



BENCHPRESS



Well, that's another year gone!

So, we now have Christmas to look forward to before we launch ourselves into another promising year for Benchmark with plenty of orders in place on some really interesting projects. I thought we would go for a more photos and less words approach for this final Benchpress front page of the year, especially considering that there are a good variety of articles inside for you to read instead.



Battersea Power Station is featured again as it is now properly underway and is officially our largest ever single order. These photos are quite unusual although all of our share of the work is actually on the inside; being the Boiler House, which is effectively the internal rectangle marked with a chimney in each corner.

The new Scania lorries did eventually arrive and are looking good; they will be delivered to us before Christmas once the final Hiab crane certificates are issued.

The Annual Benchmark Charity Bike ride is over for another year and you can see some of the team celebrating their achievement with some props supplied by the stroke association for whom we were raising funds this time. We also sent a donation to an animal rescue charity and the total sum raised this year was just under £7,000 which was accumulated with over 130 different donations which is a good effort considering we had a smaller team than the previous year. Thanks to everyone who contributed and if you did not there is always next year when we will be cycling for charity again.

I wish all of you, and your families, a Happy Christmas and a Safe New Year.

Regards,
Rob West - Managing Director



BENCHMARK SCAFFOLDING

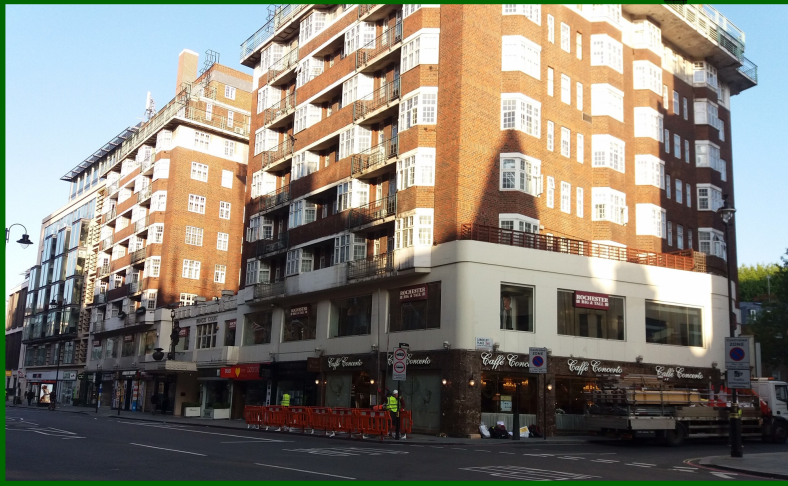


Setting the Standards



Issue 37
Winter 2018

Princes Court in Knightsbridge Gets All Wrapped up for Christmas



Princes Court on the Brompton Road in Knightsbridge is a large block of apartments on the opposite side of the road to Harrods in London.

Bourne Construction and Refurbishment placed an order of just under £500,000.00 with Benchmark to erect a fully boarded access scaffold to all elevations of the building, including light wells and court yards.



The main elevation on Brompton Road has a heavy duty gantry/ pedestrian protection tunnel built off the footpath to support the main scaffold above and still maintaining clear and safe access into the shops, restaurants and front main entrance to the building below.

The project has proved to be a logistical nightmare for Keith Dunk, our site manager and his team of Scott Dunk (his son), Marvin Parker-O'Neil, Terry Cheeseman and Alfie Mullins.

All materials for the front, side elevations and the front open court yard had to be delivered and unloaded between 06.00am and 07.00am due to

the site being on a bus lane, a red route and have a pedestrian crossing and bus stop to work around. The foot path could not be closed so the gantry was built during normal working hours with small localised exclusion zones, but keeping access into the building at street level at all times.

The rear and remaining side elevations commence in the New Year with a different set of challenges as access in this location is on an adjoining property's land. Negotiations are still ongoing.

The scaffold on Brompton Road and the side elevation, Lancelot Place have been built to also support an advertising banner at gantry level and a complete replacer banner of the existing façade from first floor level to roof level.

The two photographs show the building before the scaffold was erected and then after the scaffold was fully erect and covered with the advertising and replacer banners.

Eamonn Golledge—Contracts Manager
London Region

BENCHMARK SCAFFOLDING*Setting the Standards*Waterside Trading Centre, Trumpers Way, Hanwell, London, W7 2QD
Tel: 020 8867 9977 Fax: 020 8867 9900 Email: info@benchmarkscaffolding.com**Safety Leadership Team****Terms of Reference****Purpose:**

Maintain & continually improve health, safety & wellbeing by promoting consultation, co-operation and co-ordination between management & workforce. Ensure active engagement in the ongoing development of health, safety and wellbeing programs.

Objective:

The role of this safety team leadership is to assist the Benchmark Scaffolding management team in discharging its health & safety responsibilities.

Meetings:

- 1) Meetings will be held at least quarterly, with further meetings arranged as needed.
- 2) The safety leadership team will report all recommendations, key issues and findings to the Benchmark scaffolding management team.

Membership:

A representative of the Benchmark scaffolding safety team and a senior manager must be in attendance along with at least two members of the workforce appointed members.

Anyone employed by Benchmark Scaffolding can apply to be a member. It is the aim of the safety leadership team to rotate membership and no member may serve more than twelve months.

The safety leadership team will have a maximum of eleven members.

Reg No. 06130415 England

Waterside Trading Centre, Trumpers Way, Hanwell, London, W7 2QD

Safety Leadership Team (SLT)

The London region has started a safety leadership team (SLT). What this means is that, on a regular basis, scaffolders and managers meet to discuss what's happening out on site.

We meet in a formal setting, minutes are taken, recommendations noted and action points agreed. All recommendations are then discussed with Benchmarks senior management, with a view to implementing them.

The things we discuss are-

What can we do better?

What do we need to improve?

What's working well?

What needs to stop?

There is also a section where you can put forward your ideas and initiatives to make all our work life healthier, safer and productive.

We need 11 members, so please contact the office and put your name forward if you have something to offer.

The next meeting is in February 2019.

**Mark Byrne — Operations Director
London Region**

Proudly sponsored by:

QFS SCAFFOLDING LTD

BENCHMARK SCAFFOLDING *Setting the Standards*

GKR SCAFFOLDING LIMITED

5-a-side Charity Football Tournament

1 NOVEMBER 2018, 17:30—21:00, POWER LEAGUE NINE ELMS, SW8 5EJ

FUNDRAISING IN SUPPORT OF

HELP for HEROES

Join us for what will be a fantastic evening of football!

Instructions for joining:

1. A minimum donation of £250 per team (all proceeds go to Help for Heroes)
2. Include your company name as your team name.
3. 21 team slots are available and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis

Sign up now: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/charityfootball-h4h-bps18>

We recommend you include a couple of substitutes in your team line-up!

There is a bar at the venue and a food stand will be available on the night, so please encourage as many supporters as possible to join in the fun!

If you have any questions please contact Justin van der Meer from Mace Group on (0)7957 630149 or 5th Floor, North Building Help For Heroes is a registered charity under 1120920 (England & Wales) and SC044984 (Scotland)

mace

Two Benchmark Teams entered the charity 5 a side competition that we also jointly sponsored along with GKR and QFS.

Our teams were from Battersea Power Station and Greenwich Square - both Mace projects we are working on..

Battersea Power Station team: S Didd, O Roynon, R Payne, W Didd, C Andrews, K Mufuka.

Greenwich Square Team: J Murphy, S McDonnell, P Chapple, U Gosgivil, K Davis, B Storey.



CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HOSPITAL IN GHANA



PPE DONATION



My friend Carl has taken the challenging role of building a hospital in Tamale, north Ghana.

When he first got there, as you can imagine the health & safety was not as it is here. His work force had no PPE whatsoever.

Carl as the project manager wouldn't accept this and asked all his friends in England if they had any PPE to donate. Peter kindly gave me some HI-VIS and a box of hats to send over to him, as you can see by the pictures they got there yesterday.

Carl would like to thank Benchmark Scaffolding for their kind donation and creating a lot of happy faces on site today, he said the morale on site has really lifted.

Mike Hanger— QSHE Systems 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.

We are happy to announce we have submitted our first written presentation for this prestigious competition and Benchmark have been selected for the short list of finalists for the Construction News awards.

It is now down to a presentation in front of a panel of judges, in February 2019, as to whether we win from the short list of other finalists.

The Award ceremony will be in March 2019 in the Grosvenor House Hotel, in Park Lane, London and our category is the **Access & Scaffolding Specialist of the Year Award**.

We will update you on our progress in the next edition.

Mike Hanger
QSHE Systems Manager

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



September Safety Award

The monthly safety award goes to Paul Smith, Triton Square, Lendlease Project. He was chosen for his skills in managing the men he had around him, organising his and other works for various gangs and a safe manner of working.



October Safety Award

The monthly safety award goes to Steve Smith, Wates Living Space, One Manchester for erecting scaffolds around residential blocks of flats without any incidents or complaints from the residents and recognised by the PC for his working attitude.

James Cheshire, Greenwich Square, Mace Project, won the individual safety award for October and received £50 in vouchers, which Benchmark will match.

November Safety Award

The monthly safety award goes to Bob White, working at Aspire Defence. Bob was nominated by Brian Butt, Construction Manager, for his positive attitude to Safety when noticing neat brick cleaning acid in an unmarked container on site and reporting this to the PC, and attending 4C's (Competence Control Co-operation Communication) above and beyond his duty.



Hampstead Manor, Dave Harding and his team came top of the contractors' leader board. They have won this award 12 times in 20 months.



James Law won November individual safety award at Greenwich Square, Mace project for his continued positive approach to difficult adaptations whilst making sure all appropriate safety measures were always in place.



It's ok to not be ok!

Construction
Industry Helpline
0345 605 1956

www.constructionindustryhelpline.com



In this hectic modern world in which we live it can sometimes seem that the pressure of work, relationships or financial strain can sometimes be overwhelming and leaves you feeling it is difficult to cope and the burden you are carrying is weighing you down. This is felt by most people at some time in their lives and it is a natural process that occurs when you feel you are under external stresses that are out of your control. If you do feel this way it is time to speak to someone about your difficulties and to seek professional help just as you would with a physical injury. In

the macho industry of construction it is a misconception that it is a sign of weakness to seek help, it is in fact a strength that will ease the strain and quickly get you back to taking control. Remember it is ok to not be ok and there is help available when you need it!

Construction
Industry Helpline

**Time to
CHANGE
Time to
TALK**

Confidential 24/7 helpline
available to the industry's
workforce and their families

0345 605 1956



Construction
Industry Helpline
0345 605 1956



www.constructionindustryhelpline.com

There have been over 1,400 suicides in the construction industry in the last 5 years. The number of construction workers that take time off work, suffering from stress or mental health issues, is 50 times more than those people that take time off due to accidents. Mental Health is big news at the moments and rightly so. This issue has not been very well publicised in the past. Now we need to do something about it. At the moment we have 2 people trained as mental health first aiders; Bill Wood in our Northern Region (07799 797226), and myself, Peter Booth (07799 797205) in our London Region. We will be

expanding the number of mental health trained people to probably 3 in the North and 6 in the South. If you have any doubts, no matter how small, about your feelings you will be able to talk to these people in strictest confidence and they will guide you on how to get help.

Signs and symptoms of mental illness can vary, depending on the disorder, circumstances, and other factors. Mental illness symptoms can affect your emotions, thoughts and behaviours.

Examples of signs and symptoms include:

- Feeling sad or down
- Confused thinking or reduced ability to concentrate
- Excessive fears or worries, or extreme feelings of guilt
- Extreme mood changes of highs and lows
- Withdrawal from friends and activities
- Significant tiredness, low energy or problems sleeping
- Detachment from reality (delusions), paranoia or hallucinations
- Inability to cope with daily problems or stress
- Trouble understanding and relating to situations and to people
- Alcohol or drug abuse
- Major changes in eating habits
- Sex drive changes
- Excessive anger, hostility or violence
- Suicidal thinking

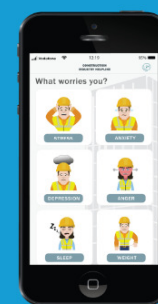
As a company we do care about your health and wellbeing so if you have concerns please contact us or call the Construction Industry Helpline on 0345 605 1956 where trained experts will be able to help you.

Regards,

Bill Wood
Operations Director & SHE Advisor

Peter Booth
Company Safety Manager

**New App launched to
support Construction
Workers Mental Health**



**USING TECHNOLOGY
TO SAVE LIVES
IN CONSTRUCTION**



Download on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google Play



A FAIR DAY'S PAY FOR A HARD DAY'S GRAFT!



At the beginning of November 2018 Benchmark Scaffolding were proud to announce that they have been certified by the **Living Wage Foundation** as a **Living Wage Employer**.

This means that no Benchmark employee working in the London region will earn less than £10.55 per hour and other employees working in the rest of the UK less than £9 per hour. Of course, most will earn more than this but this initiative is aimed at helping the lower end of the pay spectrum.

The Government's national living wage is not calculated according to what employees and their families need to live on. Benchmark feels that their employees deserve a fair day's pay for a hard day's work. They are committing to paying the **Real Living Wage** which is higher than the government minimum wage and they will make sure all of their employees receive a minimum of the Real Living Wage. The Real Living Wage rates are higher because they are independently calculated based on what people need to get by.

Benchmark have joined over 4,700 employers in the UK including a broad range of big household names such as ITV, GOOGLE, IKEA and even Chelsea FC and Everton FC.

Explaining UK Wage Rates

	THE MINIMUM WAGE <small>Government minimum for under 25s</small>	NATIONAL LIVING WAGE <small>Government minimum for over 25s</small>	REAL LIVING WAGE <small>The only wage rate based on what people need to live</small>
WHAT IS IT?	£7.38	£7.83	£9.00 across the UK and £10.55 in London
IS IT THE LAW?	Statutory	Statutory	Voluntary
WHAT AGE GROUP IS COVERED?	21 and older	25 and older	18 and older
HOW IS IT SET?	Negotiated settlement based on recommendations from businesses and trade unions	4% of medium earnings, currently at 55%, it aims to reach 60% of median earnings by 2020.	Calculation made according to the cost of living, based on a basket of household goods and services
IS THERE A LONDON WEIGHTING?	No London Weighting	No London Weighting	Yes - Separate higher rate for London

Vicky Hunt-Poore
PA to Rob West

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

Brave the Shave

Congratulations to Stuart & Joelene Didd on the recent arrival of Jacob the next future Benchmark Boy



Jacob John
Didd
Born 31/08/18
weighing 9lb
14oz

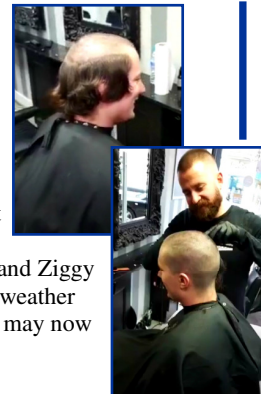


Well done Ziggy

Dave Harding—Site Manager
& his team at Hampstead Manor
London Region

Thanks to everyone who has donated, we have raised £630 so far for Great Ormond Street Hospital.

We still have time to try and get to our target so every little helps. Its for a brilliant charity and Ziggy has given up a lot with the cold weather that is ahead of us, so I think he may now need a hard hat liner.



www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dave-harding3

Laura & Mark Knitter would like to introduce their son, Rustin, born on Sunday the 9th of December, weighing 8lbs 13oz. He's passed his MOT with no advisories. Although his dad has diagnosed him with Nocturnalism!



Contact Numbers & Offices

West London Office

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