

BENCHPRESS

ACCREDITATIONS - Who Needs Them?

Well, that all depends upon who you want to work for and how much work you want to do. Long gone are the days when contractors used to send out tenders on a scatter gun approach to any and everyone and just select the lowest price from those who returned their bid.

Nowadays, our industry is heavily influenced by Health & Safety statistics, Environmental and Sustainability lobbyists, Ethical trading and Equality practices. This means that we have to have Company Policies and Procedures in place that meet the requirements of all these elements and their demanding standards, plus many more. Contractors now only deal with those companies who have been selected to join their supply chains and membership to these prestigious groups only occurs following thorough pre-qualification processes.



The first pre-requisite to working for the larger companies is to demonstrate that we have a quality management system that can be evidenced by a nationally approved (UKAS) body, and this is verified by attaining accreditation in the British Standard ISO 9001. This we have held since 2008.

The giant 'Blue Chip' companies, such as Lend Lease, Mace, Balfour Beatty, Sir Robert McAlpine, Skanska and British Land require their contractors to hold an accreditation in "Building Confidence", and this we also attained in 2008.



In more recent years, we have extended our activities to include working on Network Rail projects around the UK, with operatives trained and qualified to construct scaffolds in the risk intensive track-side environment.



This can only occur in companies with an accreditation known as "Link-up", which we attained in 2009.

This year, we attained accreditation to CHAS (the Constructors Health And Safety scheme), thanks to the hard work of Peter Booth and Billy Wood and this will add to our chances of procuring more work in the Northern Region.



For the last year, we have ceased to be a member of the NASC, the national trade body of our industry.

Initially, we were concerned that this would dent our customers' perception of the quality of service that they had always seen as a given from us, and that this may impact upon our future work prospects.

However, our key client base acknowledges that the level of commitment we provide them with remains as high as ever, and they continue to support us. The accreditations achieved, and retained are all endorsements of the excellent service they know they can expect in all new projects. I thank all the many members of Benchmark that have helped us to achieve these valuable accolades.

Graham Pope, Director & General Manager

The Lloyd's Building, London



Hanwell branch has been contracted to erect access and protection scaffolds, with back propping through two basements to the facade of one of the most photographed buildings in the City of London.

The building, which is often nick named the “inside-out” building was built between 1978 and 1986. It was designed by Richard Rogers and built by Bovis. It is the home of the insurance institution “Lloyd’s of London”.

The reason for it’s nickname is that it was cleverly designed with all the services, ie. 12 glass lifts, 6 stair cores, electrical and plumbing services, all built on the outside of the building, leaving vast, uncluttered, space throughout the inside of the building. The focal point of the building is the large Underwriting Room on the ground floor, which houses the famous Lutine Bell, that is only rung when a ship sinks at sea. There is an enormous atrium in the centre of the building that is 60 metres high and covered by a huge barrel vaulted glass roof that supplies natural light throughout the building.

33,510 cubic metres of concrete, 30,000 square metres of stainless steel and 12,000 square metres of glass went into the structure.

The twelve glass lifts all face out from the building and apart from the stairs, are the only way to access the upper floors. The building is 88 metres high from basement to roof level.

Our site manager Danny McCarthy and his team have overcome many logistical problems, liaising with The City of London highways department, with all deliveries and collections having to be made between the hours of 6.00am and 8.00am each day. Danny has achieved all the programme dates so far to the satisfaction of both our client Osprey Contracts Limited and the building management, with little or no effect on the day to day running of the building, which has remained open every day during the works.

Eamonn Gollledge—Contracts Manager
London Region



SAFETY AWARDS

March

Paul Meadows (Bardsley Construction, Oyster Park School, Castleford) won the Northern award for running an excellent site with good communication with the Principal Contractor and the other sub-contractors. This resulted in no accidents or incidents on his site.

Doug Keady (Lloyds Building) won the London award for starting earlier every day, ensuring that all the exclusion zones are in place. This reduced contact with the public and the professional way he handled the public, when needed, is to be commended.

April

Mark Knitter (Estimator) won the Northern award for when leaving site walking along a designated route late in the afternoon, nearly struck a scaffold tube (not BSL) positioned at eye level. Mark placed a mushroom on the tube then informed Laing O'Rourke who gave instruction for this to be rectified.

May

Damien Moxon (Bardsley Construction) won the Northern award for being recognised by the client's Safety Director for his attitude to safety and excellent scaffolding on his site.

Paul Murray (Mace, Park House) won the London award for good control of his labour and knowledge of their capabilities and ensuring that they work in a safe environment. This resulted in minimal safety issues on site.

Lottie

As you may or may not be aware Lottie, in our Barnsley office, retired on Friday 29th June 2012 and we would just like to wish her all the best in her retirement and to thank her for all her hard work & kindness over the past few years.

Lottie will be enjoying relaxing in her beautiful garden and

looking after her little granddaughter Lucy, who is just a few months old.

In between baby-sitting and gardening, Lottie will be back again in September for a couple of weeks to cover holidays but then it will be back to enjoying her lazy days relaxing in her garden watching little Lucy play.

A big THANK YOU to you again Lottie, the office won't be the same without you singing in the background.

Race for Life

CANCER RESEARCH UK

Every two minutes someone in the UK is told they have cancer. Help me to help Cancer Research raise as much money as possible so they can continue with their groundbreaking research into a cure for cancer.

On the 22nd July 2012, me and my little girl Macie, will be joining thousands of other women to do 'Race for Life'. Why not join in your local event, or you could sponsor us and donate as much as you wish by putting the following address straight into your web address bar:

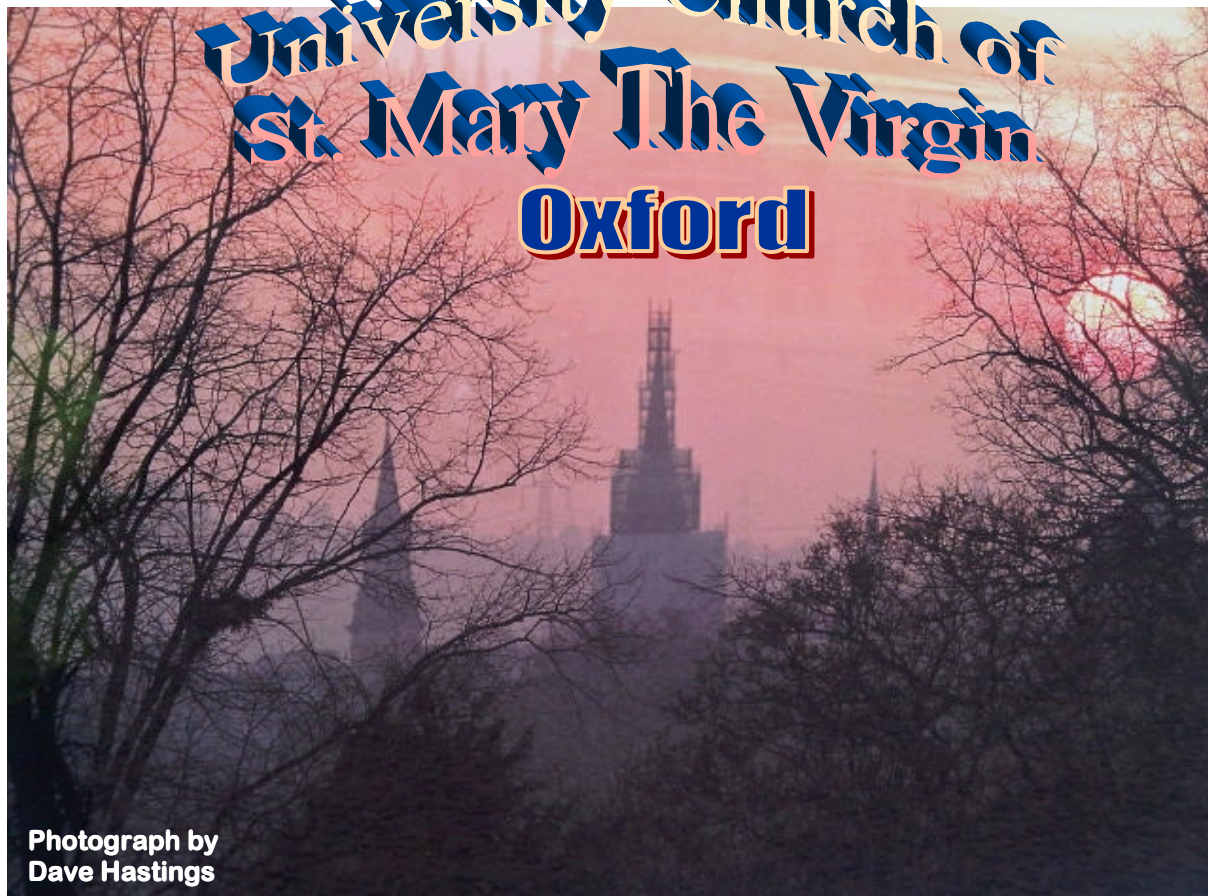
www.raceforlifesponsorme.org/georginabradbury2

Georgina Bradbury—Office Manager
Northern Region

If you've recently had a new addition to your family,
or 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

University Church of St Mary The Virgin Oxford



Photograph by
Dave Hastings

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.

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Setting the Standards