

# BENCHPRESS

## Now you see it, now you don't



Or rather you do, well some of it, if you see what I mean.

For those of you who have not already heard we have been "the subject of a burglary" as the police put it, but they are also "very sorry to hear of it", which of course helps to soften the blow somewhat!

Our new yard at Beckton, East London, was visited on the afternoon/evening of Sunday 24 February 2008, by persons unknown accompanied by a lorry or two and stole a significant quantity of tube, boards, beams, stair treads and several bins of fittings. Not content with the big stuff, they also took away various saws, drills, cutters etc, and then just for good measure they managed to squeeze the forklift truck in as well. No, seriously!

### Contact Numbers & Offices

**West London Office**  
**Waterside Trading Centre**  
**Trumpers Way**  
**Hanwell**  
**London**  
**W7 2QD**

**Tel: 020 8867 9977**

**Fax: 020 8867 9900**

**Email: [info@benchmarkscaffolding.com](mailto:info@benchmarkscaffolding.com)**

**Northern Region Office**  
**Max Darby House**  
**Valley Road**  
**Station Road Industrial Estate**  
**Wombwell, Barnsley**  
**S73 0BS**

**Tel: 01226 755 922**

**Fax: 01226 755 166**

**Email: [barnsley@benchmarkscaffolding.com](mailto:barnsley@benchmarkscaffolding.com)**

**East London Office**  
**1b, Whittings Way**  
**London Industrial Park**  
**Beckton, London**  
**E6 6LR**

**Tel: 020 7474 5346**

**Fax: 020 7511 6014**

**Email: [beckton@benchmarkscaffolding.com](mailto:beckton@benchmarkscaffolding.com)**  
**[www.benchmarkscaffolding.com](http://www.benchmarkscaffolding.com)**

This was obviously not your local scrap metal merchant with a pick-up truck just doing the Sunday rounds, this was a very organised hit by someone who knew exactly what they wanted.

There have since been a number of negotiations with various members of the police intelligence units, (can't say too much, nod nod, wink wink!) but remarkably a vehicle has been located and impounded at a port in Lithuania (for those that don't know, its slightly east of Barnsley, near Russia!) containing the forklift truck and about half of our stolen gear, pictured above.

All that remains to be done now is to recover the gear but, despite Mick, Renzo and Mark Bradbury offering (begging?) their services to go and collect, it is quite a difficult procedure involving lots of paperwork, Public Notaries and even the Foreign Office. We have therefore decided to use the services of an official "recovery agent" recommended by the police, who have experience in dealing with foreign authorities.

On the serious side, we are lucky to be able to recover half of our gear but the remainder is not likely to be found now. We should always be conscious of the value of our materials and try to look after them as if they were our own, both on sites, and in our yards. This is perhaps a timely reminder for us to re-evaluate our security measures and do everything possible to prevent future loss of our valued assets. It has been some time since we had a serious theft, it may not be long before someone tries their luck again!

# London's burning

On the morning of the 10 January I was called to one of my sites in the city of London. After wading through several firemen I was confronted with this a 25m high Chinese lantern. The building on fire was in the process of being demolished and was constructed from steel and wood. Demo men were cutting the steel at the top of the scaffold and the sparks ignited some wood at the base of the building in an open shaft. Because of the design of the scaffold it acted as a chimney creating a powerful updraft and within seconds the fire was raging. The demo men had to work their way down the scaffold almost through the fire itself (they were very shaken). The scaffold was clad in flame retardant Monar-flex, which prevented the fire spreading but also prevented the firemen getting the water to the flames. The firemen had to throw water up in the air and down inside the scaffold to put the fire out. It took over 4 hours to put it out. Most of the scaffold boards were destroyed, but the scaffold itself remained sound. Oh, by the way, the building was a City of London fire station!

Peter Chipp-Smith—Contracts Manager  
London Region



## WE'VE DONE IT

to (alphabetical order) Tony Bird, Chris Carpenter, Danny Clark, Mick Fisher, Simon Harrington, Alan Pomeroy and others, all part of the team at Westfield White City for the near completion of a 64m long x 24m span bridge using 750mm Haki beams, the beams have been erected over the void using the 'fish method'.

The bridge has been erected to progress the ceiling and flooring works at the same time to an area called the West Village where all the top designer stores will be located, Westfield say this will be in direct competition to the West end.

Graham Laffar—Site Manager  
London Region

## Press Release - New Access and Scaffold Training Centre

**The following press release has been prepared by our training partners C & G and has been forwarded to the two main construction industry publications, Contract Journal and Construction News.**

A new centre delivering Access Training has received approval from CISRS to deliver CISRS Part 1 Tube and Fitting which will lead on to CISRS Part 2 and Advanced Scaffolding.

It will be known as 'The Beckton Training Centre' and is a joint venture between Benchmark Scaffolding Ltd and C & G Assessments and Training Ltd.

It has come at a time when there is a shortage of fully trained Access and Scaffold Operatives.

The centre, based in Beckton, East London, is ideally located close to the 2012 Olympics site and could help satisfy the skills needs of the local labour market and the requirements of the industry in relation to this prestigious event.

Benchmark Scaffolding Ltd has been established since 1995 and are probably the largest scaffolding contractor in London employing over 300 scaffolders. In 1999 a Northern Regional office based in Barnsley, South Yorkshire opened and similar growth and success has been achieved.

C&G Assessments and Training Ltd are a relatively young company, established in March 2003. Those five years have seen phenomenal growth of the company within the field of NVQ qualifications achievement and delivery of construction and health and safety training and C & G must now be considered as one of the top providers of skills assessment to the industry.

Kevin Connolly, C & G's CEO said 'The first Part 1 course has been completed successfully. The centre also has a modern training suite which will be used to deliver other training, such as Management, Supervisory and Health and Safety topics'.

Article by John Gibson - Director  
C & G Assessments and Training Ltd



Dear all,

## Re: ISO9001:2000 Quality Assurance

Please be aware that we are aiming to achieve the above quality standard by the middle of 2008 and I have attached our current Quality Policy Statement to highlight this.

The decision to gain the standard is based upon our desire to improve the efficiency of the business, consolidate our existing management procedures and to enhance our competitive edge with our clients.

We have engaged Safety & Access to coordinate our accreditation and this is already well under way with the development of formal procedures and pro forma, based upon the systems we currently use.

To properly succeed in this venture will require the commitment of all involved to ensure that we review the way we do things and ensure that we are following best practice and procedure. Internal audits will also be taking place to assist you with your understanding of this and to measure our quality performance.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further guidance on the Quality Policy Statement and forthcoming accreditation.

Regards,  
Rob West—Managing Director

## Quality Assurance Policy Statement

The corporate objective of the Company is to achieve long term profitability through the provision of scaffolding services which:

- meet or exceed the customers needs and expectations together with specified/contractual requirement, and
- enhance our standing as a contractor of high repute.

1. To assist in achieving this objective, an integrated quality management system is operated by the Company, which complies with the requirements of BS EN ISO 9001:2000
2. A Quality Manual has been developed which outlines the organisation, delegation of responsibilities, and procedures, which are to be followed in order to achieve the Company's objective.
3. Directors and Managers are required to establish and maintain instructions and procedures to ensure that, within their areas of responsibility, employees understand their duties fully, and carry them out to the standard required.
4. The Company has appointed a QA consultant who shall provide relevant advice and shall assist in monitoring the system and procedures and reporting to the Board the effectiveness of their continued implementation.
5. Any disputes concerning the requirements of the Quality System shall be resolved by the Managing Director
6. All employees within the Company shall be made fully aware of the Company's Quality Policy and objectives and regular meetings and reviews shall be held to ensure that quality related problems are discussed and any necessary action is taken promptly.
7. The Company acknowledges that Quality Assurance and operational efficiency are complementary and that the continual use and development of Quality Assurance systems are an important aspect of management responsibility.

8. Training in matters relevant to Quality Assurance shall be given to managerial, supervisory staff and to operatives as required.
9. Audits and inspections shall be undertaken on premises and relevant sites by competent personnel. The findings of all such audits and inspections shall be passed to the relevant local manager for action and information.
10. Adequate planning and consideration of Quality Assurance matters shall be applied to all work prior to commencement.
11. Upon commencement of employment, all employees shall be inducted to the Company in Quality Assurance matters.
12. All employees shall be encouraged to submit suggestions and ideas for improving Quality Assurance issues within Company operations.
13. Statistical analysis of all Quality Assurance performance shall be collated and analysed and will be communicated throughout the Company.
14. The Company shall implement procedures to ensure that appropriate contracts are subject to formal review with the customer on a regular basis to measure the performance of the Company regarding the specified/contractual requirement.

Rob West  
Managing Director  
February 2008

QA Policy Statement 2007/001

We have now dipped our toe into the training world. After a lot of time and money the Beckton Training Centre is up and running and is going very well.

Initially we are delivering part 1 courses and in about 6 months will start with the part 2 courses.

The people involved in getting this project going were:-

**Dennis Rigg:** for his enthusiasm and his contact with the trainers

**John Walton:** for dealing with the landlords.

**Renzo:** (Beckton Yard foreman) for without his help and patience we would not have opened on time.

Oh I think a bloke called **Rob** had something to do with it as well.

Peter Booth—Safety Manager  
London Region

## Beckton Training Centre

*Below are some of the first scaffolders to go through their Part 1 training course at the new centre in Beckton.*



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](mailto:barnsley@benchmarkscaffolding.com)

## SAFETY AWARDS

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

Here are some of our employees who have won Safety Awards over the past few months.

### Company Safety Awards

<b>December</b>	Peter Gammon (London Region) Carl Wood (Northern Region)
<b>January</b>	Alan Pomeroy (London Region) Chris Manley (Northern Region)
<b>February</b>	Gary Cook (London Region) Damian Levitt (Northern Region)

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

It's our Dave Falkinder's  
Birthday he's \*\*

Contracts Manager—Northern Region



A big thank you to ALL who contributed for Keith's Birthday collection we raised a total of £440.00

Keira Leoni—Administrator  
London Region



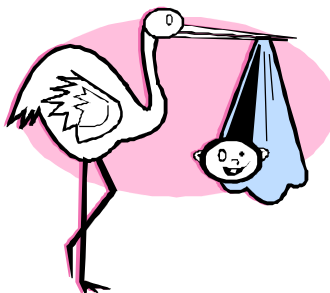
## New additions to both regions

**Rob Crowe**  
with



**Son Jayden**

Born 29th Dec 2007  
6lb 7oz  
Northern Region



**Christopher Rabenda**  
with



**Olivier**

Born October 2007  
8.5 lbs  
London Region

**BENCHMARK SCAFFOLDING LTD**

*Setting the Standards*

