

BENCHPRESS

Hello everyone and I hope that you are all enjoying the summer so far. The theme of this first article is safety. Now I know you will think that safety cannot be a theme; it is just something that we do and, that most of the time, we are good at. It is part of our culture right throughout our business because we all believe that every one of us has the right to come to work and go home safely every day. Admittedly those of you who are office based face far less risk of injury than those of you out on site and in our yards. Yes, you could get a nasty paper cut or have a mishap with a stapler but the risks are far lower. It's out on site where we need to raise the bar again, that is where you could harm yourself, a colleague, or a member of the public at any time.

We recently had an incident in which a scaffold tube fell from level 32 of a tower block in London and punched through the floor of a balcony 20 floors below at level 12. We were lucky – the tube could have bounced off the balcony and flown out into another part of the site or even out into the adjacent road injuring or even killing fellow workers or members of the public. We cannot rely on luck. The scaffolder involved was one of our longest serving, most experienced, operatives. He had an accident free record, of which he was rightly very proud, but that all counts for nothing if your actions result in somebody being hurt. The tube that was dropped was not our tube; it should not have been attached to our structure but it was and we must be aware that sometimes our scaffolds are interfered with or modified by others. We must be vigilant, always stand back and assess the structure when you arrive to dismantle, adapt or even continue erecting, any of our scaffolds – look for anything out of place. A few minutes doing this before you start will not impact anyone's plans or programme too much but an accident could cost a life.

As a result of this incident we have reviewed our systems and now believe that we can improve our focus and attention to detail, particularly relating to unplanned works and not specifically referred to tasks within the broader RAMS (risk assessment / method statement), by introducing a modified version of our task specific RAMS. This comes in triplicate books but with helpful prompts (in red) inside the cover page to remind the author of what he needs to consider in completing the new document on the adjacent page. See example below.

BENCHMARK SCAFFOLDING		0001	
Task Specific RAMS for <small>Type of scaffolding (independent/birdcage/etc.) and its location. Also whether we are erecting, dismantling or adapting.</small>			
Customer Site	<small>The Company paying for the scaffold and the site name</small>	Date	<small>Date this RAMS was produced</small>
Customer Contact	<small>The person who gave the instruction to erect this scaffold</small>	Start Date	<small>The proposed start date of the work</small>
Author/Responsible Person	<small>The person completing this RAMS who will be responsible for monitoring compliance</small>	Duration	<small>e.g. 3 days</small>
Description of Works		Drawing No. <small>add number here</small>	
<small>Describe what the scaffold is to be, i.e. independent tied scaffold, 12m long x 20m high (10x2m lifts) fully boarded with ladder access and monarflex type sheeting, for cladding works. Also attach sketch or drawing if applicable</small>			
Sequence of Works			
<small>This section is how you erect the scaffold, you should think about what you should include:</small>			
<small>Exclusion zone (marshalled/signage), protection etc., maybe a simple sketch on top of a builders drawing showing exclusion zones/fans</small>			
<small>What equipment you need:</small>			
<small>Scaffolders' step, inertia retrieval blocks, running lines, fixed lanyards.</small>			
<small>For inertia retrieval blocks and running line, state what they are secured to.</small>			
<small>How it is the structure to be tied.</small>			
<small>Ensure exclusion zone in place with signage and marshalled</small>			
<small>Erect scaffold placing ties every 2 lifts by 2 bays. Using the scaffolders step to fix advanced handrail (working to SG4:10). Place Combi fans on second lift then raise after every 3 lifts have been erected. When the scaffold is full height place monarflex sheeting. Remove Combi fans.</small>			
Task Specific Risk Requiring Control			
<small>Falling objects</small>			
<small>Risk of fall from height - operatives</small>			
<small>Other workers in the vicinity</small>			
<small>Member of the public in the vicinity</small>			
Measures to Control Risk			
<small>Exclusion zone in place with combi fans raised every 6m of scaffold raised</small>			
<small>Attach lanyards to inside ledger when working on scaffolders step. (working to SG4:10)</small>			
<small>Exclusion zone marshalled ensuring other workers/members of the public do not enter.</small>			
<small>If you have any doubt regarding the suitability of this RAMS for the task in hand STOP!</small>			
<small>Consult with Safety Department before proceeding.</small>			
Task Supervisor	Competency	Rescue Procedure	Permits Required
<small>This is the leading hand</small>	<small>Scaffolder</small>	<small>Number</small>	<small>Yes/No</small>
	<small>Advanced Scaffolder</small>	<small>1 or 2</small>	<small>Attach copy</small>
	<small>SSSTS/SMSTS</small>		

Attach Sign-off Sheet

I believe that the use of this revised document, where appropriate, on tasks that are not detailed in the wider site specific RAMS will enable us to ensure that we approach each element of work having properly assessed the risks, and with a clear plan of how the work is to be executed safely. Our Directors, Managers and Safety Team will be distributing these books explaining how to use them and subsequently checking on their implementation so please ensure they are introduced straight away.

This is an ideal opportunity for me to remind everyone of our **WORKSAFE POLICY** which is to be found in your employee handbook and is explained at every new employee induction. You will all be familiar with this policy but to reiterate: **if it is not safe don't do it** – we want you to refuse to work if you believe that the work in question presents a danger to yourself or anyone else. You will never be penalised in any way for invoking this refusal to work procedure.

Finally, we must always be thinking about working more safely; it must be front and centre of everything we do. We collaborate with our main customers to share best practice and to engage with other trades who share our sites. In this photograph two of our most experienced site managers, Gary Pike (centre) and Dave Crawford (right of Gary) participate in a black hats event with Lendlease where 44 attendees apparently had 819 years of experience between them. This is just another way to gather ideas and to share initiatives so if any of you have ideas on how we can make *our Company* safer please let me know.



Regards,
Rob West – Managing Director

BENCHMARK SCAFFOLDING



Setting the Standards

HCA Shard

Benchmark Scaffolding and Hoists working together at the HCA Shard Fit Out.

HCA Landlords Works – Structure Tone and Collins Construction.

The HCA landlords works are to provide the external access and infrastructure for the HCA medical facilities being built within the Shard.

The works consists of the construction of two new scenic glass lifts positioned off Joiner Street, a new reception area at ground floor, service diversions and structural strengthening to facilitate the lift installations, new power upgrades and floor strengthening works for the HCA MRI scanner.

As part of the works package a temporary compound with hoisting facilities is also being provided to facilitate the fitting out of the new HCA floors between Levels 4 > 8.

Benchmark Scaffolding and Hoists were appointed to design and build the scaffold runoffs to suit the proposed works. This entailed a detailed design for the Hoist to be installed with the first tie located at underside of level 5 approximately 18.5 metres above base level – the Hoist is tied to the scaffold structure, which has been designed to transfer the loads back to the structural steels below the floor.

The fit out has been carried out in two stages with works to Level 8 complete, the scaffold and Hoist has been dismantled to Levels 4>6 and we are now in the process of planning the adaption of the scaffold deck at Level 5 to accommodate the positioning of the new MRI units weighing 9T each and measuring 1.5m x 2.5m x 2.0m Ht, which will be craned in to position on the scaffold deck and then transferred in to the building.

This further demonstrates the successful collaboration of Benchmark Scaffolding and Hoists, where the total design solution was of a significant benefit to the client.

Benchmark Scaffolding site manager is Gary Pike and Hoist site manager Graham Parker.

The photos show the Hoist and scaffold erected to Level 8.

**Steve Crompton — Sales Director
London Region**





Barry Lane, Contracts Manager – London Region, was recognised recently by British Land at a ceremony held on 9th June at Jamie Oliver's restaurant "FIFTEEN". Barry, far left in the group shot, is also shown receiving his "Award for Excellence" from Karina Williams of British Land.

Well done Barry your recognition reflects well on the Company and the event gave you the perfect opportunity to ask Mark Byrne for a pay rise – see separate article later.



Even Galore think Safety First



You may recall, from the previous edition of Benchpress, that "Taff" (Chris White – he's not even Welsh) adopted a feral cat; named Galore, and distributed it's babies (well – kittens to be precise) to various Benchmark colleagues.

On 03/03/15 Chris and his partner, Lynsey, had a baby of their own. Welcome Ethan! But, as you can see, Dad still has a soft spot for Galore who now is so tame that she rides on the forklift with him whilst loading our lorries in Barnsley yard.

Mark Bradbury—Depot Manager
Northern Region



Banqueting House

n Benchmark scaffolding have just completed a large duo pitch span roof over the prestigious Banqueting House in Whitehall for Gardiner & Theobald. The Scaffold which was required to be designed with limited ties had to rely on butting either side of the building to provide lateral stability.

The front and side elevations are fitted with a magnificent banner which shows the façade of the building at either end, with an exploded view revealing the inner works of art that are displayed under the ceiling of the main hall.



The Contracts was managed by Danny McCarthy and was built by Ray, Chris & Dave Carpenter, J Henry, K Pieper, A Parchment, D Redgrave, D Keady, P Kench, R Calvert, P Smith, L Goh L Mullins, Oj Roynon, M Harrington, B Roynon, S Dabbs, with weekends L Abisanya, D Harding, D Clarke & R Harris.

Hope we haven't missed anyone and well done to all on a great looking job.

Bob Young—Technical Director
London Region



December Safety Award ★

The Monthly Safety & Individual Safety Award goes to Bradley Roynon, Catford, £50 & £100. The monthly Safety bonus was for identifying several near misses on site and actioning them immediately, one of which was other site operatives had removed edge protection handrail leaving a serious potential for falls from height. He replaced them then informed the site management.

January Safety Award ★

The Monthly Safety Award goes to Dave Hasting who won the monthly site £25 safety bonus for his helpful attitude in safety related issues. He has also won several breakfast vouchers whilst on site.

Scott Dundas who won the monthly £100 Safety bonus, on the ISG, Ripon site for impressing the ISG management by continually wearing and using his PPE and working in a safe manner.

Colin Crispino won the safety award at Wates Marylebone, for doing a safe start every morning, with the Wates manager. He received a pair of safety boots to the value £75.00.

February Safety Award ★

The Monthly Safety Award goes to Lee Jones, Mace at BSKyB for pointing out that most of the Haki staircases erected by Morris Roe, had not been erected to the Haki guide. Also he pointed out that scaffolders (not Benchmark) were working on a temporary roof without any edge protection.

Mitchell Lane at Wates Marylebone, who won the safety award for a near miss card that identified a possible action that could have resulted in an injury were it not for his actions and near miss card. He received a £50 pair of boots.



March Safety Award ★

The Monthly Safety Award goes to Jamie Guppy, Mace at BSKyB for impressing Mace managers with his attention to safety and for being very helpful with safety matters. He also won the individual monthly site safety award and he received £20 pounds in vouchers.





Sammy Ofer Centre

Benchmark Scaffolding have just completed this complex scaffold around the 35m high tower at the Sammy Ofer Centre in London for Wates Construction. The scaffold structure was required to be braced off the vertical walls with no supports to ground available, this was achieved using scaffold brackets made with ladder beams and rakers fixed to the face using push pull brackets each fixed using 2no M16 Screwbolts. The project was managed by Russell Greenbrook and constructed by Colin Crispino, Mark Allix, Christain Lungan, Shane Wright, Perry Clifford, Paul Lockwood, Connor Byrne & Mitchell Lane.

Bob Young—Technical Director
London Region

Wates, London Business School, Wates compile a monthly safety matrix and it is very difficult to achieve 100 out of 100 on this format; difficult but not impossible because in May Benchmark were awarded the top mark of 100. Richard Schroll who heads up the London business for Wates also called me to commend our efforts on site and single out Russell Greenbrook for special recognition.



Rob West—Managing Director



Rob West celebrates completing his system scaffolding test in Valencia with a cold beer.

Apparently safety standards are not quite so stringent in Spain as they are here in the UK.

Giving Back

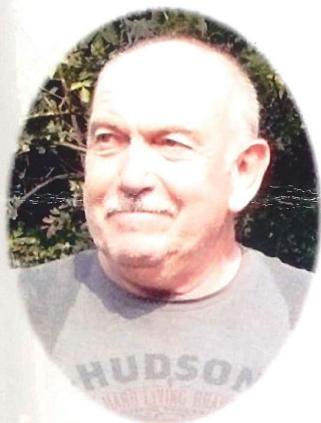
Just a little reminder that all of our hard work has unseen benefits – in May Benchmark was amongst the top 1% of charitable donors through JustGiving. As a company this year we have supported MacMillan Cancer Support, the Nepal earthquake relief, a wildlife conservation project in central Africa, Cancer Research UK, and many others. Long may it continue.



Stephanie West - PA to Rob West
London Region

Stephen Paul Turner

12th July 1954 – 5th June 2015



Greenacre Woodland Burials
Tuesday 23rd June 2015

Rest in Peace - Stephen Turner

We lost one of our Benchmark Family, on 5th June 2015, when Stephen Turner sadly lost his brave fight against asbestosis; a disease he contracted many years ago working in a factory as a young man. Stephen was a cheerful, dependable, and valued member of our team during the last decade and many of you showed your affection for him by generously donating to a collection, which Steve in turn passed to Macmillan Nurses, and also by visiting him in hospital during his final weeks. During his final days some of you even called on Steve whilst in the care of his loving sister Jaqueline who opened her home to allow you to visit. Stephen will be sadly missed by all who knew him.



We have upgraded our artic unit with a MAN TGX.26.440 shown here looking very impressive.

This workhorse can be seen all over Yorkshire, servicing our Northern Region, but you may also have seen it travelling up and down the M1 transferring our equipment between our Northern and Southern Branches.

Mark Bradbury—Depot Manager
Northern Region

MAN 440

Nearly a year ago Vicky left us on maternity leave and now she has returned, initially on a part time basis, to resume her duties as my PA and Company buyer.

She will be job sharing with my daughter, Stephanie, until the end of August when Stephanie moves to Valencia to complete her PhD.

Vicky has supplied us with this photo of baby Vivienne, or her little munchkin as she refers to her.

Rob West – Managing Director



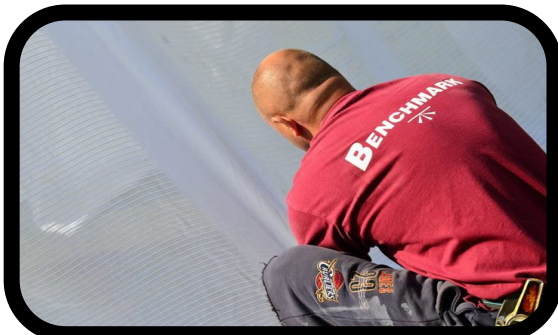
Blanket Tent



Benchmark Scaffolding, along with Mace, and a fundraising group called Challenge 12, has successfully set a new World Record; the largest Blanket Fort ever built. Yes its official we are world record holders...for now at least.

We supplied our labour and materials free of charge and even picked up the tab for 120 blankets which, once the challenge was complete, were passed on to local worthy causes. The record attempt took place in school grounds as part of a summer fete and we

understand that £3,000 was raised in association with our event.



Thanks go to Joe Laffar (design) Graham Laffar (planning and logistics - including pre assembling the A frames in the yard) Barry Lane - Site Manager on the day (and he actually got his spanner out again), and Cheslovas (AKA Cheesy) for putting the structure together.

Guinness World Record

April Safety Award

The monthly safety award goes to Luke Orman, Yorkshire Water, Calder Valley Incinerator. For, as scaffold materials were to be left overnight in an area that is used 24 hours, Luke erected physical barriers without being asked, preventing any persons or vehicles striking them in the dark.

John Sisk, St Johns Hill. Four of our scaffolders won £10 in scratch cards each for being seen to be working in a safe manner—Richard Lewis, Terrell Bernard, Pawel Misiura & Rory McCusker.

Darren Redgrave and his scaffolders, Mount Anvil, Eagle House won £100 in vouchers for their professional and safe manner of working while dismantling the colonnade scaffold. Mount Anvil considered this as a very high risk activity. This award will also go a long way in securing the Contractors Monthly Safety award.

May Safety Award

The safety award goes to Dave Crawford (Lendlease) for being recognised as outstanding black hats for the year and being invited to Regents place on Wednesday 27th for a celebratory dinner. Gary pike was also recognised for this award and went to the celebratory dinner .

Barry Lane, for having been selected as the winner of a British Land Excellence Award.

John Sisk, St Johns Hill. Three of our scaffolders won £10 in scratch cards each for being seen to be working in a safe manner—Richard Lewis, Fabio Wilbraham & Joe Walsh

Chris Lungen, Wates, London Business School won a pair of boots for noticing some rubble precariously placed above a working area and arranged for demo. men to remove it. He also will receive £50 from Benchmark.



Chris Lungen

June Safety Award

The safety award goes to Steve Dunn for his excellent work at St Johns Hill, Sisk project. Several of his men have won safety related awards, his paper work is up to date and correct, the scaffolds are very well constructed, the housekeeping is also very good and he is a very good communicator with his men and other trades including the Principal Contractor.



Berney and Florence appear to be really enjoying their holiday in Canada - seen here at Glacier Bay - presumably with a real glacier in the background.

Glacier Bay



Barry Lane suddenly realises that his plan to get Mark drunk before asking for a pay rise has failed abysmally.

1 Million RIDDOR free Hours...nearly.

Benchmark Scaffolding had nearly completed 1 million RIDDOR free hours works, since July 2013, working on projects that are of complex design, high-risk and high-profile. This proud record ended in March 2015 when we suffered 2 RIDDOR reportable incidents in one month after having gone 19 months without any. One involved a member of the public and the other; a scaffolder who fell five metres fracturing a bone in his heel. Hopefully this is just a setback; and we believe that the actions we have taken since will prevent this happening again. Despite the 2 RIDDOR's we can celebrate the fact that we had nearly one million hours under our belt reportable free. This demonstrates that our safety regime is working, this is reflected in the large number of scaffolders that have received individual site safety awards. Also that we cannot take our eye off the ball. Well done all.

This photo shows a complex design scaffold in the Palace of Westminster; the other side of this structure is beamed out over the River Thames and the entire scaffold is founded on the roof. You may have seen this scaffolding on the television, clearly making it high-profile and the risk to others, whilst erecting and dismantling, is also very high as we cannot stop our members of parliament working ...can we?



Paul Taylor, our Estimating Director, has a well known passion for the theatre and is a long standing member and chairman of Trinity Players, Barnsley.

Recently he has realised a long held wish to stage the play “Whose Life Is It Anyway” by Brian Clark.

“This is a beautifully written piece which deals in a humorous and sensitive way with a delicate issue that is as relevant today as it was when the play was first conceived back in the 1970’s” said Paul. “I was fortunate in having a very hard working and dedicated cast who gave a brilliant performance on Monday 25th May at Wakefield Drama Festival”. This festival takes place annually at the Theatre Royal & Opera House, Westgate – a lovely Victorian theatre dating from 1894.

Many people will be familiar with the identically named American film (starring Richard Dreyfuss) which followed the British play (starring Tom Conti). The central character, Ken Harrison, has been so severely injured in a car crash that he is totally paralysed; only his brain functions normally. He is being kept alive by the miracle of medicine, but wishes to die. This he could achieve by discharging himself from the hospital, but being wholly helpless has to gain the authorities’ consent. The play examines the moral and legal aspects of the situation, and the reactions of the hospital staff. Finally, the whole matter is laid before a judge who hears the evidence and gives his verdict.

Paul said “We had an amazingly good critique from Sue Doherty, the professional adjudicator, immediately after the performance and, at the awards night on Saturday 30th May, we did rather well!”

Trinity received eight nominations across virtually every possible category: ‘Best Presentation’; two nominations for ‘Best Supporting Actress’; ‘Best Supporting Actor’; ‘Best Actress’; two for ‘Best Actor’ and Paul himself was nominated for ‘Best Director’. Trinity walked away with cups for ‘Best Presentation’, ‘Best Actor’ and the overall ‘Second Place’.

Paul said that he felt enormous pride in his friends and colleagues in Trinity Players.

Pictured are of the full cast on stage at Wakefield. Also pictured are Andy Wild, who won the trophy for ‘Best Actor’ for his portrayal of Ken Harrison, and Paul Taylor holding the ‘Second Place’ and ‘Best Presentation’ trophies.

Whose Life Is It Anyway then transferred to The Lamproom Theatre, Barnsley for a four night run, 10th to 13th June.



Whose Life Is It Anyway

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

Girls on
the run

Race for Life

We're off again fighting for a good cause on Sunday 19th July 2015 we will be joining lots of other ladies around Pontefract Race Course raising money for Cancer Research UK.

My team this year comprises of myself, my two children Macie & Kori and my niece Melissa.

This charity is close to me and my family, which most of you will already know, if you can help us in anyway raise as much money as we can please visit our JustGiving page at:-

www.justgiving.com/georginabradbury



CANCER RESEARCH UK

Race for Life

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

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

Scaffold Desk



Mark Byrne, Operations Director London, pays a visit to Dave Crawford, Site Manager at Kingsgate House/ Lendlease, to find that Dave has constructed his site office desk from scaffold boards. "They are supposed to be on the scaffold" Mark commented, but Dave responded "if you had bought me a desk that's where they would be!"

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BENCHMARK SCAFFOLDING

Setting the Standards

