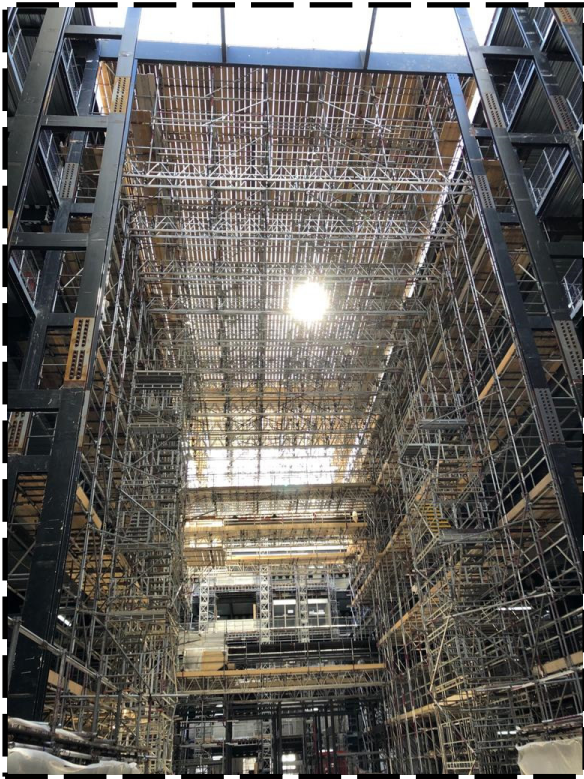


BENCHPRESS



Hello again, it was the spring edition of Benchpress when I started with; Brexit – what Brexit? Well, we are still waiting and although I said the uncertainty was starting to have an effect on our business I am pleased to say that the last 6 months have not been as difficult as I expected. In fact by the 30th June, which is our trading year end, we had managed to post a record in turnover, at nearly £23 million, with correspondingly good profit to match closing out our most successful year ever. The first quarter of our new year has produced even better figures thanks to us being really busy in both Regions with some very nice jobs including Battersea Power Station for Mace, the Palace of Westminster for Shepley Engineers, the Barnsley Markets project for Henry Boot and Bank House in Leeds to name but a few so as we often say let's just Keep Calm and Carry on.

Front page photos for this edition are two shots inside Battersea Power Station where as you can see we are making good progress with some impressive scaffolding structures. The third photo is of course the Palace of Westminster where we are currently installing some external elevations to support more temporary roofs. You may have seen this scaffolding as a back drop to TV interviews outside Parliament with its distinctive blue catch fans showing up rather well.

Thank you to everyone who sponsored **Team Benchmark** on our recent annual charity cycle event. The 56 mile course would have been quite a challenge for an old, fat, bloke who hadn't trained properly in advance due to some feeble excuse about being injured leading up to the event but obviously it was a breeze for me and I am looking forward to next year's event...I believe that is called poetic licence ☺. We have so far collected £5,557 including gift aid with 75 separate donations, some large some small, but all of them very much appreciated by the riders and of course by the charities we chose to support this year. More on this inside – see Vicky's article.

After going six months without a Benchpress (yes, we missed the summer one and you didn't even notice!) you are due to receive the Christmas edition in just over two months' time – I bet you can hardly wait!

Please continue to look out for each other and stay safe.

Regards,
Rob West - Managing Director



BENCHMARK SCAFFOLDING



Setting the Standards

Twenty Years Of The Northern Region



After several successful years of Benchmark Scaffolding taking the London market by storm I persuaded Rob West that it would be a good idea to open a Northern Region. This was, in fact, a huge favour that he did me as I needed to be based back in my native Yorkshire due to the advancing years of my parents. A Sheffielder by birth I had originally met Rob in 1986 when I moved to London & joined SGB. We worked for several other companies before our paths parted in 1994 and reconnected in 1997. I had not returned to Sheffield but settled just a few miles up the M1 in Barnsley by that

time and my parents had also relocated there. That is why Benchmark Scaffolding chose to locate the Northern Regional office in that former mining town.

During 1999 I was still working for Benchmark in London and spending the weekends back home looking around for premises. Having formed a short list my colleague Cain Eggleston & I had a drive about to view them. We initially settled on a place in Swinton but that fell through. Soon after we looked at some space on the industrial estate where we are now based and Cain said he thought it a bit small but "how about that one"? Another "For Sale" sign had appeared since my previous visit. I thought it would be too big and too expensive but, to cut a long story short, we bought it. The existing owner/occupier, Trevor, then negotiated to retain one corner of the plot and build a new office for his company.

Business commenced in April 1999 under the capable jurisdiction of Max Darby & Cain Eggleston. Sadly, the following year Max succumbed to cancer. We named the building "Max Darby House" to recognise his part in the establishment.

In 2007 we were hit by the floods and our offices were subject to the ingress of about a metre depth of dirty water. At this time Trevor offered to sell to us his new adjacent office so we bought that corner back and reunified the plot.

The original building now contains a training centre, a gym, showers & toilets and some storage rooms. The new building contains the offices.



We have been very happy on this site and also obtained some more adjacent land. For the overall business the Northern Region is a warehouse yard, a refurbishment facility and a source of innovative manufacturing.

Paul Taylor— Estimating Director
Northern Region



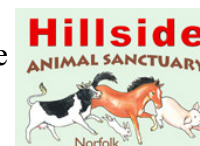
TEAM BENCHMARK'S THIRD CHALLENGE



On Sunday 8th September the brave and energetic members of TEAM BENCHMARK tackled another gruelling cycling challenge of 56 miles from South West London to the stunning and historic Windsor Castle. The route started from leafy Richmond Green and followed the Thames along towpaths, through small pretty villages and some main roads, and up some rather steep and challenging hills. It ended in Alexandra Gardens nestled between the Thames and Windsor Castle. The event was well organised and well signposted. A few of the fastest riders managed to complete the route in under four hours which is quite an accomplishment. Luckily there were no accidents and no injuries were sustained apart from a few sore bums!

The team members include: Bob Young, Rob West, Hitesh Patel, Keith Slight, Peter Booth, Graham and Peter Stroud, Daren Redgrave, Maria West and James McDermott.

The team have managed to raise invaluable funds for two very worthy charities; the Hillside Animal Sanctuary and the Thames Hospice.



The Thames Hospice is a charity providing expert care for people living with life-limiting illnesses whilst also supporting their families and carers.

The Hillside Animal Sanctuary provides a safe haven for animals in need, particularly those who are routinely abused in the intensive factory farming industry.

Including Gift Aid we have managed to raise £2,962 for the Thames Hospice and £2,595 for the Hillside Animal Sanctuary. This is a huge amount and will be greatly received by both charities. **We would like to thank all of our sponsors** as all donations are truly appreciated. I don't think the team would continue with these tough challenges if they weren't shown such overwhelming support. **THANK YOU.**

The donation pages will stay open for a few more weeks so if you haven't yet shown your support to the team please feel free to donate any amount, no matter how small, it all goes a long way.

The website addresses are as follows:

Thames Hospice: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/teambenchmark3>

Hillside Animal Sanctuary: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/teambenchmark>

GO TEAM BENCHMARK... bring on the next challenge in 2020.

Thames hospice

Vicky Hunt-Poore—PA to Rob West



Bensham Manor school



I would just like to say a huge thank you for provision and delivery of the scaffolding board for use in the Bensham Manor school community day.

We did manage to construct all 7 raised planters and move 8 tonnes of soil which couldn't get into the allotments. We also did some ground clearance, construction of fences and a ferret run.

The school were absolutely delighted with the end result, which wouldn't have been possible without your assistance.

I have attached a couple of photos of the final planters.

Again, thank you to you and the team in provision of these boards.

Regards,

Andrew Waddington MCI0B
Design Project Manager
Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield

Community
W
Day
UNIBAIL-RODAMCO-WESTFIELD

Accident frequency Rate AFR

This time last year we were celebrating 12 months RIDDOR free, we had achieved this before, but this time we are 24 months reportable incident/injury free and our AFR is zero. This is down to the scaffolders, working to the RAMS, carrying out a safe start before each task, assessing the risks and by filling in the near miss card, as well as working safely. Now the hardest task is to get to 3 years without a RIDDOR. This zero rate not only means that we are not suffering serious injuries, but our customers are more likely to employ a scaffold company that has no RIDDOR

Peter Booth
Company Safety Manager

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



**KEEP
CALM
AND
BE
SAFE**

April Safety Award



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

The monthly safety award goes to John Venables and Bradey Collyer.

Andy Matthews from Simons Group, The Angel Islington 20779 site, commented, "due to John and Bradey's outstanding "can do attitude" and "work ethic" we have decided to award them both this month's green card award. Myself and Steve are grateful to both of them, could you please thank them both again on our behalf". They both received the site monthly Green Card Award and £25.

Tony Meacock, Greenwich Square, Mace site for winning the monthly supervisor and operative safety awards, he received £50 in voucher.

May Safety Award



The monthly safety award goes to Simon Dabbs at Parliament, nominated by his Manager, Danny McCarthy for continually highlighting safety issues of all trades on site and reporting them to Danny.

Shard Place, Mace Limited, Hoist services engineers have a very high standard of PPE while servicing our hoists. Reported on Yellow Jacket

June Safety Award



The monthly safety awards goes to John Henry for the scaffold which has been erected at the side of the Grand Union Canal in Acton that is a busy, live pedestrian area and close to a restaurant entrance area with outside seating. It is a job for Prater with Mace managing and has been erected under very challenging conditions without any complaints of incidents.

Jack Murphy and his team at Mace, Greenwich Square won the monthly safety leadership board for May.

August Safety Award



The monthly safety awards goes to Jack Hoy and Andrew Raghbir on Sisk, Wembley for their part in helping to get an incapacitated site operative down from level 25 on Block G, as well as assisting in moving the IP they adapted and moved hand rails in a safe manor to allow easier access through the scaffold with the stretcher.

Mark Byrne observed Leif Ernestine (lorry driver, London) fastidiously unloading a lorry at Parliament working to a very safe standard. This was made even more obvious by another lorry (not BSL) being unloaded, not working to any standard what so ever.

September Safety Award



Mark Riddiough, BSL Site Supervisor, Longcroft School, Beverley, Yorkshire, an Henry Boot site. Mark had an audit on site and apart from 1 really minor issue would have got 100% and was praised by the auditor and the HB site manager for his excellent safety attitude.

Mark Byrne has been nominated (a short list of 3) for the Mace Hero of the year award, for promoting the Benchmark safety culture. There will be an event ceremony and a video of the ceremony.



Just a note to say well done to Jack Murphy and his team. On Monday they achieved the milestone of removing the last section of external scaffolding, including all scaffold above the ramp, just in time for the CEO's visit tomorrow.

This really helps to give the impression that GSB3 is on the home stretch.

Tony Fear—Project Manager (Construction)
Greenwich Square, Mace



Congratulations


Congratulations to our children Macie & Kori on gaining their Black Belts in Karate, Shindo Kai. Both of them began learning the sport at primary school when Kori was just 5 years old & Macie was 7 years old, after getting to a point where once a week wasn't enough for them they decided to join their club—Anshin Karate Club. Karate was something as parents we thought would help teach them self-discipline, self-control, self-defence and determination.

Over the last 5 years they have both trained and worked hard by entering competitions in Kata & Kumite (fighting) and both successfully winning gold, silver & bronze medals.

In April this year all their hard work paid off, they both spent one Sunday proofing they had the determination, they had self-control & self-discipline and could, if needed, defend themselves and they both qualified as Black Belts.

We are now proud parents of Sensei Macie age 12 and Sensei Kori age 10.— Mark I think we'd better keep on their good side.

Georgina & Mark Bradbury
Northern Region

 Subcontractor Performance Matrix & Scoring Northern Area								
Project/ Contract:		Maintenance North						
Month/Year:		August 2019						TOTAL SCORE
	Contractor	Site Name	Contractor Supervisor	Site Number	Project Leader	Senior Manager	August	Previous Month
1	Benchmark Scaffold	One Manchester	Keith Lawson	512095	Ian Stansfield	Ian Stansfield	100	100
9	Precision Facades	One Manchester	Chris Rimmer	512095	Ian Stansfield	Ian Stansfield	96	93
2	HEC Contracting	Sheffield EWI	Chris Horstall	512100	Andrew Bell	Gary Kemp	97	97
21	Keydial	One Manchester	Keith Bretherton	512095	Ian Stansfield	I Stansfield	96	83
4	Abca	Oldham PFI	P Allen	512102	T Grundy	D Gregg	95	95
10	BFT Mast Climbers	One Manchester	Daniel Shenton	512095	Ian Stansfield	Ian Stansfield	95	92
5	Knowsley Lift Services	Oldham PFI	J Maloney	512102	T Grundy	D Gregg	95	95
15	Prescott Developments	Wrexham Repairs Voids and Decants	Dan Williams	512103	Lee Wilbraham	W Schroeder	95	95

Benchmark Scaffolding has been awarded 100% for the second month running in Wates "Maintenance North" division. We achieved 94% in June then 100% in July & August.

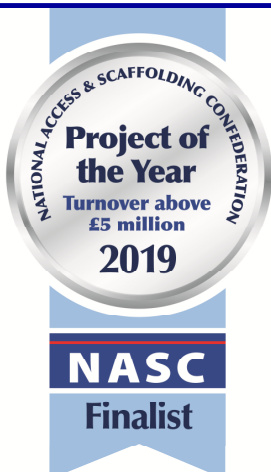
This creditable performance is testament to the attentions of Keith Lawson, Matt Wilkinson, Steve Smith and the team providing scaffolding for people working on tower block recladding in the various suburbs of Manchester.

They have established an excellent working relationship with Wates management which we hope will continue on further projects.

Paul Taylor— Estimating Director
Northern Region

ONE MANCHESTER

WATES LIVING SPACE



We have entered four awards this year 2019, and have reached the finals of all four, with two still to be held.

Mark Byrne is in the final of the MACE individual safety award on 17/10/2019.

We have also just reached the shortlist final in the NASC awards 22/11/2019 for project of the year, the chimney scenic lift on Battersea Power Station (see adjacent photo).

Mike Hanger—QSHE systems Manager



Bank House



The scaffold on Bank House in the centre of Leeds is progressing nicely in what are some challenging logistics. The building steps out at every floor level so beams are required to over sail the carriageway which cannot be closed off.

Our client Concrete Repairs Ltd enlisted us to design the scaffold with the minimum foot-print possible. The scaffold had to be designed with a limited tie detail due to the marble tiles which clad the structure that are



being re-fixed to the building with minimal damage from our ties which was undertaken by our Senior Design Engineer Michael Stirk.

This was a very interesting job that was skilfully undertaken by several scaffold teams under the leadership of our Contracts Manager Wayne Clarke.

Bill Wood—Operations Director
Northern Region

Hi Rob and all at Benchmark



Just got back to Edinburgh on last day of Whisky Trail.

It has been a fantastic trip with some lovely whiskies along the way and met many new friends and many new wee drams as they say up here.

Thanks again to all for a great retirement gift - I shall remember it forever.

Love Alan and Dawn

Alan Abraham and Dawn enjoyed his unusual leaving present; a tour around the distilleries of Scotland. Alan sent these photos and this message back to his ex-colleagues. Sounds like Joe Laffar made a good choice as something he would actually enjoy. Anyway what else can you give the man who's got everything?



Alan on the Whisky Trail

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

Benchmark victorious at Triton Square team building evening

On Wednesday the 22nd May Lendlease held a sports competition in the site canteen at 17:30pm to raise funds for Mental health awareness, this involved pool, table tennis and darts competitions.

Beer and pizza was available at a bargain price of a £1 a bottle and a £1 for a slice of dominoes meat feast, being the athletes we are we entered the pool comp after a few beverages and came

out on top with 1st and 2nd places; the winner being **John the flying Scotsman Docherty** and 2nd place was **Paul 8 ball smith** who both received vouchers for £50 and £25 each.



My son Mitchell Lane's - new baby, Haydn who was born on the 13th March 2019 at 1.04am and weighed 7lb 13oz which is my first Grandson,

God I feel old.

Barry Lane—Operations Director
London Region



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Email: barnsley@benchmarkscaffolding.com

BENCHMARK SCAFFOLDING



Setting the Standards