



HRS

HAMPSHIRE REFRIGERATION SOCIETY

Serving the Refrigeration, Air Conditioning, Heat Pump & Environmental Industries

Welcome to our QB1-2026 Bulletin

Happy New Year and Welcome to QB1

As we step into a brand-new year, everyone at the Hampshire Refrigeration Society would like to wish our loyal readers, members, and supporters a very happy and prosperous New Year."

We are incredibly excited about what 2026 has in store. The year ahead promises a full calendar of engaging events, valuable networking opportunities, and continued collaboration across our industry. As the HVAC, refrigeration, heat pump, and environmental sectors continue to evolve, so too does the knowledge, innovation, and expertise that drives them forward.

From emerging technologies and regulatory changes to new trends, skills development, and best practices, the coming year predicts an exciting opportunity to learn, share, and grow together.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing many of you at our events throughout the year as we explore what the future of HVAC and refrigeration holds together.





Industry Trends Shaping HVAC & Refrigeration in 2026



- **Electrification & Decarbonisation**
- **Refrigerant Transition & Regulations**
- **Energy Efficiency & Sustainable Design**
- **Smart, Connected & Digital Systems**
- **Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) & Ventilation**
- **Workforce Development & Skills Growth**

Industry Trends Explained...



Electrification & Decarbonisation

- The industry continues to shift away from fossil fuels, with increased adoption of heat pumps and electrified systems to support net-zero targets and carbon reduction.



Refrigerant Transition & Regulations

- Ongoing phase-down of high-GWP refrigerants is driving the move to lower-impact alternatives, alongside increased focus on safety, compliance, and technician training.



Energy Efficiency & Sustainable Design

- Higher efficiency equipment, improved system design, and whole-life performance considerations are helping businesses reduce energy consumption and operating costs.



Smart, Connected & Digital Systems

- IoT-enabled HVAC systems, remote monitoring, and data-driven maintenance are improving reliability, efficiency, and system performance across commercial and residential sectors.



Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) & Ventilation

- Demand remains strong for solutions that improve indoor environments, with greater emphasis on ventilation, filtration, and air purification technologies.



Supply Chain & Resilience Planning

- Businesses are focusing more on supply chain stability, lead times, and forward planning to support project delivery and long-term growth.



2026 Refrigerant Updates

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK



Regulatory Landscape

Across the UK and EU, phasedown measures under F-Gas legislation remain a key driver of change. Restrictions on higher-GWP refrigerants are tightening, with increasing emphasis on leak prevention, accurate record-keeping.



Shift to Lower-GWP Alternatives

2026 sees wider adoption of A2L refrigerants and continued growth in natural refrigerants such as CO₂ (R744) and hydrocarbon in suitable applications. These options are being encouraged



Equipment and System Implications

Manufacturers are increasingly standardising equipment designed specifically for low-GWP refrigerants, improving efficiency, reliability, and availability of compliant components. Retrofitting existing systems remains an option in some cases, but full system replacement is often the most robust long-term solution.



Training and Competency

With new refrigerants comes a renewed focus on skills. Updated training, certification, and site safety procedures are essential in 2026 to ensure engineers and operators can work confidently and compliantly with emerging refrigerant technologies.

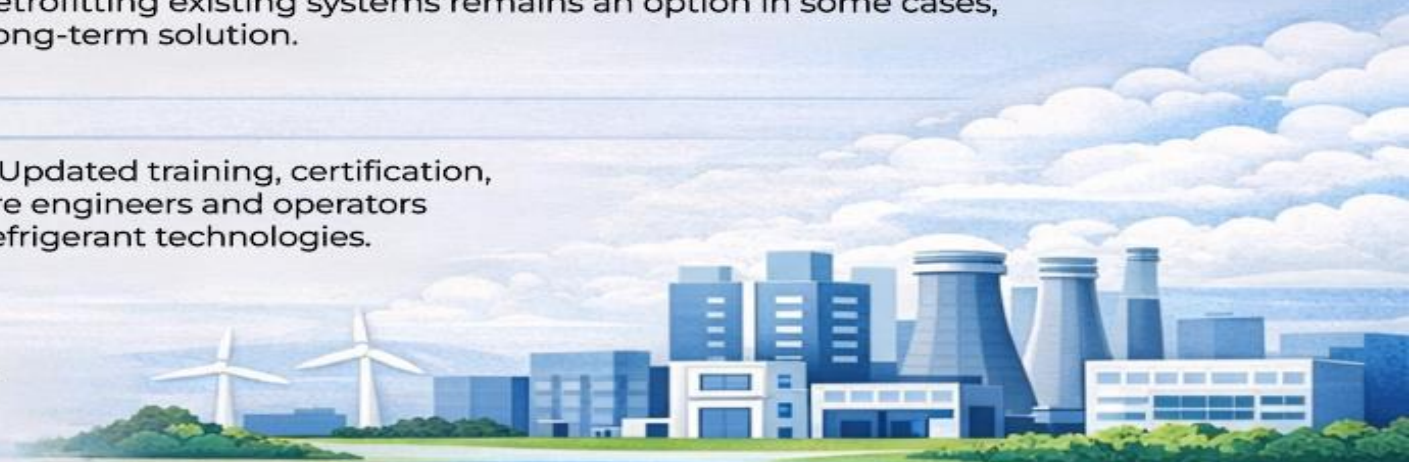


Looking Ahead

The direction of travel is clear: fewer high-GWP refrigerants, greater emphasis on sustainability, and increased accountability across the supply chain. Organisations that plan early, invest in training and engage with compliant technologies will be best positioned to manage costs and reduce risks and meet both regulatory and environmental expectations.



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TBB Speakers:

Guest Speaker: Graeme Fox
Director, The F-Gas Register



“Driving the transition to lower GWP refrigerants is reshaping our industry.”

Graeme Fox, Director at The F-Gas Register, gave an update on the continuing drive towards lower GWP refrigerants and the impact it is going to have on our sector.

The F-Gas **Regulations** are introducing ever tighter controls on what can be sold, which is forcing the sector to using flammable refrigerants increasingly. This is presenting a challenge to the sector in terms of upkilling and refresher training.

Graeme also introduced RACES - the Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Engineers Society - a nationwide society created to give a voice to the grass roots of our industry and support the small businesses which make up 90% of the sector.

In only a few month RACES has become the "go to" organization for support and networking, and one of the basic principles behind its formation was to support and promote regional societies and groups in the sector, connecting them to facilitate a more cohesive RACHP industry.

Guest Speaker: Robin Green

Fridge Wholesale Spares (FSW)



*"Helping engineers work faster,
smarter and more efficiently."*

Robin Green from Fridge Spares Wholesale delivered an insightful session at our recent Technical Breakfast Briefing, introducing engineers to Appion's Hi-Flow technology and how it can significantly improve evacuation and recovery efficiency.

Robin explained practical ways to increase flow rates and save valuable time on site, including removing Schrader cores, using hoses with a larger internal diameter, and avoiding traditional manifolds when carrying out recovery or evacuation.

A key highlight of the presentation was a short seven-minute demonstration video showing how using a manifold whether two-way or four-way can restrict the flow rate of any vacuum pump to less than 1 CFM, regardless of the pump's size. Seeing the impact explained so clearly proved eye-opening for many engineers in attendance.

Robin also shared another brief video demonstrating a three-pipe Daikin VRV system being evacuated down to 500 microns in just six minutes, showcasing the impressive efficiency that can be achieved using the Hi-Flow approach.

Guest Speaker: Alex Booyens

DTX



Alex Booyens from DTX introduced attendees to an innovative approach to leak detection with the company's visual CO2 leak detection tape, designed specifically for refrigeration systems.

DTX provides a simple, passive solution for identifying leaks, offering a clear visual indication when CO2 is present. Unlike traditional leak detection methods, the tape can remain in place after installation, allowing engineers to monitor potential problem areas over time.

This ability to stay in situ means the product not only helps identify existing leaks but can also support a more proactive maintenance approach by highlighting future leaks before they become larger issues.

Alex's presentation demonstrated how practical innovations like DTX Tape can make leak detection easier for engineers while helping improve system reliability and efficiency.

"Smarter leak detection for more reliable refrigeration."



Quarter 1 Review & Highlights





HRSTBB

A Huge Thank You

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who supported and attended our first Technical Breakfast Briefing, held at the City of Portsmouth College. The incredible turnout made the event a great success and commitment within our industry.

A special thank you goes to our expert speakers, who generously gave their time to share valuable insights, updates, and developments.

Their contributions play a vital role in keeping our community informed, connected, and moving forward.

We are also very grateful to FSW for their generous sponsorship of the bacon rolls, tea, and coffee, which, helped create a welcoming and enjoyable environment for all attendees.

Events like these would not be possible without the continued support of our attendees, speakers, and sponsors, and we truly appreciate everyone involved.

Finally, we would like to congratulate Max Dore-Wright on being awarded Apprentice of the Term from the City of Portsmouth College, presented by Graeme Fox - a fantastic achievement and well deserved.





 ***Celebrating Excellence: Craig Girdlestone
Named Environmental Hero of the Year 2026***



We are delighted to congratulate Craig Girdlestone on his outstanding achievement in being awarded *Environmental Hero of the Year* at the prestigious ACR News Awards 2026, held in London. Throughout 2025, Craig demonstrated exceptional leadership, unwavering commitment, and a truly global impact in reducing the environmental footprint of the air conditioning and refrigeration (ACR) sector.

His work has successfully bridged the gap between international climate policy and practical, on-the-ground implementation, delivering measurable environmental, social, and institutional benefits, particularly across Central and East Africa.

Spending up to nine months of the year in Central Africa, Craig worked extensively with the Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold Chain (ACES) in Kigali, Rwanda. As a consultant and lecturer, he delivered advanced training in sustainable refrigeration systems, energy efficiency, and natural refrigerants, while mentoring technicians, engineers, and early-career researchers to build lasting regional capability. A standout achievement was his design and development of the ACES Environmental Test Centre.

This innovative facility, capable of simulating African climatic conditions, enables performance and energy-efficiency testing of cooling technologies using climate-friendly refrigerants. It now plays a critical role in supporting compliance, driving innovation, and informing evidence-based policy decisions across the region.

Craig also contributed as an independent technical expert supporting the Montreal Protocol and played a key role in assisting the Government of Rwanda in its successful bid to host the 2026 Meeting of the Parties marking the 10-year anniversary of the Kigali Amendment, a milestone of global importance.

His commitment extended beyond institutional work. Through engagement with rural communities in Kenya, Craig supported the deployment of sustainable cooling solutions that improve food preservation, reduce waste, and strengthen livelihoods, demonstrating the powerful link between environmental sustainability and social resilience.

In addition, Craig remained deeply involved in professional development and industry leadership. Through his work with U3ARC, the Institute of Refrigeration (IOR), and as Vice Chair of the HRS, he championed environmental awareness and technical excellence, while contributing to key initiatives such as the World Refrigeration Day awards in Burkina Faso.

We also extend our congratulations to Craig and the team at Danston Ltd for being named finalists in the *Community Initiative of the Year* category for the ACES Environmental Test Chamber Project (The Africa Centre of Excellence Environmental Test Facility). This recognition highlights the collective effort and impact of the team in advancing sustainable cooling solutions.

Craig's achievements are a testament to the difference that expertise, dedication, and purpose-driven work can make on a global scale. We are incredibly proud of his accomplishments and the positive impact he continues to deliver.





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**HAMPSHIRE
REFRIGERATION SOCIETY**



OLD THORNS

HOTEL & RESORT



39th Annual Golf Tournament

SOLD OUT

Our popular summer event is officially **SOLD OUT**.
We cannot wait to host this again. Thank you for
your continued support.





Winter Golf 2026

10 December • Sandford Springs

Followed by a three-course Christmas meal & awards

- Hotel accommodation available

Look out for more information on how to book and secure your spots.

2026 Dates to Remember

Date	Events Calendar
23 June	TBB, Portsmouth College
16 July	39 th Annual Golf Tournament, Old Thorns Golf Resort
22 September	TBB, Portsmouth College
8 December	TBB, Portsmouth College
10 December	Winter Golf, Sandford Springs



HRS TEAM



John R Emm FInstR
HRS Chairman



Jayne Emm
Treasurer & Golf
Co-ordinator



Craig Girdlestone
FInstR
Vice Chairman



Nicola Prentice
AMInstR
Social Media & Events
Co-ordinator



Kyle Hobley
Committee



Contact us at:

hрсcommittee@outlook.com



www.linkedin.com/in/hampshire-refrigeration-society



<https://facebook.com/HampshireRefrigerationSociety>



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BECOME A SPONSOR

Looking to elevate your company's presence in the HVAC industry? Sponsoring HRS events is a powerful way to showcase your brand, connect with industry professionals, and contribute to the growth of our community.

As a sponsor, you can make an impact by providing prizes, advertisements, or exciting giveaways that will be highlighted throughout our events. This is a unique opportunity to promote your business to a highly targeted audience, while supporting the advancement of the HVAC sector.

Want to learn more about sponsorship opportunities and how your company can get involved? Contact a member of our committee today and discover how sponsorship can help grow your business while supporting HRS events.



Get in touch: hsrccommittee@outlook.com