

# BENCHPRESS

## THE FIRST 20 YEARS

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back after your well-earned Christmas break. On the 9<sup>th</sup> January Benchmark Scaffolding celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday, having undertaken well over £200,000,000 worth of work for most of the major players in construction; delivering some of the most complex and challenging projects in our industry during that time. A few years back we experienced a very difficult period involving takeovers and restructuring but the brand of Benchmark Scaffolding survived. We endured thanks to your loyalty and commitment; employees, customers and suppliers alike. The recession was not kind to us and coupled with our disastrous contract on the Athletes Village for the 2012 Olympics we have shown great resolve and tenacity to get through it. We have learnt lessons and the result is a robust company with no bank borrowing, apart from a few HP deals, and a stronger than ever reputation for delivering the most difficult projects, safely and in a professional and non-contractual manner.

Over these years we have much to be proud of as we have been involved in many notable landmark and prestigious projects. These have included, in the early days, the iconic media centre at Lords cricket ground; which is effectively the hull of a ship on its side, and was designed and built by Pendennis Shipyards. There was the extremely complex project on the Old Stock Exchange for Lend Lease, then Bovis, where the structure was re-clad from the top down whilst extending the floor slabs by about a metre all around; with this work being undertaken from the top down involving access scaffolding and protection fans being sprung from cantilevered steels every 8 floors or so down the building. There was the massive free standing temporary roof system at Stowe School where we, along with HAKI, developed our bespoke temporary roof system which is currently employed on our ongoing works at the Palace of Westminster and our new project at the Banqueting House in Whitehall. We were heavily involved in the delivery of the Athletes Village for the 2012 Olympics in London and have been the main scaffolding provider for Westfield Europe, over the past five years or so, working on their shopping centres at White City, Stratford and Bradford. Other major projects have included the Guildhall, the Manchester International Conference Centre, Finsbury Circus, Bankside 123 and NEO Bankside, Broadgate, BT tower, Bankside Power Station – now converted to the Tate Modern, The British Museum, Windsor Castle, Selfridges and Harrods. The list goes on and the story continues – watch this space.

Whilst quite rightly celebrating this important milestone in our history we must also reflect on the sad loss of one of the most valued and respected members of our Management team. On November 19<sup>th</sup> Graham Pope finally yielded to cancer, a disease that he had been bravely

battling with over the last year or so. Throughout his illness he maintained an amazingly positive attitude, never complaining whilst all the time continuing to contribute to the company, which was always such a big part of his life. Graham gave me my first opportunity in management in 1982, when he promoted me to contracts supervisor at SGB's Putney depot, and thereafter was always available to help and mentor me through my fledgling management career. He was a true friend to me and a constant source of knowledge to all who worked with him. This photo captures the day when a young Graham presented a young me with a watch before I left his care to take over as depot manager at Brighton; of course, he still kept an eye on me as he has done ever since. Graham played a major part in making us the leading brand that we are today. He will be sadly missed.



**Rob West**  
Managing Director

13<sup>th</sup> April 1951 – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014

**BENCHMARK SCAFFOLDING**



*Setting the Standards*

# 5 Broadgate for Swiss Bank UBS

## Another Mace Major Project nears completion

The new 5 Broadgate development currently under construction for Swiss Bank UBS was officially 'topped-out' in March this Year.

The building, which forms part of the Broadgate Estate, was designed by international architectural practice Make, and will provide 700,000 ft<sup>2</sup> (approx. 65,032 m<sup>2</sup>) of Grade 'A' office space over twelve floors.

The new building will allow UBS to consolidate its London trading operations into one building.

It will also meet the highest standards of sustainability in terms of energy performance, responsible specification and procurement of materials, and the provision of facilities to support sustainable employee behaviour.

Construction, which is being managed by Mace, commenced in March 2012 and final completion is scheduled for Spring 2015. Over 5,000 jobs have been created during the construction phase.

5 Broadgate sits at the heart of the Broadgate; a 30 acre fully managed estate in the heart of the City. Since opening, the estate has been progressively developed and now includes 16 separate buildings covering 4.0 million ft<sup>2</sup> (approx. 371,612 m<sup>2</sup>) with a further 710,000 ft<sup>2</sup> (approx. 65,961 m<sup>2</sup>) under development.

The office buildings are set around four landscaped squares each providing an attractive working environment enhanced by restaurants, pubs, shops and health clubs close by.



Alimak 650 5.0m x 2.0m PG  
Hoists with driverless control



Alimak 650 5.0m x 2.0m PG  
Hoists with driverless control

Due to its excellent location – it has been built around Liverpool Street station, the City's main transport hub – Broadgate has become a dynamic and thriving business community. With over 30,000 workers, it is home to some of the world's biggest corporations and top professional practices.

**Benchmark Hoists were involved at an early planning stage with Mace and our brief was to supply:**

- Twin external Passenger/Goods Hoists on the main North Elevation fronting Appold Street to provide the main bulk load carrier facility – utilising the now proven Alimak 650 FC 26/50 Passenger/Goods Hoists – these remarkable Hoists are 2 metres wide and up to 5 metres long developed to suit industry needs for Hoists capable of lifting large cladding elements, rather than relying on the site tower cranes, already in demand and more susceptible to high winds, compromising the site programme. The Hoists have 2500kgs SWL capacity and travel at speeds up to 54 metres a minute proving themselves invaluable to site.
- Twin external Passenger/Goods Hoists on the South Elevation close to the main site facilities to provide the main personnel access over 13



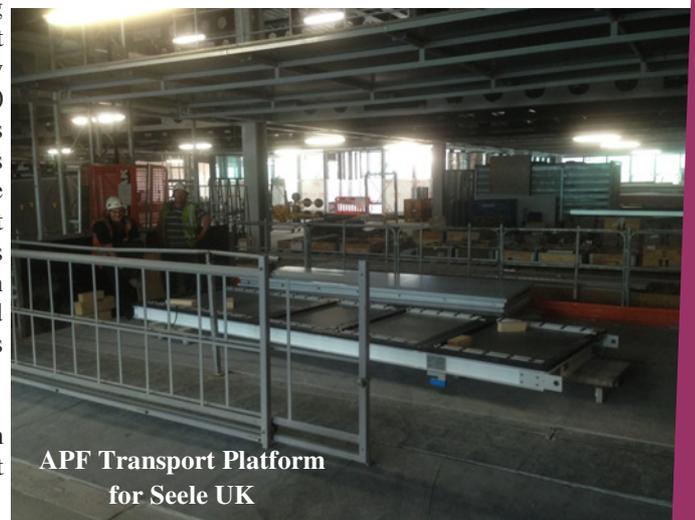
levels – again utilising the Alimak 650 FC 25/39 Passenger/Goods Hoists – these 1.5metre wide cars of modular construction allow possible car sizes from 3.2m up to 4.6m long. The Hoists have up to 3200kgs SWL capacity and travel at speeds up to 54 metres a minute, dependant on site power supply and motor deck arrangement – with the ALC2 control facility added as an option to provide driver or driverless control- the latter operating similar to a lift system, with call boxes at landing levels and simple key pad for floor selection in the cars.

- Mace chose to use hoist operators during the standard site working hours when the site is most busy and driverless outside these hours when the demand was less.
- In addition Benchmark provided two additional Goods Hoists in the basement levels – The M20/40 Goods Hoists were positioned in a plant leave out section and goods lift shaft serving 3 basement levels, the Hoists were erected on a special narrow mast due to the restricted opening sizes. Installation and removal required temporary lifting equipment over the leave out section.
- Further Beam Hoists were provided in the Basement 3T capacity and at Roof level 2T capacity

A programme of staged climbs was carried out on the main external hi-rise Hoists to suit the building construction with high levels of service support to minimise any down time, which was imperative to the success of Mace.

Mace was impressed by the standard of equipment provided and levels of service and technical support by Benchmark Hoists.

Under a separate contract with Seele UK, the external cladding contractor, we were appointed to install an Alimak APF Transport Platform – the specification required by Seele to transport their many cladding panels was a minimum loading area of 7.5 metres x 4.0 metres clear and 4000kgs lifting capacity - this twin masted Hoist was positioned on support steels set below level 2 and served ALL levels from 2>12. This required a high degree of design input due to the temporary works required – installed by the site tower cranes, but dismantled manually and removed via level 2 once split in to its smallest component parts. Due to the restricted site access and high levels of site traffic – the main traffic flow of vehicles passed underneath the Hoists at level 2 – a protection deck/access deck was erected by Benchmark Scaffolding.



The contract for ‘5 Broadgate’ was awarded on recommendation from the same team we worked with back in 2010 on the Park House Project on Oxford Street...it is a relationship built on trust.

Benchmark Hoists setting the standards...the story continues

Steve Crompton—Sales Director  
London Region

### Site Instructions for Driverless Hoist - Cage Operation

Operating Instructions	Safety Instructions	Emergency Lowering Instructions
<p><b>Door must be kept closed</b></p> <p>Close all landing and cage gates.</p> <p>Press button for landing required or press up/down direction button.</p> <p>ENT to enter CLR to clear</p> <p>When hoist has stopped Open gates and exit</p> <p><b>Door must be kept closed</b></p> <p>Close all landing and cage gates.</p>	<p><b>In the event of fire do not use this lift</b></p> <p>Do NOT use hoist in event of fire</p> <p><b>Emergency stop</b></p> <p>Vacate at next available landing if alarm sounds</p> <p>Press alarm if hoist stops between landings.</p> <p>Only use for a genuine emergency</p> <p>Do NOT overload the hoist</p> <p>Distribute load evenly, and keep inside the cage</p> <p>Only use emergency lowering if hoist stops between landings</p> <p>Report any unusual noise</p>	<p><b>Power Off</b></p> <p>Press RED emergency stop button</p> <p><b>Break Glass</b></p> <p>Obtain key and remove padlock</p> <p><b>Pull Lever - hoist descends slowly</b></p> <p>Lower to next landing level only</p> <p>Stop cage floor level with landing to allow exit</p> <p>Replace padlock and key</p> <p><b>Exit cage</b></p> <p>Shut all gates</p> <p>Report breakdown</p>

# The new twins are ready for action

Our Barnsley branch have just taken delivery of two shiny new pickup trucks to help us deliver our ongoing service contract with Yorkshire Water. We have been particularly busy with this customer lately and so we have committed to these two new vehicles, and another one due in January 2015, so that we can off hire a couple of rental vehicles, scrap one of our own that has seen better days, and start to fly our flag all over Yorkshire with our smart new trucks.



The other photo shows that our Yorkshire Water boys don't mind getting their hands dirty in their quest to serve our customers.

On this particular site: Caldervale Sewage Treatment Works, they appear to have got more than their hands dirty but apparently they are as happy as pigs in ...



I think they deserve new pickups.

**Mark Bradbury**  
Depot Manager  
Northern Region



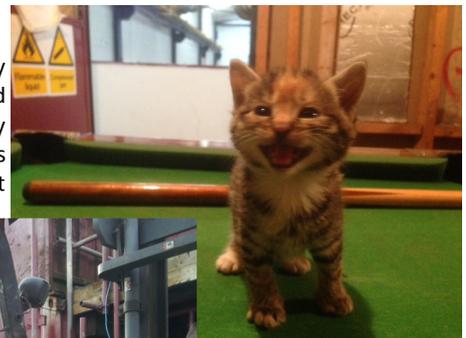
Carl Payling, Marc Schofield & Paul Meadows

## Barnsley's yard cat

Chris White, our yard foreman in Barnsley Branch, has adopted a feral cat that regularly visited our yard, mainly we believe, in search of some food, she was undernourished and scrawny, Chris used to try and tempt her out from under packs of tube, when he eventually got to handle her she didn't like been handled, this cat was certainly not tame; it took Chris quite a while of picking her up in sturdy gloves before he could risk bare hands on her but now they have bonded they are inseparable and she follows him everywhere and even rides around the yard on the back of the forklift whilst Chris is driving it, Chris named her Galore and when he comes into work on a morning he shouts her by name and she always comes running. Galore has had two litters of kittens 1<sup>st</sup> litter she had 2 kittens only one survived which Chris adopted and took it home with him and 2<sup>nd</sup> litter she had 5 kittens which were all adopted by Benchmark employees, she has since had a visit to the vet which means there will be no more kittens.

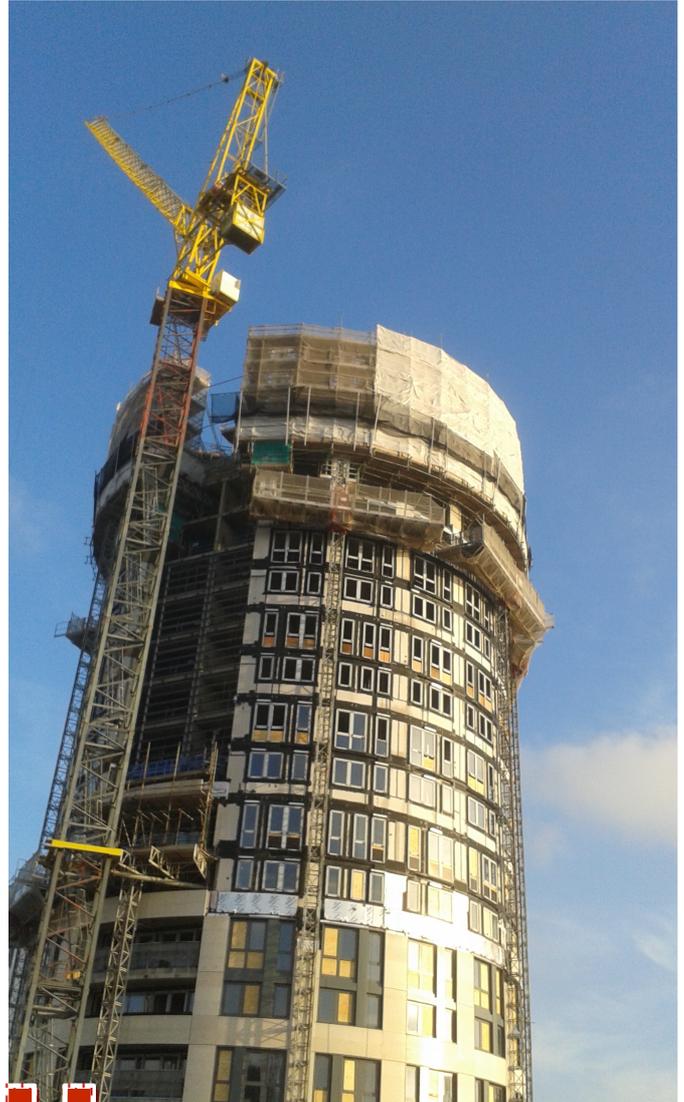
These kittens look healthy enough – one went to Chris himself, one went to his Mum, Cain our Regional Director took one, Shane Doughty, one of our drivers took another and Steve Crossland, one of our operatives had the last two.

**Mark Bradbury—Depot Manager**  
Northern Region



## Pussy Galore





# Eagle House

During the past year Daren Redgrave & his team of Andy Bambridge, Michael Tayber, Alan Hardy & Conner Byrne have been working on the Eagle House project for Mount Anvil Construction. The latest part of this highly complex scaffolding contract involved constructing a high level cantilever from Level 23, with a fully boarded scaffold up to the roof some three floors above.

The structure includes up to 50 lines of cantilevered steel & alloy scaffold beams that in some positions project out up to 4.0m at over 200 feet over the street below.

Bob Young—Technical Director  
London Region

# Benchmark Monthly Safety Awards

The monthly Company safety award has been reintroduced, the well-deserved recipients of this award for the previous months are stated below.

The award is a whopping £100 worth of High Street Vouchers, not Marks & Spencer vouchers as stated in the previous edition of Benchpress. The High Street Vouchers are extremely versatile and can be redeemed at various retailers such as Halfords, Homebase, Argos, Debenhams and includes some restaurants and theme parks. Definitely a prize worth winning!

## Clifford's Inn



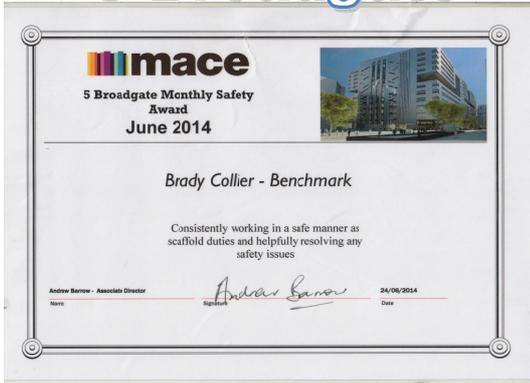
### Tom Venables & Vic Schneider

Vinci Project Manager, Tom Roche, presented vouchers to Tom Venables and Vic Schneider of Benchmark Scaffolding for their use of The Safe Start Team Briefing carried out each morning before any works are carried out. This is one of the elements that went towards Benchmark Scaffolding finishing top of The Safety Performance League Table for May & June. Each received £25 in Vouchers, which were matched with £25 each worth of High Street Vouchers from Benchmark.

### Bradey Collyer

Andrew Barrow of Mace, 5 Broadgate, presented Bradey Collyer with the individual Monthly Safety Award, for consistently working in a safe manner and helpfully resolving any safety issues. He received £60 in vouchers, which were matched with the same value of High Street Vouchers from Benchmark.

## 5 Broadgate



**Peter Booth**  
Company Safety Manager

## August Safety Award



The Monthly Safety Award goes to Dave Carpenter, Place of Westminster for highlighting the dangers of the dust in the vent towers and prompting everyone to work safely and wear masks.

Ismeal Pope—Site Manager from Sisk, would like to pass on his thanks to our Chris White and Lisle Aylett, for their efforts towards safety whilst on site at Maiden Lane.

It is with the efforts of Chris and Lisle that we can achieve and maintain a safe working environment for all here at Maiden Lane.



# September Safety Award

The Monthly Safety Award goes to Russ Mann, Damian Moxon & Jonathan Boothroyd. Whilst working on a Tolent site in Guiseley, West Yorkshire, Russ and his team were erecting scaffold to remove balconies, unbeknown to them Tolents Safety Manager was conducting a site inspection at the same time and he observed our scaffolders for quite a long time. Without wishing to stop them working he continued with his inspection and upon his return to his office he wrote an email to Billy Wood praising them all for doing everything by the book, working in a safe and controlled manner and wearing their harnesses with secured lanyards.



# October Safety Award

The Monthly Safety Award goes to William Wilson, at Harvey Hadden sports complex in Nottingham for running an excellent site, making sure all his scaffolders comply with the strict Carillion rules and procedures and passing a Mark Clark audit.



**Safety first. Second nature.**

## Greenwich Sq. Safety Award Scheme

The October award goes to Glyn Blackham from...



Micky Harrington receives his certificate from Ray Carter, Project Manager for Lend Lease, for winning the safety award for the month at Woolwich Barracks.



Glyn Blackham was chosen for the award for controlling the area where Benchmark have been striking the scaffold around Block 1 in a safe manner. He always ensures the area is kept clear and considers other operatives safety working in the area. His experience and likeliness to co-operate with other trades has also been acknowledged.

If you've recently had a new addition to your family,  
or have a birthday coming up  
send us a photo to the Barnsley office  
and we'll make sure we show them in the next edition.  
Or you could email us:

**barnsley@benchmarkscaffolding.com**



It gives me great pleasure to confirm that Scaffolder Charlie Walker was voted unanimously by the Black Hats to be awarded the Safety Award for October.

He has the right attitude with a friendly manner which the Black Hats like.

I think due to his politeness he is becoming a favoured member of your team.

He's been very helpful with the other contractors assisting them whenever he is required.

So we have given him the Project Slam safety trophy for October, accompanied with a certificate and a M&S Voucher for £25.

**Ray Carter—Senior Site Manager  
Debut Services Ltd**

Our *vision* is to be the scaffolding contractor of choice to our customers and employer of choice to our people.

Our *mission* is to not only "Set the Standards" but to progressively and continuously raise them across all aspects of our business.



## November Safety Award

The Monthly Safety Award goes to Charlie Walker, Woolwich Barracks, Lend Lease for noticing that 4 physical ties had been removed from a section of scaffold. These ties are very important to the stability of the scaffold. He replaced all the ties immediately and then informed his line manager.

### Contact Numbers & Offices

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*Setting the Standards*