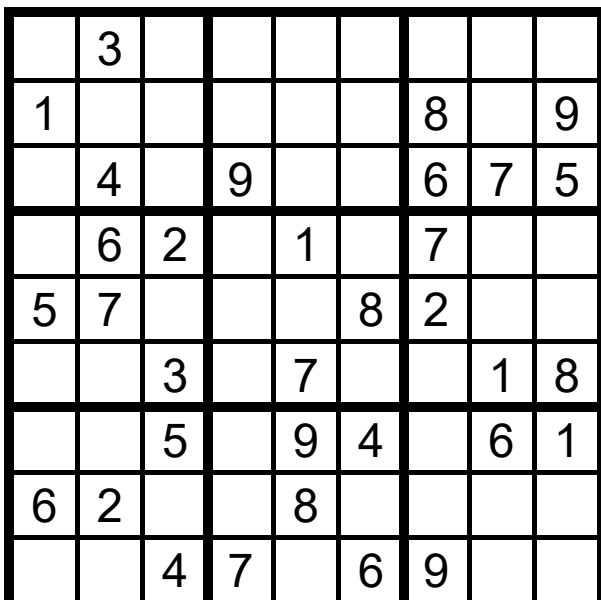
### ACROSS

- 1 Graphic: intensely bright (5)  
 4 Touch feelings of (6)  
 7 Not at any time (5)  
 8 Decisive match (4-3)  
 10 Irish surname (8)  
 11 NZ bird (4)  
 13 Potable liquid (8,5)  
 15 Stop sleeping (4)  
 17 Size of paper (8)  
 20 Abstract metal structure (7)  
 21 Malt crushed for brewing (5)  
 22 Where films are shown (6)  
 23 Easily annoyed (5)

### DOWN

- 1 Toxin: malignity (5)  
 2 Italian composer (7)  
 3 Framework over oil wells (8)  
 4 The beginning and the end (5,3,5)  
 5 Lose vigour: paving stone (4)  
 6 Spring flowers (5)  
 9 Mendicant monk (5)  
 12 Time just after sunset (8)  
 13 Beginnings of days etc (5)  
 14 Art of disposing armed forces (7)  
 16 Muddy colour (5)  
 18 It holds panes in windows (5)  
 19 Cubes with numbers on (4)

## Sudoku... solution on page 6



It was all smiles in 2021

The 55th Round the Pier Swim returned with a splash this month, when the annual run/swim event returned to Aberavon beach. The fun kicked off on Saturday 17 August with the race finishing at the Green Stars RFC clubhouse at Little Warren, Aberavon Beach.

The course is an 800m run along the small promenade, an 800m open sea swim around the old pier (the north breakwater) and an 800m return run back to the finishing line.

Safety coverage was provided by the Aberavon Lifesaving Club, the Aberavon

Canoe Club and the Port Talbot RNLI.

It is more than 50 years since Aberavon Green Stars RFC ran their first Round the Pier swim in 1969 as part of the Borough of Port Talbot's celebrations for the Prince of Wales' Investiture in Caernarvon. The event has continued to gather pace ever since.

As usual all previous winners and participants were welcome to attend the event in the Green Stars clubhouse where the Frank Burke Cups, the Peter Allen Trophy for the first Tata Steel employee to finish, the Mal Thomas Shield and the Port Talbot Brickwork Cup was presented.

## A look into the future



The global steel industry faces one of the biggest challenges in its history: how to significantly reduce its carbon emissions for the good of the climate, while continuing to underpin the manufacturing industry in its own development of green technologies such as wind turbines, solar farms and electric vehicles.

The latest series of Tata Steel UK's podcast, 'SteelCast', talks to industry experts, academics, politicians and customers not only about the challenges and opportunities of making green steel, but also about the huge amount of work already under way to

reduce the company's carbon footprint and that of its products in use.

As Head of Public Relations and podcast host, Tim Rutter, said: "With the recent announcement of proposals to restructure the UK business, the subject of what happens next to the steel industry should be of interest to all those who have an interest in our business and the green industrial future of the UK."

You can download, listen and subscribe to the fantastic 'SteelCast' series wherever you get your podcasts – you can even watch the latest ones on YouTube!

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