

# SteelNews

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Issue 17

Your community magazine

# Building the future



As a demonstration of faith in the new electric arc furnace, the Chairman of Tata Steel and Tata Sons, Mr Natarajan Chandrasekaran, travelled to Port Talbot to officially break ground on the project. "The Tata Group is super committed to this project – that is why I wanted to be here today," he told an audience of senior UK politicians, Tata Steel representatives and media.

■ Read more about this historic event on pages 4-5



# Hidden heroes of Port Talbot's £1.25bn upgrade



While Tata Steel UK's new Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) rightly grabs the headlines, other parts of Port Talbot's £1.25 billion transformation are just as critical – and finally getting the spotlight they deserve.

In an episode of SteelCast, Mills CAPEX Lead Andrew McGregor shares how key upgrades to the Hot Strip Mill and Pickle Line are quietly shaping the future of our operations.

Andrew said: "These upgrades may fly under the radar, but they're absolutely vital.

"This project is as significant as the blast furnace replacement a few years back – a real step forward for the mills."

At the heart of the investment is a full overhaul of the Hot Strip Mill; one of the most essential assets on site.

With core components like the crop shear and coil box nearing end-of-life, replacements are crucial to keep the mill running efficiently for the next 10 to 15 years.

He added: "If we haven't got crop shear and coil box, and we haven't got a hot mill operation, we then haven't got a sustainable business."

The site's ageing Pickle Line is also being replaced with a brand-new, high-capacity unit capable of processing up to 1.8 million tonnes a year – helping secure both capacity and sustainability for the future.

Andrew finished: "This new pickle line is more than a replacement. It's an enabler for the next 25 years."

These unsung projects may not always make front-page news, but they're vital to delivering a reliable, efficient and low-carbon future for generations of steelmaking to come in the UK.

**■ To watch or listen to the full SteelCast episode, scan the QR code below**



Richie Hart (centre), Work Package Leader, TSUK Strategic Capex, shows visitors from JLR the site where the electric arc furnace will be built

## 'This is the future for Tata Steel UK – and for us' says JLR group

Global brand Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) saw first-hand the changes planned for the transition to low-carbon steelmaking during a visit to the Port Talbot site.

Tata Steel UK's transformation and £1.25bn investment in electric arc furnace technology is not only critical for the future of steelmaking but is also hugely significant for JLR's own emission commitment.

Andy Smith, Procurement Director

at JLR, said: "This is not just the future for Tata Steel, it's the future for JLR because it will help us meet our 2039 emission commitments. This is what we need to be doing.

"It is why we are embracing the transformation in Port Talbot, which is exactly what we need from our supply base to help us get to our targets."

Trevor Day, Tata Steel UK's Director of Sales – Automotive and Engineering, said: "JLR are embracing the transition

to low emission steel and the visit was part of their due diligence.

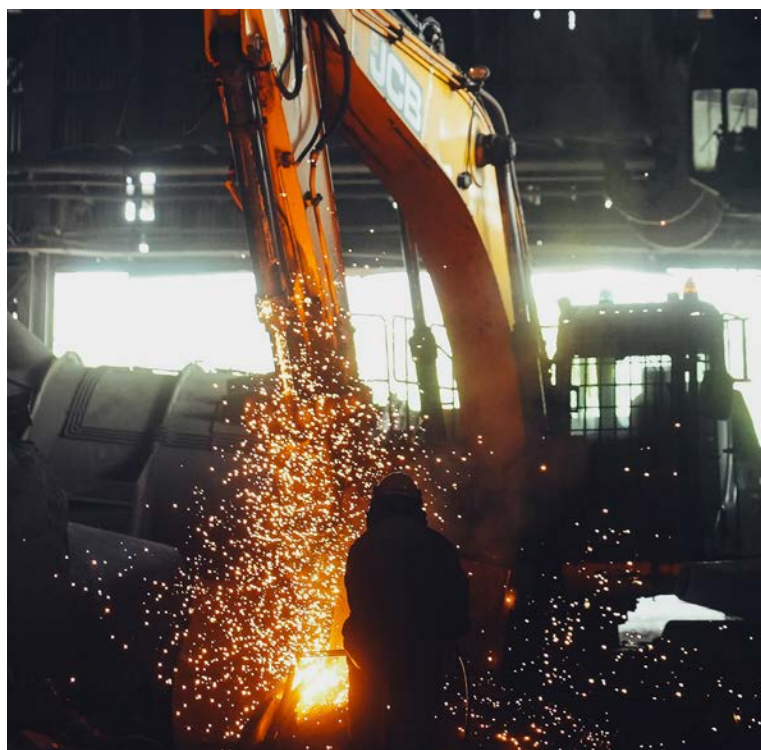
"At the same time, we were able to learn more about JLR's sustainability approach to reach their 90% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction target and their scrap recycling ambition, and how our journey will support them."

Liz Allen, Key Account Manager for JLR, said: "The visit included a site tour to see the location where the new electric arc furnace will be built and

the hot mill for the asset upgrades, as well as our progress updates on capex and sustainability plans.

"Seeing the site first-hand helped the group to understand the scale of the 'plan on a page' and how this will translate into reality. Our thanks to Rajesh Nair, Richie Hart, Nick Silk, Shankar Marar and Stephen Horn for hosting the visit, and the wider Port Talbot team for their support in sharing our plans with JLR."

## Lifting the lid on six-month mission to clear decks for EAF



Forging the future... The six-month enabling project has been laying the ground for a new era of steelmaking

The Port Talbot site has been buzzing with activity over the past eight months. An army of workers has been flat out preparing for the next generation of steelmaking.

The mammoth enabling project, which began in February, is part of Tata Steel UK's £1.25bn investment in electric arc furnace (EAF) technology, which is set to revolutionise its operations and slash carbon emissions.

But, before a single brick of the new furnace is laid, the old Basic Oxygen Steelmaking (BOS) Plant had to be respectfully stripped back and the area prepared for a new era of steelmaking.

Martin Lewis, Project Manager, EAF Meltshop Enabling Works, said: "It's not just a case of flicking a switch, there was a huge decommissioning process that needed to happen first, all of which needed to be certified and verified.

"We had a really tight window and a lot of work to complete."

And what a job it's been. Inside the vast plant, entire bays – including the charging bay, converter bay and teeming bay – had to be stripped and repurposed, ready for the high-tech kit that will power the business' greener future.

Among the heavy hitters removed were a 130-tonne crane, two ladle repair stands, internal scrap weighbridges, bogeys, and even the enormous RH Degasser unit.

"That was a mammoth task," Martin admitted.

All told, 35 contracting companies – consisting of around 180 workers – joined forces with 35 core Tata Steel employees to pull it off.

"Our contractor partners have been superb," said Martin. "They've gone above and beyond. It's been a real joined-up effort."

Despite the tight timescales and the importance of the project, Martin said the work was carried out with a real sense of emotion and a respect for the history of the site.

"There's a lot of sentiment around the equipment we're taking away, many people have spent their entire working lives with this kit," he said. "We're sensitive to that – it's about maintaining a sense of history while also having a real view of what's to come."

"When you see the artist's impressions, they really do fill you with excitement – this is about securing the future of this plant."



# Steel hero awarded MBE for community services

June saw one of Port Talbot's true steel heroes honoured for his ongoing service and commitment to the local community, charity and sports across Neath Port Talbot.

Cwmavon's very own Shaun Tobin, proud member of the Steel Family and longstanding Richard Burton 10K Race Director, has been awarded an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) in the King's Birthday Honours List 2025.

The award recognises Shaun's exceptional dedication to sport, charitable fundraising, and community engagement across Port Talbot and South Wales.

A former employee of Tata Steel UK in Port Talbot, Shaun has spent decades working to uplift and support the wellbeing of those around him — both within the steelworks and beyond.

For more than 25 years, Shaun has led the Richard Burton 10K, one of Wales' most iconic and well-attended road races, proudly sponsored by Tata Steel UK.

Under his leadership, the event has grown from a local race into a major annual fixture, drawing thousands of participants and raising significant funds for local charities and initiatives.

Shaun has consistently championed the race not only as a sporting challenge but as a powerful celebration of community spirit, heritage, and local pride.

Reflecting on the honour, Shaun said: "We never set out to be recognised, we just wanted to do something positive for Joe, for our family, and for our community."

"This honour is a reflection of the incredible support we've received



(Left to right) Tata Steel UK's Joe Tobin, Dan Evans of Runtech and Olivia Tsim, the 2024 RB10K female winner, with Shaun Tobin MBE

and the spirit of everyone who has walked or run beside us over the last 25 years."

Speaking of his dad's achievements, Tata Steel UK's Joe Tobin said: "I am immensely proud of Shaun's recognition in the King's Birthday Honours list."

"The amount of effort and care that he puts into the Richard Burton 10K, ensuring that it remains a community

focused event, supporting our local community and our people, cannot be understated."

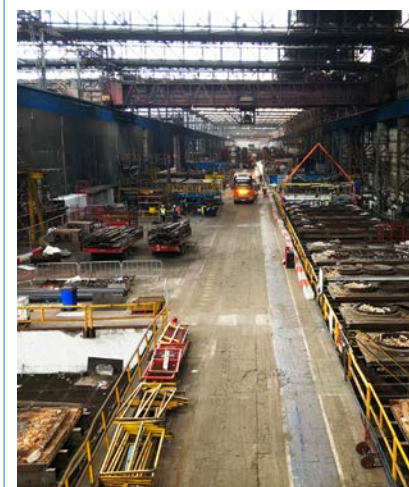
"He's a true community champion and this award could not be more deserved."

"Congratulations Dad!"

**Registration for this year's Richard Burton 10K is now open. Sign up using the QR code (right).**



## Behind the scenes at Pickle Line update



Batch annealing bases

Preparations are well underway for the construction of a new steel processing line as part of Tata Steel's £1.25 billion investment programme to decarbonise its UK operations, and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from its Port Talbot site by 90%.

While public attention often focuses on the construction of the new 3 Mtpa electric arc furnace (EAF), another critical part of the transformation is unfolding quietly – yet significantly – in the site's southern end: the construction of a new Pickle Line.

The Pickle Line is an essential process in preparing steel for downstream processing, removing the surface of the steel strip following hot rolling.

The new line is to be built alongside the existing Pickle Line, which is needed to run throughout the site's reconfiguration.

Preparations are therefore being made in the former Batch Annealing Bay, which has lain dormant since the late 1990s, and still has over 50 'bases' each of which would have held 30-tonne coils stacked four high.

Lead Project Engineer Phil Bridges and his team are responsible for the meticulous removal and recycling of the bases, which were installed in the 1950s, to make way for the new facility.

He said: "These aren't just old units—over time they have become fragile, so it's not just a case of ripping them out."

"We had to develop unorthodox methods for lifting them safely. Every move was scrutinised, every step planned in detail."

Logistics, safety, and environmental controls are paramount, with a multi-agency effort supporting the transition.

"From Works Protection to our electrical teams rerouting underground cables, the level of collaboration has been immense," he added.

The new Pickle Line is scheduled for commissioning in December 2027, and Phil's team will continue supporting the project through construction and into commissioning.

Importantly, the old equipment won't go to waste.

Everything that can be reused or recycled will be brought back into the business.

## Keeping it local for caster refurb

Tata Steel has awarded a major contract to Welsh engineering specialists, Systems Group, for the first phase of the refurbishment of the two casters at Port Talbot ahead of the electric arc furnace (EAF) being commissioned.

Based in Maesteg, Systems Group, will carry out critical structural and pipework replacement on the casters as part of Project Invictus.

Ian Ellis, Engineering Project Manager at Tata Steel and lead on the caster life-extension, said: "This is a hugely important project for Tata Steel's future in the UK."

"This work will ensure our existing casters are in the very best condition to handle steel from our new electric arc

furnace in the volumes and qualities demanded by our customers."

"Importantly, we can retain refurbish and replace these critical facilities rather than having to build from new, saving considerable cost and time."

And he added: "We're delighted to be working with Systems Group – a trusted local partner – on this first phase of work."

Ryan O'Neill, Managing Director at Systems Group, said: "We are delighted to have been awarded this important contract by Tata Steel."

"As a local company, we are proud to play a role in helping secure the future of steelmaking in South Wales."

"This project not only supports

the region's economy but also helps deliver cutting-edge, low emission steel production."

The caster project will include replacement of more than 1.5 miles of key pipework and two giant water tanks.

"In future phases there will be further replacements of equipment, structures and pipework as well as the installation of advanced technologies such as variable-speed-drives and next-generation process control systems."

Following the appointment of Systems Group, Tata Steel expects to award further contracts in the coming months for additional electrical mechanical and process control system upgrades.



Local contractor - Systems Group - will carry out critical structural and pipe work.



# A new beginning and

Tata Steel UK has officially launched its £1.25 billion electric arc furnace (EAF) investment programme, marking the start of a bold new chapter in sustainable steelmaking.

In a high-profile groundbreaking ceremony at Port Talbot, attended by key political and industry stakeholders, the company celebrated a major step toward its green transformation.

Tata Steel UK CEO Rajesh Nair shared his pride in a message to employees and contractor partners: "Rarely have I felt as proud as I was today for the visit of our Chairman, Mr Chandrasekaran, and CEO & MD TV Narendran.

"To share this moment with our teams, partners, and Trades Unions was incredibly special. After a difficult couple of years, it was right to not only recognise past challenges but also to look ahead with optimism to a more sustainable future."

Tata Steel Chairman Mr. N. Chandrasekaran acknowledged the resilience of the UK workforce and

reaffirmed Tata's long-term commitment: "This site has faced many difficulties. This is a major commitment and a new era. I am personally committed to making this happen. Many people thought this day would not come—but we are here, united as one team. This transformation is an historic moment."

He also extended his thanks to the UK and Welsh governments, trades unions, and the local community, adding, "We hope to do such a good job that it will revive the economy here."

UK Secretary of State for Business and Trade, Johnny Reynolds, also addressed the crowd: "This is a hugely ambitious transformation. We should acknowledge the difficult times, but also use that as fuel for future success. Most of all, I want to thank the skilled workforce—it's your dedication that makes this possible."

Rajesh Nair concluded by thanking all the external guests: "Their visible support shows how vital this transformation is for Tata Steel UK—and how ready we are to deliver it together."



All smiles: Chairman, Mr Chandrasekaran, and CEO & MD TV Narendran with Tata Steel UK CEO Rajesh Nair.



Tata Steel leadership and senior political figures pose outside the General Offices



Secretaries of State and the First Minister descend from the viewing platform with the new Braithwaite Tanks in the background



Shaun Tobin MBE of Runtech supports logistics on the day



Tata Steel leadership, alongside senior political figures and Trade Union colleagues to mark the event



# an historic moment



Looking across the BOS lagoon to the site of the new electric arc furnace



Member of the Senedd for Aberavon, David Rees, in conversation



VIPs look across the lagoon



Tata Steel UK CEO, Rajesh Nair, takes Tata Steel and Tata Sons Chairman, Mr Natarajan Chandrasekaran, through the plans



Leader of NPT Council, Steve Hunt in attendance



## Canned recipe



### Cretan Dakos

by Theo Michaels

There is a good chance the steel in the canned food you purchase in the UK will have been made by Tata Steel and processed for the food industry by the packaging team in Trostre. This tasty tinned treat will make your mouth water – and you can recycle the cans, too.

**Course:** Starter  
**Dish:** Vegetarian  
**Serves:** 2

Originally made with hard, rusk-like bread that is softened when covered in seasoned grated tomato, this recipe capitalises on using a good quality canned ingredients. Delicious finely chopped canned tomatoes, topped with salty crumbled feta, with that classic note of dried oregano at the end – this sumptuous starter hits the mark every time.

#### Ingredients

6 thick slices of old baguette  
15ml olive oil  
1 x 400g can finely chopped tomatoes  
100g feta  
1 tbsp dried oregano

#### Method

Pre-heat the oven to 200C fan / 220C.

Add the baguette slices to the oven for a few minutes just to dry out, then remove.

Meanwhile, pour the can of finely chopped tomatoes into a sieve and leave to stand for 10 minutes while the excess liquid drains. Season the remaining tomatoes with olive oil, black pepper and sea salt.

Once the baguette slices are done, drizzle over some olive oil, spoon over some of the seasoned tomatoes, top with some crumbled feta and a pinch of dried oregano, and another turn of black pepper. Place onto a platter dish ready to serve.

### Canny fact

Recycling a single steel can saves enough energy to power a 60-watt light bulb for almost four years! You can help #SaveThePlanet by using this endlessly recyclable material.

# Project Invictus clean-up – teams unite to raise the bar

It was all hands on deck as Invictus project workers, contractors, and managers rolled up their sleeves for a massive clean-up operation, transforming the area's appearance and safety standards.

Enabling works for the £1.25bn electric arc furnace (EAF) and associated assets – including the new Meltshop and upgraded Casters – are well under way.

Matthew Frey, Safety Manager at the EAF Meltshop, said: "There's a huge amount of good work going on around the site as part of the enabling works, but the standard of the area – the housekeeping and general aesthetic – wasn't reflective of that great work.

"So we pulled everyone together – Tata Steel, SRM, Mii, Skelton Thomas, Darlow Lloyd, Runtech, and many more – and took a joint approach, as one team, to reset that standard, draw a line in the sand, and raise the bar in terms of our working environment."

The exercise wasn't just about tidying up – it was about pride, safety, and creating a culture that doesn't tolerate sub-par conditions.

Martin Lewis, Project Manager (Enabling), highlighted the scale of the challenge: "We've inherited



Raising the bar... Teams banded together to help raise standards at the Project Invictus site

this plant after more than 50 years of steelmaking operations, so as we started removing equipment we unearthed lots of legacy type material, debris, and general litter in the surrounding areas.

"While each contractor has a responsibility to look after

their piece of work and any debris they generate, there is lots of general day-to-day stuff that isn't really owned by anybody.

"Everybody has a part to play in making sure we don't walk past anything – if you see something that shouldn't be there, pick it up and dispose of

it correctly."

David Thomas, Project Manager for Sir Robert McAlpine, said: "It was important to take a moment, pause, pull everybody together, and agree on what a good standard looks like.

"The standards that were set on the day will now become

common to every contractor, subcontractor, and Tata Steel employee – it's great that we all ended up with the same common goal."

With a renewed focus, Project Invictus is now cleaner, safer, and prouder – and determined to keep it that way.

## Creating a sustainable future for low emission steelmaking

Almost a year has passed since the general election, which saw Labour become the party of government for the first time since the days of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown.

It has been a busy first year in government for Keir Starmer and his Cabinet, who confirmed a £500m grant funding agreement for Tata Steel UK's decarbonisation project in September, consulted on the Steel Strategy and Industrial Strategy, and passed the Steel Industry Special Measures Act, which gave the government operational control of the British Steel.

All of this has played out in the context of the UK steel industry facing increasing global overcapacity, tariffs, rising trade diversion and global competition, and the highest electricity prices in Europe – highlighting that urgent action and support



Artist's impression of the electric arc furnace at Port Talbot

from policymakers is needed now.

With the UK government looking to publish its Industrial Strategy before the summer recess, and the Steel Strategy expected in the

autumn, Tata Steel has produced a new policy briefing, in which it continues to call on the government to:

1. Address high energy costs for UK steelmakers

2. Protect the UK steel industry from global overcapacity

3. Resolve the threat of cheap, high-carbon imports

4. Increase UK steel in public procurement

5. Recognise the role of scrap as a critical raw material

Speaking of the new briefing, Tata Steel UK's Public Affairs and Community Manager Lewis Clark said: "This government has several challenges to address in order to create a truly sustainable future environment for the UK steel industry.

"Tata Steel has long advocated for a clear, robust industrial strategy that promotes investment, growth and global competitiveness.

"We urge ministers to action our policy recommendations, and those of our industry partners, to build a steel sector that underpins the UK's green transition, revitalises domestic manufacturing, and drives job creation across Wales and the wider UK."

**You can access the briefing document by scanning the QR code (inset).**





# Tata Steel subsidiary on the ball for young Mighty Quins

The ground where dual-code rugby star Regan Grace learnt the basics of the game has been given a boost by Tata Steel subsidiary UK Steel Enterprise.

Aberavon Quins, or The Mighty Quins as they are better known, are aiming to enhance facilities for their young stars of the future and are building a play area for the youngsters at the family-friendly club.

UKSE has donated £1,000 from its Community Fund, and Coach of the Junior Rugby section, Ashley Jones, is delighted. "This is a project we have been wanting to push ahead with for some time and we are very grateful to UKSE for their support," he said.

The club is at the heart of the local community and a focus for families. "Our Junior section is strong with three youth sides, Under 7, Under 10 and Under 13. There are many families here on match days and we want to provide them with a good experience when they visit and encourage them to support the club and its work," he added.

Quins has an impressive history, and has been the launch pad for many



Howard Thompson (left) of Tata Steel subsidiary UKSE, Coach Ashley Jones, with some of the stars of the future

great players including Regan Grace who played Rugby League for English club St Helens and has appeared for Cardiff Rugby at the Arms Park. Welsh Internationals Richard Hibberd and James Hook also honed their skills as youngsters at the club.

Howard Thompson Regional

Executive with UKSE in Wales said he was pleased to be helping the club move forward with this important project.

"Local rugby clubs are vital to the wellbeing of the community and they are kept going by the hard work of volunteers, such as Ashley, who

selflessly give their time for the good of all," he said.

"This type of project is exactly the reason we established our Community Fund which supports local initiatives here in Neath Port Talbot and further afield across South Wales."

## Rajesh Nair appointed Chair of UK Steel



Tata Steel UK Chief Executive, Rajesh Nair, has been appointed as the new Chair of UK Steel

Tata Steel UK is pleased to announce that its Chief Executive, Rajesh Nair, has been appointed as the new Chair of UK Steel, the representative body for the UK's steel industry.

This is a role he will undertake in addition to his existing responsibilities at Tata Steel UK.

Rajesh brings over 36 years of experience across the Tata Steel Group to this leadership role.

Since joining Tata Steel UK as Chief Operating Officer in 2021 and becoming CEO in 2023, he has played a central role in reshaping the business, advancing its transition to low-CO2 steelmaking, and helping secure the future of domestic steel production in South Wales – home to Tata Steel's largest UK operations and the heart of British steelmaking.

Commenting on his appointment, Rajesh Nair said: "It is an honour to be appointed Chair of UK Steel at such a pivotal moment for the industry.

"This is a period of profound change – with significant challenges, but also real opportunities to strengthen the sector for the long term.

"I look forward to working with UK Steel members and stakeholders to help secure that future – working closely with Government on its Steel Strategy and addressing structural issues such as uncompetitive energy costs and the growing threat of high-emission steel imports".

Gareth Stace, Director-General, UK Steel said: "The appointment of Rajesh as Chair of UK Steel is excellent news for both UK Steel and our industry as a whole.

"Rajesh will bring a wealth of experience across both the global and UK steel industry to this role. His appointment could not have come at a better time as our industry looks to modernise and grow as Government prepares to publish its Steel Strategy this autumn."

# Energy relief welcomed but more action needed

Tata Steel UK has welcomed the UK Government's decision to reduce energy costs but says there is still much to do.

The measures announced under the Industrial Strategy include:

- Increase of Network Charging Compensation to 90% from 2026, matching what is provided in Germany and France.

■ Continuation of the indirect compensation scheme, which compensates the steel industry for the carbon taxes paid via the electricity bills.

The uplift to Network Charging Compensation from 60% to 90% in line with what is provided in Germany will reduce industrial electricity prices

by £6.5 per megawatt hour (MWh) for the steel industry – an estimated £14.5 million per year.

Despite this impactful cut to electricity costs, there remains a £10-16 per MWh difference between European electricity costs, which adds £36 million per year on UK steel bills.

The reason for the energy intensive industries disparity is wholesale electricity costs, driven by the UK's reliance on natural gas power generation.

Tom Evans, Head of Public Affairs for Tata Steel UK said: "We are pleased the UK Government has recognised the challenge that high energy costs pose

for energy-intensive industries such as ours, and that they have accepted our call for further relief on Network energy costs.

"However, significant further action is needed as fundamental challenges remain - UK steelmakers still face electricity prices up to 50% higher than their European competitors.

"We urge government to consider our industry's 'Contract for Difference' proposals which would provide long-term price stability, unlock investment in further low-carbon technologies, and ensure a level playing field as the UK steel industry transitions to electric arc furnace steelmaking."



Tenova, artist's impression of the electric arc furnace (EAF)

### Crossword and Sudoku solutions

Across: 1 Curfew; 5 Pique; 9 Amber; 10 Low tide; 11 Hang out; 12 Skit; 14 Sweet nothings; 17 Root; 18 Gangway; 21 Aliment; 22 Brawn; 23 Hinge; 24 Foxier.  
Down: 2 Urban; 3 Forsooth; 4 Well thought of; 5 Pawn; 6 Quicken; 7 Event; 8 Pathos; 13 Phone box; 15 Emotion; 16 Saying; 17 Reach; 19 Whale; 20 Gene.

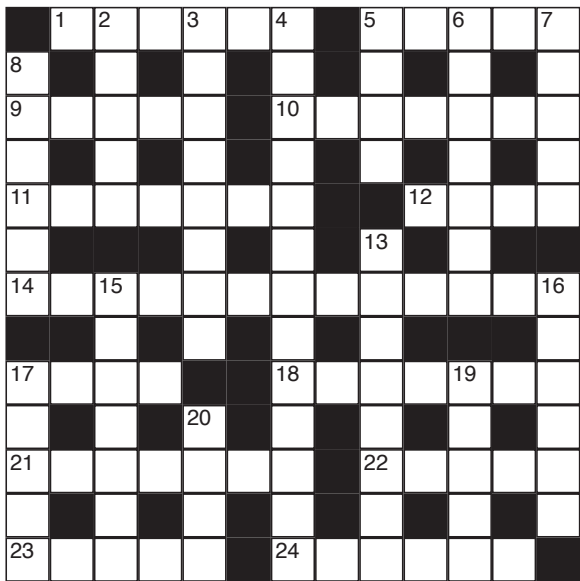
3	8	5	1	7	9	6	4	2
2	9	7	4	3	6	1	5	8
1	6	4	8	2	5	3	9	7
7	5	1	3	9	8	4	2	6
9	3	6	5	4	2	8	7	1
8	4	2	6	1	7	5	3	9
4	1	9	2	8	3	7	6	5
5	7	8	9	6	4	2	1	3
6	2	3	7	5	1	9	8	4

Puzzle solutions



# Celebrating 30 years of NPT Crucial Crew safety advice

Crossword... solution on page 7



- Across
- 1 Order that outside activities are to stop at a certain time (6)
- 5 Irritate: ill-feeling (5)
- 9 Fossilised resin (5)
- 10 When sea is out (3,4)
- 11 Reside in: protrude downwards (4,3)
- 12 Short satirical piece (4)
- 14 Light affectionate words (5,8)
- 17 Underground stem (4)
- 18 Passage between seats (7)
- 21 Mental sustenance (7)
- 22 Muscular strength (5)
- 23 Metal joint (5)
- 24 More sly and cunning (6)
- Down
- 2 Of a town (5)
- 3 In truth (archaic) (8)
- 4 Highly regarded (4,7,2)
- 5 Smallest chess piece (4)
- 6 Accelerate (7)
- 7 Occasion: do (5)
- 8 It arouses audience's pity (6)
- 13 Dr Who's Tardis? (5,3)
- 15 Eg love or fear etc (7)
- 16 Putting into words (6)
- 17 Extend arm for something (5)
- 19 Marine mammal (5)
- 20 Unit of heredity (4)



Mayor Councillor Wayne Carpenter Celebrates the 30th anniversary of NPT Crucial Crew

This year marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Neath Port Talbot Crucial Crew, the Tata Steel UK sponsored event.

Held in Margam Castle, the multi-agency event welcomed Year Six pupils from schools across Neath Port Talbot to brush up on all things community and safety.

The schools engaged with a series of 10-minute activities from local agencies including South Wales Police, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, National Grid, Royal National Lifeboat Institute, and Thrive Domestic Abuse Services.

During the important transition from primary to secondary school, the pupils discussed how to stay safe online, what to do if they have an accident on their bike, and how to react to a house fire.

Tata Steel UK Public Affairs and Community Manager, Lewis Clark said: "Tata Steel UK is proud to be a long-standing sponsor of the Crucial Crew event. It's a testament to the value and organisation of the scheme that 2025 marked the 30th anniversary of this important event.

"We know just how much the children get from each of the sessions, which continues to champion community safety in a fun and interactive way. We look forward to celebrating many more years of the event and support the Council's Community Safety team in improving our community."

## From Paris to Port Talbot

Tata Steel UK's Joe Kerr set off from Paris on 12 May and five days later found himself stood in his workplace, posing for photos in front of Tata Steel UK's iconic structures, before finishing his epic route in Baglan.

This 450-mile journey, which tested Joe to his limit, was all for an excellent cause – Neath Port Talbot Mind – in memory of his close friend Ryan Lewis, who sadly took his own life in 2014. To date, Joe has raised over £1,700 for Mind.

Speaking of the bike ride from France's capital to the UK's steel capital, Joe, who works as a welder at the Port Talbot site, said: "I have done several of these types of challenges, but this was without a doubt the hardest.

"What kept me going throughout was the thought that it was never as tough as what my friend Ryan and many others go through on a daily basis.

"The ride was in memory of Ryan Lewis and every other person out there that has sadly



Joe Kerr took on the epic charity bike ride in memory of his close friend Ryan Lewis

■ Scan the QR code to find out more about Joe's efforts or make a donation via his GoFundMe

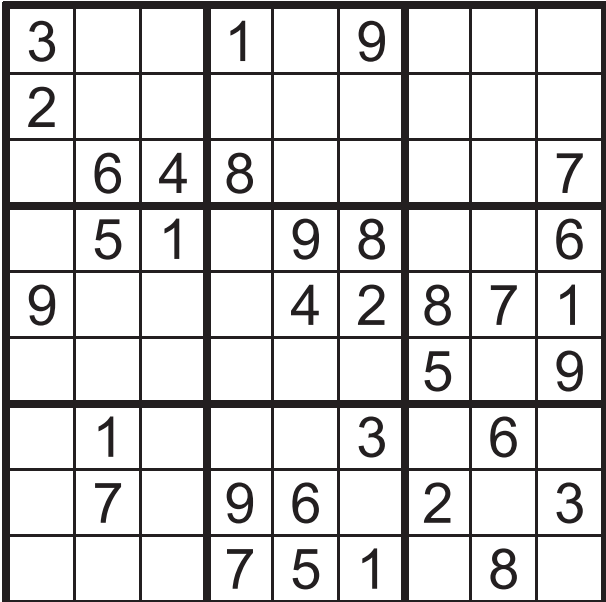


taken their own life due to mental health challenges. Their names on my shirt kept me going.

"I am so proud to honour Ryan and to raise money for Neath Port Talbot Mind, who do incredible work both locally and across the UK.

"Thank you to everyone who has donated and to anyone who does donate to this brilliant cause."

Sudoku... solution on page 7



Steel  
News

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TOUCH

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environmental concerns,  
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Together we make  
the difference

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