



by the time this edition goes to press. Recently completed slipform subcontracts include the Westfield White City development, Crown Place – where we slipformed two 80m high cores – plus DS3 and BP2 at Canary Wharf. On the civil engineering side, apart from our usual run of silo construction, we are slipforming within a dry shaft for the DLR extension to Woolwich Arsenal. The scheme extends the existing railway line from London City Airport southwards, under the River Thames. Our project is to provide slipformed walls within the Intervention Shaft which will contain emergency lift and stairs access as well as a riser shaft. Meanwhile, in Ras-al-Khaimah and Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), we have secured two more contracts for cement silos. Also, a contract for two more silos in Bahrain – the first time in this country for the new company, Slipform Middle East LLC. Personnel from the Far East are supplementing the expatriate staff in the Emirates as the business expands.

This solid and consistent success means that we are having to expand to meet the demand. We are investing in both staff and facilities. Our small offices at Aldridge are now bursting at the seams and we are planning to create more space. The yard at Aldridge, which at one time seemed huge, now struggles to cope with a constant stream of deliveries and returns, commencing in the early hours of the morning.

*Photo: Work in progress, as it nears completion, at the Royal London Hospital project.*

## Booming Business

**The excellent start to the year has been followed by the busiest period ever – in just 18 months, our turnover has doubled! Our forward order book is looking very healthy indeed and, as a result, further investment in the business is underway.**

Our teams have recently commenced work on developments in Cardiff, at Crossharbour in London Docklands and in Hayes, Middlesex – as well as on several other projects in the North of England. We have slipped two cores at the Royal London Hospital and the third will be completed

### Our man in Dubai



**A**fter four years in the Middle East, our Regional Manager Jon Pratt (left) is returning to the UK to take up a management post at the Slipform International HQ. Bob O’Riordan (right) who has joined the company from Aluma Systems will be taking over the reins at our Dubai base, with some initial help from Jon. Bob, who has 30 years of experience in the industry in many parts of the world, particularly the Emirates and neighbouring countries, will ensure that our Middle Eastern operation goes from strength-to-strength.

### Twin cores at Canary Wharf



**We have reached a peak with the slipforming of twin cores for the DS3 development at Canary Wharf.**

The project started at the very beginning of this year, with us providing slipform work over a six month period. The two slipformed cores and the satellite core required as much equipment as the earlier BP1 project at Canary Wharf!!

The slipformed cores at DS3 – and the adjacent core at BP2 which followed on – have dominated the Eastern side of Canary Wharf.

The DS3 project was unusual as the 70m high cores were commenced above cores in the basement which had been completed six years earlier and put on hold during a downturn in the commercial property market.

## Year in the green



**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER KERRY SANDERS HAS JUST CELEBRATED ONE YEAR WITH P.C. HARRINGTON AND HAS TAKEN TIME TO REFLECT ON THE COMPANY’S ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS.**

The first step on any environmental journey has to be the identification of the environmental aspects and impacts of our work. This we did and are now confident that we are in control of the issues. We have also identified methods of monitoring our environmental performance and monitoring is now underway, reviewed and strengthened by our new environmental inspection and audit regime.

One of the biggest challenges for any company in the construction industry is the environmentally sound management of waste. We’ve addressed this through our new Waste Management practices which are now in place and include waste minimisation, increased segregation and improved document control.

A number of new support measures are available for sites, which are all operating under our Environmental Management Plans. We’ve increased our suite of environmental toolbox talks and these are delivered to staff at least once a month. In conjunction with this, we have devised new ways of raising awareness of environmental issues on sites through posters and signage. One of our new initiatives is the creation of Site Environmental Guidance Documents – these are documents which give our site teams a simple overview of legislation and company procedures. Alongside this, we have implemented a new Safety, Health & Environment Management System which will make the whole process more accessible for everyone who needs it.

Already, in the short space of a year, there’s been an increase in the environmental knowledge on our sites and improvements in attitude towards the environment. We are establishing good relationships with our clients’ Environmental Representatives and we’re working with suppliers to ensure good environmental practices. During the next year, we hope to achieve ISO 14001 registration which will formally put us into the mainstream of those companies who work responsibly in relation to the latest environmental standards and practice.

Finally, I’d like to thank everyone for their continued support and assistance in implementing the new processes – and coming up with new ideas for developing and improving the system. Let’s see what we can achieve together in the next 12 months!

*Photos: Improvements made include the provision of spill kits at the point of need, improved waste segregation, increased awareness of potential sources of pollution and enhanced concrete washout areas.*

### Rewarding safe practice

**T**here’s an old saying about making yourself feel good by trying to catch yourself doing something really excellent each day. Well, we’re turning that around a bit and asking our managers to catch you doing something good when they are on or visiting P.C. Harrington Contractors’ sites!

We’ve had a batch of special Health & Safety T-shirts produced as prizes which will be awarded at the discretion of individual managers or directors when they observe some really good Health & Safety practice. The award can be made for anything from wearing the right gear for the job, to the way in which the actual work is being carried out.

For those of you who have enjoyed the breakfast voucher reward scheme, don’t worry, that will be continuing!

### Editor’s Note:

We hope you have enjoyed reading the autumn 2007 edition of The Forum and would be pleased to receive your stories and photos for the next edition.

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## Third Five Star Award

P.C. Harrington Contractors has again been given top marks by the British Safety Council in its latest Five Star Health and Safety Management System Audit. This has been followed by an invitation to apply for the coveted Sword of Honour – the Health & Safety team is working on the application as *The Forum* goes to press! Pictured here is Operations Director, Martin McDermott (right) receiving P.C. Harrington Contractors’ third Five Star Audit Certificate from Jonathan Bramsdén, Acting Chief Executive, British Safety Council.



**AS PART OF THE CONTINUING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME IN THE BUSINESS, THE P.C. HARRINGTON GROUP HAS NOW PUT DOWN FIRM ROOTS IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND, THROUGH THE ACQUISITION OF AN OFFICE, WAREHOUSING AND YARD FACILITIES.**

The new permanent base will enable the Company to serve both established and new clients in the northern region. Located on the Whitehouse Vale industrial estate in Preston Brook, which is just off Junction 11 of the M56 motorway, the new facilities are ideally situated for supplying services to the Company’s clients in the Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool and Leeds areas. Bob Harris, Regional Director for P.C. Harrington Contractors said: “This is a clear and highly visible sign of our commitment to working in the North of England. We look forward to many more successful



projects with both established and new clients in the future and to welcoming new staff joining us from the local community.”

Over the past 12 months, the management team put much effort into finding the right location and facilities. The new base has 520m<sup>2</sup> of office space, 1400m<sup>2</sup> of covered warehousing and a 1.5 acre yard for open storage. It will provide regional offices for P.C. Harrington Contractors and Structural Systems plus an office and considerable storage and maintenance areas for P&E Harrington Plant, as well as providing a dedicated state-of-the-art Health & Safety training facility for all Group companies. P.C. Harrington Contractors has already moved into their new office and P & E Harrington Plant and Structural Systems will follow early in the New Year when the programme of refurbishment is completed to the ground floor offices and reception, along with the extensive external works to the yard area.

*Photos: Our new regional office in Preston Brook and Bob Harris, Northern Region Manager for P.C. Harrington Contractors.*

## New contracts top £80m

**In the last edition of *The Forum*, we reported a raft of new contract awards based on repeat business – and the great news is that the story continues! Over recent weeks, we have secured some exciting new work from two of our regular customers – Ballymore Properties and Bowmer & Kirkland. For Ballymore, we have started work at their developments for Hayes Central in Middlesex, at Crossharbour in London’s Isle of Dogs and at Snowhill in Birmingham.**

**HIGH-RISE IN HAYES**  
The Hayes Central project is a major mixed-use regeneration project which will provide 500 residential properties, a luxury hotel, aparthotel and retail premises overlooking the Grand Union Canal. We are providing all the groundworks, slipforming cores and floor slabs.  
**LONDON DOCKLANDS**  
Since May, we have been working on Phase 1 of the Crossharbour development which involves the construction of five residential blocks of between 10 and 17 storeys in a 70-week programme. We are



*Our project at Hayes Central, one of three schemes for Ballymore Properties, takes shape beside the Grand Union Canal.*

*Continued on page 2*

**THE STAFF NEWSLETTER OF THE P.C. Harrington GROUP**



P&E Harrington Plant Hire Ltd



## Message from the Chairman

The construction industry is going through a very busy period indeed and the P.C. Harrington Group has reaped the rewards of our earlier efforts to provide customers with the services they need.

I realise that everyone is putting their shoulders to the wheel – and want you to know how much that is appreciated by myself and the management team. Our work – as a team – is creating more opportunities for us all as we move forward.

Meanwhile, I would urge you to continue to think about Health & Safety – we need to retain our focus and keep on looking after one another. If a piece of equipment is damaged, it can simply be replaced. Human beings cannot, they are far more precious – in fact, they are irreplaceable. The ultimate way of caring for your colleagues is to be mindful of Health & Safety – so that you and your teammates can go home safely each night.

Whilst reading these pages, you will become aware of the continuing financial investment we are making in the business – however, this is meaningless without a safe and healthy team. Please maintain your vigilance – it's the major part of our success.

Pat Harrington, Chairman

### SCREENS IN ACTION

The screens are currently being supplied to our Royal London Hospital project in Whitechapel and, when complete, will completely surround the building with 125 screens, each screen is approximately 11.5 metres in height.

### ALSHOR FALSEWORK & PANELS

On the same project, we have vastly expanded our fleet of RMD Alshor falsework and RMD Airodek panels. The Airodek system incorporates a drophead support which permits early removal – possibly the next day – of the decking material, whilst maintaining important back-propping to the freshly poured slab. This investment in Airodek has increased our ownership to approximately 7000m<sup>2</sup>.

### SCISSOR LIFTS

In addition, the company has purchased ten scissor lifts which are being used as a valuable construction aid in conjunction with the decking system. Their use enables the extremely safe erection and striking of the decking panels and decking beams.

## THE FORUM PCH CONTRACTORS

### New contracts top £80 continued

constructing all the groundworks – basement and sub-basement – including supplying temporary works and dewatering services. In fact, the project is benefiting from the expertise of all Group companies – with 10 slipform cores from Slipform International, plus post-tensioned slabs above ground floor level from Structural Systems and craneage from HTC.

### BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE

Work has just started on the Snowhill project which features a complex five floor substructure, with two towers – 41 storeys and 26 storeys high. We will also be slipforming cores and providing concrete floors. When complete, the scheme will provide 332 luxury apartments and a 170-bedroom five star hotel, as well as a conference centre, health club, spa and retail outlets.

### MANCHESTER

Adjacent to our Green Quarter project in Manchester, we have just mobilised on two new schemes – both for Bowmer & Kirkland. We have worked with this contractor before, most recently on the CBXIII development in Milton Keynes – and have been working with them from the pre-tender stage on these latest schemes since last year.

City Park is an office development on 17 floors. We will be providing two slipformed cores, four reinforced concrete floors as part of the substructure and, within the superstructure, 13 post-tensioned floors. On the same site, will be a Park Inn hotel for which we are constructing a five floor reinforced concrete substructure.

## Reaching new heights

**HTC has been reaching new heights in fleet utilisation and with our ever increasing fleet. We now own over 200 tower cranes, all of them Wolff cranes – and this number is increasing. It is worth noting that five years ago the total number of cranes sold by our then owners, Hewden Stuart, both rented and purchased, was 170 machines. At the present moment, we have over 170 machines erected – many of them on high projects.**

Our message to all of our customers has been “book early to avoid disappointment” as even Wolff, the manufacturer, is struggling to keep up with not only HTC's success, but also other overseas clients who are enjoying an equally successful time.

All of the cranes in the HTC fleet today are owned by the Company with the exception of four special purpose machines shipped in for specific applications. This is a remarkable achievement and demonstrates the much-appreciated commitment and support given to HTC Plant by P.C. Harrington and other Group companies.

### RECENT ORDERS

As we go to press, we have sold a WK7532 with 75m jib and 91m of tower to a customer for a project in Manchester, together with tower for their existing crane.

Another order has been received from SCC, a long-standing and loyal customer of HTC, for a WK8060 for a car park project in Liverpool starting in the next two months.

We are receiving a considerable number of enquiries from Irish and other

## THE FORUM HTC PLANT



UK customers to purchase tower sections and cranes.

### INCREASING INVESTMENT

With over eight 180Bs, a 6023 plus many other individual models and deliveries still awaited for the new 355 luffer and some more saddle jibs, the purchases will increase before the year end and we still can't keep up with the strong demand for our services. It is worth noting that we have also replaced the 200T and 250T mobile cranes this year as it was always planned to replace them when they were three years old.

*Photo: View from Broadgate Tower in London, looking down onto the 201 Bishopsgate project where HTC's WOLFF 180B TC4C crane is in action.*

## Team Focus

Many congratulations must go to Jane Lavington on passing her Commercial Quantity Surveying exam and to Michelle Cook on passing her Accountancy exams. Both Jane and Michelle have spent many years studying for these key qualifications.

We extend a very warm welcome indeed to Andy Walker, our new Safety Manager – and also to Jo Hall who has joined as our Receptionist at the Sheffield depot.

Well done to Sean Hutson, our Operator Supervisor in the North, who has achieved a Level 3 Certificate in Assessing Candidates Using a Range of Methods – which is a necessary qualification for those who are assessing learners taking NVQs.

## Jolly Good Show

HTC was well represented at this year's Bauma exhibition in Munich – with their new 250T Demag crane in pride of place. Pictured alongside the crane are, from left to right, Barry Barnes, Dave Lawrence, Andy Wood, Mark Evans, Alex Lowe, Norman Purves and Julian Dyer. Bauma, which takes place every three years, is an international trade fair for construction and mining machinery and vehicles. This year was very successful for the show and its exhibitors, with around 500,000 visitors – a 20% increase on the previous event.



## First in the Forties

**Recent weeks have seen a “first” for HTC with the supply of a Wolff WK320BF crane to work in the middle of the North Sea, 125 miles from Aberdeen. The crane, on the Apache Forties Alpha platform, has been erected to replace the flare tip as this requires a major overhaul. The crane was shipped out on supply vessels from Aberdeen and placed on the platform using the derrick crane. This project is the first of many and, although short in duration, such opportunities are good business for us.**

## THE FORUM STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS



The new BBR VT CONA CMM – Unbonded Post-tensioning System.

## New range of PT anchors

**Structural Systems is now using an exciting new range of post-tensioning systems which not only has full European Technical Approval (ETA), but also brings significant competitive benefits to the industry in terms of time and cost savings.**

The new BBR VT CONA CMX range of post-tensioning systems is a wholly new group of products, based on over 60 years of expertise in the field and developed specifically in response to market demands. Instead of adapting an old system to conform to new requirements, the engineers have created totally new systems. The CMX range consists of four systems which cover the entire spectrum of post-tensioning needs. Specific features and benefits of the new system include:

- 20-40% less space needed in the anchor zone – thus, less concrete, slimmer structures, less eccentricity in the anchors
- significantly lower concrete strength prior to stressing – thus, shorter construction cycles
- less reinforcement in the anchor zone – thus, cost and time savings

The products are so new that ETA approvals have only so far been completed for the CONA CMI Internal Bonded Post-tensioning System and CONA CMM Unbonded Post-tensioning Systems. We expect soon that ETA will be granted for the new CONA CMF flat slab anchorage range which will also produce benefits from lower concrete transfer strengths and, hence, earlier formwork striking. Structural Systems is a “BBR PT Specialist” company which means that we have the technical know-how and the capability to put this into practice – as well as the very latest construction technology.

## Health & Safety challenges

**In May, three Group companies – Slipform International, Structural Systems and P&E Harrington Plant – welcomed Una Amin on board as their Health & Safety Manager.**

Upon arrival with the Group, Una's first task was to write Structural Systems' audit for the British Safety Council annual scheme which resulted in the company being awarded Five Stars and, thus, receiving an invitation to apply for the prestigious Sword of Honour.

Una has wasted no time in implementing a quarterly safety audit scheme, incorporating a league table, for Structural Systems, P&E Harrington Plant and Slipform International – and launching a campaign to reduce lost time accidents, as well as starting a newsletter! The Audit League Table will allow each site team to measure its progress – whilst seeing how they have performed against other sites – and the winning site will be awarded prizes whilst the company will be presented with an engraved trophy.

Meanwhile, the “Half-a-Million Man Hours Campaign” is gathering strength. P.C. Harrington has challenged the three sister companies to achieve 500,000 working hours with no lost time accidents – that is, no working time lost through personal injuries.

*Pictured here, accepting the Five Star Award certificate on behalf of Structural Systems Ltd are Jimmy Graham, Supervisor South; Jonathan Bramsdon, Acting Chief Executive, British Safety Council; Una Amin, Health and Safety Manager; and Jeff Flynn, Supervisor North.*



## New recruits

**OVER RECENT MONTHS, STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS HAS WELCOMED ON BOARD THREE NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF.**

Paul Heymans has joined us as Operations Manager (PT) South. Originally from South Africa, Paul has a structural design background and has had post-tensioning industry experience with Balvac. Since taking over from Brad Parkinson in June, he – together with Jimmy Graham, our new Supervisor in the South, Richard Fothergill, Operations Manager North and Jeff Flynn, Supervisor in the North – has been instrumental in improving our site performance and introducing a training and skill-based structure for the Post-tensioning Division.

Also in June, Richard Gaskill joined us as Business Development Engineer. His considerable construction industry experience – with Fosroc, Malling Products and Marshalls – enabled him to hit the ground running and immediately begin seeking out new opportunities for both the Post-tensioning and Remedial Divisions.