

BENCHPRESS

Hello everyone and, if the printing went to plan and the postal service did not let us down, you should be reading this just before Christmas. We have just had a great record breaking year with another million pounds invested in new materials and replacement vehicles, also we have just posted pre tax profits of over £1,000,000, in the year to 30th June 2015, on a turnover of £17 million. These profits will help fund ongoing investment as we continue to freshen up our slightly tired fleet of lorries as well as further spending on materials to support further controlled profitable growth. We are pursuing a policy of sustainable growth working from a solid financial base, working with chosen customers on technically challenging prestigious projects, where our technical expertise, coupled with experienced and skilled operatives, can give us the edge - our speciality!

We have hired a couple of new staff members, to strengthen our design and safety departments respectively, but we are not chasing turnover although we do anticipate pushing on towards £20 Million in the year to June 2016.



Recently we arranged a site visit at the Palace of Westminster for some of our office based staff so they could see at first hand the sort of complex work that we undertake. Bob Young, our Technical Director, and Danny McCarthy, Site Manager, escorted them on the visit and I understand it was a bit of an eye opener for those who went - I think they now understand better what Benchmark are all about and why we have to decline numerous enquiries to price house front scaffolds. Photos on this page record the visit.



Apart from the usual message of please continue to work safely and "if it is not safe do not do it" I have little else to report so I have added a few quiz questions on the following page for you to have a go at. Answers will be on the back page of the newsletter but do have a go at them before you look. As always I thank you all for your efforts and loyalty and I hope that you all have a peaceful and contented Christmas with your loved ones.

Regards
Rob West
Managing Director



BENCHMARK SCAFFOLDING



Setting the Standards

Issue 28
Winter 2015



We have recently started work with CPC Civils and Brenbuild Ltd who are subcontracting to Carillion to develop a flood defence scheme for the Lower Don Valley (LDV) in Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

The LDV is a critical economic area for Sheffield, second only to the city centre, but was devastated during the floods in 2007. The scheme will involve improved defences at over 50 works locations along an 8km stretch of the River Don between the Wicker and the Blackburn Brook at the M1. The aim is to protect over 250 businesses and thousands of jobs, as well as ensuring that the LDV remains an attractive place for new investment and a great place to do business. In particular, improved flood protection should help businesses in the area secure flood risk insurance, and potentially at more competitive rates.

Once the Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan balsam had been safely removed we embarked on a waterside adventure that required the mechanical levelling off of the rivers banking, where there was one. Where the locations were even more challenging we used a trussed out suspended scaffold.

Flood Defence Scheme

LDV

The unusual location and the difficulties of the terrain has made this an interesting project. Working on a river bank has required various scaffolding solutions but this is to be expected with this type of work.

Billy Wood—Operations Manager/SHE Advisor
Northern Region

Quiz Time

- a. What has four fingers and a thumb but is not living?
- b. What begins with E and ends with E but only has one letter in it?
- c. What three different numbers come to the same sum when added together or multiplied together?
- d. What is the tallest building in the World?
- e. A man goes 8 days without sleep how can this be so?
- f. What is greater than God, more evil than the devil, the rich want it, the poor have it and if you eat it you will die?
- g. Which top six sport in the world has four letters and starts with a T? (slight cheat on this one - it works better verbally)
- h. What is it that the more you take the more you leave behind?
- i. What two things can't you have for breakfast?
- j. You drop a small coin into a bottle and insert a cork in the neck. How do you get the coin out without taking the cork out or breaking the bottle?
- k. Following this pattern: a slow dance, an Asian Country, a ball sport, a place to stay, what is the girls name?
- l. Two girls are born of the same Mother, on the same day, of the same month, of the same year but they are not twins - how can this be?
- m. I can only live where there is light, but I die if the light shines on me. What am I?
- n. Every night I'm told what to do, and each morning I do what I'm told. But I still don't escape your scold?

You may well get most of those above but here is one for the real puzzle experts – so difficult that I had to check that the solution did actually work ...and it does.

- o. You are shown into a darkened room and seated in front of a table that you are told has 32 coins on it. 12 show heads and 20 show tails but you cannot see anything in the dark. You can touch the coins but you cannot tell by feeling which show heads and which show tails. How can you divide the coins into two piles each showing an equal number of heads?

July Safety Award

The monthly safety award goes to the team at Catford (Barratts) for raising the bar in safety and being commended by Barratts.

Richard Lewis won a £100 M&S voucher at Sisk, Clapham for winning the monthly site safety award.

Fabio Wilbraham won a £10 Scratch card at Sisk, Clapham for being recognised by Sisk for working in a safe manner.



August Safety Award

The safety award goes to Tom Venables (Sisk, Wembley) for consistently running a very good site with high standards of scaffolds, working with a large number of operatives and having minimal incidents.

September Safety Award

The monthly award goes to Danny Jones, Yard Operative Barnsley, for always wearing the correct PPE, always working in a safe manner and never having to be told how to carry out his duties safely.

October Safety Award

The monthly safety award goes to TT for being recognised by Lendlease for having Good PPE, Good safety awareness, Good collaboration and Good Co-Ordination.

George Rittenberg, Paul Rittenberg, Paul Lockwood, Dave Roberts, Tim Peters, Matt Tibalsk and Alan Colyer won the Sky monthly safety award and received £20 in vouchers each for their commitment to safety.



November Safety Award

The monthly Safety award goes to Lawrence Adesanya for when working on the Lucozade sign in Brentford, noticed that a large amount of sheeting was being blow off an unoccupied building site on the other side of the M4. He called the police and when they turned up he informed them of the dangers to the vehicles on the M4.

Raul Soto at Sisk site, Maiden Lane won a £5 voucher for his safe working practices and BSL also came second on the leader board for October.



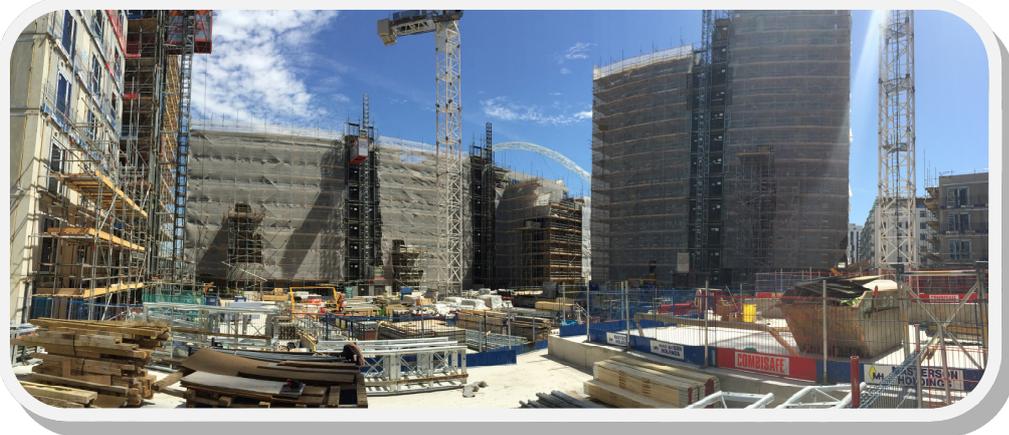
Some of our clients



clients

Benchmark makes Wembley their home ground again

London were awarded the next phase of the ongoing Wembley Park redevelopment by John Sisk & Son at the beginning of 2015. The value of the order was £1.232 million. The scheme was to supply tube and fitting external brickwork access scaffolding to seven blocks which range from eight storeys to seventeen storeys high. It also included numerous loading bays and hoist run-off towers. All the scaffolds are covered in Monarflex sheeting to elevations over public areas and debris netting on the site facing elevations.

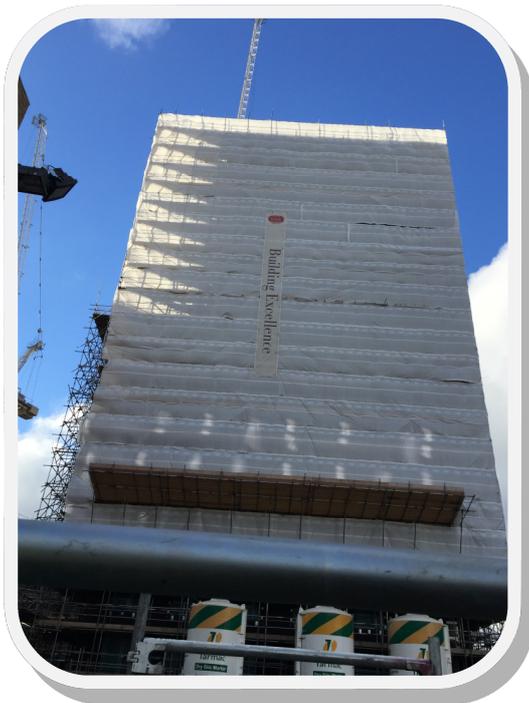


Tom Venables and his team of experienced scaffolders, including his trusty lieutenants, Vic Schneider and Mark Gallagher, are carrying out the works. Tom and Vic have been working at Wembley on the various projects since early 2011. To date the value of the works Benchmark has carried out at Wembley is in excess of £4 million.

The project itself is to build 475 homes in the seven blocks. The buildings are a concrete frame construction, with a Metsec and Panablock internal insulation wall system and a brick work external skin. The value of the overall contract to John Sisk & Son is approximately £32.3 million.

The first three blocks will be dismantled by early December 2015

Eamonn Golledge—Contracts Manager
London Region



Sparky's new vehicle looks nice and clean - doubt it will stay like that for long since he runs all of our Yorkshire Water works.



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



Project 2



Palace of Westminster

The complex scaffold structures for Project 2 are now well advanced; this is now the third major stage of works that we have undertaken for Shepley Engineers Limited.

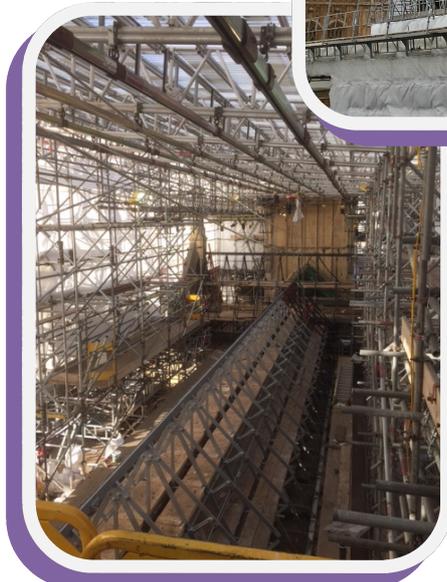
The Riverside Vent Tower and the West Tower are both fully erected now and this enables the cast iron structures to be dismantled, refurbished and rebuilt.

The Vent Tower is built from a complex base of 750 alloy bridging beams whilst the West Tower is constructed from push/pull scaffold brackets fixed to the base of the stone structure.

Both scaffolds include full access with multiple Niko track lifting arrangements for the removal and replacement of the iron structures and cast iron slates.

Project 3 is due to start in 2016 and we have been working on the design and methodology for some time so are hopeful of securing that work in the near future.

**Bob Young – Technical Director
London Region**



Iconic Lucozade sign gets a refit

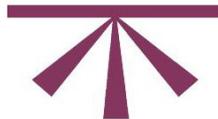
We were contracted by Electronic Display Services Limited, to design and install a technically challenging scaffold around three sides of a building in Brentford that supports the iconic “Lucozade Replaces Lost Energy” sign beside the elevated section of the M4 in West London. The sign is being removed and replaced with two new modern LED signs, one on each side of the building.

Apart from an access tower in the rear court yard, all the scaffolding is either bridged off adjoining walls or cantilevered out from the internal steel work.

Lawrence Adesanya, Graham Smith, Charlie Walker and Jamie Brooks were the team that put this one successfully together with the design being a joint venture between Alan Abraham and Joe Laffar.

The original sign was erected on another building 200 metres away in 1954. That sign was taken down in 2004 and due to it being fairly delicate after 50 years is now in the nearby Gunnersbury Museum. The current digital replica sign was erected in 2010.

Eamonn Golledge—Contracts Manager
London Region



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

