



Shaping the future

IT'S BEEN A VERY BUSY AND PRODUCTIVE YEAR SO FAR – ON MANY FRONTS – FOR THE TEAM AT SLIPFORM INTERNATIONAL AND THEY ARE NOW LOOKING FORWARD TO AN EQUALLY EXCITING AUTUMN AND WINTER – BOTH IN THE UK AND INTERNATIONALLY.

We have now been on site at St Davids 2 in Cardiff for a year. Our work there will have been substantially completed by the time this edition of *The Forum* hits the streets. Meanwhile, at Stratford City Shopping Centre – with over 30 cores to slipform for PCH Contractors – our team expects to be there for some time yet.

Two new projects started in early October. Slipforming operations commenced for Phase 2 of the Snow Hill project in Birmingham for Ballymore Properties. In Manchester, we have begun slipforming for Heyrod on the Albion Lock residential development.



Aerial view of Palm Jumeirah in Dubai, where Slipform International has won the contract for a 19-storey tower core.

Round-and-about

In the Middle East, Slipform International has recently been awarded its first two projects in Qatar. One is for multiple silos on the Ras Lafan Natural Gas Terminal site for Italian contractor, Astaldi – we expect to be there for six months. Meanwhile, at the Umm Bab Cement works site, on the border with Saudi Arabia, we will be working with Indian contractor Simplex.

We have been awarded further work with Emirates General Contracting at the cement factory in Fujairah and also with AP Bava in Jebel Ali – again all silos.

And, last but not least, some really exciting news – we have won our first contract on the Palm Jumeirah. It is for the American contractor Cliff Creek and is a 19-storey high core. The Palm Jumeirah is an artificial island created on land reclaimed from the sea. It is shaped like a palm tree – with a trunk, crown with 17 fronds and a surrounding crescent-shaped island. The island is connected to the mainland by a 300m bridge and is billed to become one of the world's premier resorts.



Left: Slipform International's work at the St Davids 2 site in Cardiff has now been successfully completed. Above: Our recently extended and refurbished offices in Aldridge, West Midlands.

EXPANDING MIDDLE EAST DESIGN

We are in the process of welcoming two engineers, who will be based in the UAE, into our office to undergo a fortnight's training with the UK Design Team.

Arlan Bacarni and Jonathan Medrano, both from the Philippines, have recently joined our Dubai company. Arlan will head up the design team which is being expanded to cope with the projected work load in the Middle East.

EXTENDED OFFICES

Meanwhile, back in the UK, the office space at our Aldridge HQ has been increased by adding a 'bridging' section between the two separate office blocks. The result is a far larger and much more user-friendly office for our design team. The front aspect has been improved with the addition of new windows and completion of the car park.

Manning the yard!



John 'Joppy' Hopley is our Yard Manager and runs the yard at Aldridge – bringing a calming influence when the rest of the world is going crazy. He has the ability to prepare, organise and deliver the equipment, often at very short notice. He joined Slipform when the company was bought by PCH from RMDK in 2001.

At home, John's four year old son, William, keeps him on his toes whilst one of his older sons – Richard – works in the Slipform design office as a CAD technician.



ISO 14001 – What's it all about?

YOU WILL HAVE HEARD THAT WE ARE WORKING TOWARDS SECURING ISO 14001 CERTIFICATION, BUT MAYBE HAVE NOT REALLY THOUGHT MUCH ABOUT WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT.

ISO 14001 is the international environmental management system standard. As well as helping organisations to comply with environmental laws, it also provides a framework for ensuring that an organisation gives thought to environmental matters – and makes, executes, reviews and continuously improves a plan to deal with the issues involved.

BENEFITS

There are a number of reasons why we have

implemented this type of system and why we want to be certified to ISO 14001:

- It demonstrates to all stakeholders that we are managing our environmental risks effectively.
- The framework helps businesses to run efficiently.
- It will assist in the tender process, as clients are increasingly looking for contractors to be certified.

- It ensures we remain compliant with environmental legislation and helps us minimise our effect on the environment.
- The process of achieving and maintaining the certification also helps ensure that we are continually improving and refining our activities
- The regular assessment process can improve staff responsibility, commitment and motivation.

CERTIFICATION

Over the last two years we have been developing, implementing and maintaining an environmental management system in line with this standard, we hope the system will be certified, by accredited external certifiers, by the end of 2009.

See it – sort it!

Nearly 11,000 workers suffered serious injury as a result of a slip or trips last year. Slips and trips are, on average, responsible for over a third of all reported major injuries – and two fatalities per year. Reducing this unnecessary injury toll is a priority nationwide – and everyone can help.

Slip and trip accidents can happen for a number of reasons, but all too frequently we jump to conclusions about why they happen rather than really looking for the true cause – or, we decide that it is 'just one of those things' and do nothing. Bad housekeeping is responsible for 50% of all trip accidents – so improving housekeeping would eliminate many accidents.

IMPROVING HOUSEKEEPING

- Ensure there is a suitable walkway through the workplace.
- Keep it clear, no trailing wires, no obstructions.
- Look at people's workstations – are the floors tidy, do they have enough storage space?
- What about other rooms? Are they tidy, are goods suitably stored, are there enough bins?

Good housekeeping doesn't cost anything – just takes a little effort from everybody – and having a 'see it – sort it' attitude.



DARKER EVENINGS

As the autumn and winter evenings become darker, the risk of slips and trips is even greater. With this in mind, we would appeal to everyone to be extra vigilant – both at work and also outside of working hours.

Editor's Note:

We hope you have enjoyed reading this edition of *The Forum* and would be pleased to receive your stories and photos for the next edition. David Faulds, P.C. Harrington Contractors Ltd, 19 Witley Gardens, Southall, Middlesex UB2 4ES Tel: 020 8574 5431 Email: david.faulds@pcharrington.com



Retail therapy in Stratford

SIZE – OR RATHER SCALE – REALLY DOES SEEM TO MATTER OVER AT THE WESTFIELD STRATFORD CITY DEVELOPMENT. SINCE MAY, BRIAN WAKEFIELD AND HIS TEAM HAVE BEEN WORKING ON, AMONGST OTHER THINGS, THE INSTALLATION OF SOME 1,300 PILE CAPS AND OVER 5,000 BOLTS AS PART OF P.C. HARRINGTON CONTRACTORS' £43M CONTRACT FOR THIS MAJOR NEW RETAIL DEVELOPMENT IN EAST LONDON!

Our 77-week contract also includes groundworks, drainage, ground slabs and the construction of a total of 33 cores – not to mention a service tunnel. To meet the programme, there is potential for six cores to be underway on site at any one time. Construction is being sequenced in an unusual way too – structural steelwork will be erected prior to the construction of the ground floor slab and drainage. Part of the project includes a 'future proof' basement – where pile caps have been

installed for possible enhanced or changed use in the future. Currently, there are eleven PCH work fronts open across the whole site, with production of pile caps, drainage and cores progressing simultaneously. So far, eleven cores have been constructed or are under construction by Slipform International. Meanwhile, HTC could have up to seven tower cranes and a number of hoists on site at the height of activity. The site is close to the Olympic Park and, because of live railway lines running across the site, there is considerable interface with Network Rail. The new Stratford International and Stratford Underground

stations are nearby – and the Woolwich line, enclosed in a concrete box, also passes through the site. Environmental issues are high on the agenda due to the nature of the Olympic Park and, as such, procedures are being closely monitored by both PCH and the client's environmental consultant. Due to open in 2011, Westfield's city centre development will offer a blend of retail, dining, leisure and entertainment facilities, along with offices, hotels and residential apartments. Needless to say, when he closes his eyes at night, Brian is now counting bolts rather than sheep!

THE STAFF NEWSLETTER OF THE P.C. Harrington GROUP



Message from the Chairman

By now, you will all be well aware that there are going to be some tough times ahead. Market conditions are changing and financial sector confidence is low – and no one can say with any certainty when things will improve.

As we head into this turbulent spell, we also know that our business is stronger than it has ever been in the past. The work put in and prudent investments made over recent years will stand us in good stead.

Many of us have been through difficult economic periods before and know that we must concentrate our efforts on what we do best.

Attention to health, safety and environmental issues will become even more important and I urge everyone to redouble their efforts to sustain the delivery of excellence, particularly in these areas.

My hope is that everyone will continue to focus on the professionalism with which they perform their jobs and work to further strengthen the team spirit which produces such fine results – this will ensure that we retain our market-leading position.

Pat Harrington, Chairman

In just three weeks, the PCH team at the new Royal London Hospital site raised a total of £5,580 in support of the London Air Ambulance Service (LAA). PCH Harrington Contractors is building the concrete frame for the project which includes a new helicopter pad for the LAA. After meeting Christine Margetts – the Fundraising Manager of the LAA – the team, led by Kathy Seago, launched a raffle amongst friends and colleagues to raise money for this life-saving service. The LAA, which carried out over 1,400 missions in 2007, can arrive anywhere within the M25 in 12 minutes, giving the extra – and crucial – time needed that will, in turn, save more lives. Half of the money to fund the service is donated by Virgin and the NHS, leaving an estimated £750,000 to be found through fund-raising activities.

Raffle prizes included a flight in the London Air Ambulance, a television, Marks & Spencer shopping vouchers and a family day ticket for Alton Towers. Many congratulations and thanks to all involved!

Return to ExCeL London



EIGHT YEARS ON, CONTRACTS MANAGER TONY COLLIER AND HIS TEAM HAVE RETURNED TO ExCeL IN LONDON DOCKLANDS TO WORK AGAIN WITH MAIN CONTRACTOR SIR ROBERT MCALPINE ON PHASE 2 OF THE SCHEME.

Our 47-week contract features groundworks, drainage, pile caps and structural concrete. For us, the construction sequence here is unusual. After we have completed the column pile caps, the main contractor will build the steel frame and roof – then we will construct the suspended post-tensioned floor slabs to the exhibition halls and lorry ways.

The project will provide much-needed additional exhibition and conference space including a 5,000 seater semi-permanent auditorium, as well as access lorry ways for entering the events centre - one at the north and one on the south side.

Among the challenges during our construction period will be the maintenance of access for maritime exhibits during the London International Boat Show in January 2009!

ExCeL London is the international events and conference centre, located in the Royal Docks, which hosts a variety of events from high profile exhibitions and conferences to international association meetings, award ceremonies and sporting events. In 2012, the venue will host seven Olympic and five Paralympic events. The development of Phase 2 is forecast to bring a further £1.6bn into London by 2011.



Mercy flight

On the double in Dublin

HTC HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL NOT ONLY IN PROVIDING FIVE TOWER CRANES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE PRESTIGIOUS NEW BUILDING AT DUBLIN AIRPORT, BUT, IN LATE SEPTEMBER, WE ALSO RECEIVED AN ORDER FOR NINE HOISTS – COMMENCING IN OCTOBER. THE HOIST PACKAGE FOR THIS PROJECT IS WORTH APPROXIMATELY £500,000.

The Terminal Two (T2) project at Dublin Airport, combined with a new runway, are part of Dublin Airport Authority's €2bn 10-year 'Transforming Dublin Airport' programme. The new terminal will open for business in April 2010.



Photo courtesy of Neil Batty

AROUND THE COUNTRY

Elsewhere, a substantial order for five cranes has been received for Park House in Oxford Street for Mace – commencing in February next year – and we have also received orders from Bowmer & Kirkland for a 500B and a 7031 in Kings Mill Dock, Liverpool, starting with the first crane in December. The Bovis project at New Court commences later on this year, as does the next phase of Mansfield Hospital which requires two cranes.

While the industry is going through a period of difficulty, with the credit crunch causing many house and flat builders to cease construction, we are continuing to win small-to-medium sized jobs with many other clients. The hoist business is pursuing numerous contracts and we expect some more successes over the next few months.



NEW IN ST NEOTS

Our new facility at St Neots is up to full speed and we are awaiting planning permission to erect a tower crane in the yard, thus making a more efficient, safer and user friendly operation in this busy location. New workshop equipment has been ordered to update and improve our fabrication facility and we will be undertaking fabrication work not only for the hoist division, but also for the tower crane business. In the forthcoming weeks other Group companies' fabrication needs will be delivered from this unique facility.

Factory training

Before the end of November, the three remaining erection squads will have travelled to Heilbronn in Germany for further manufacturer training on the erection and climbing of the newer Wolffs being developed – in particular the upgraded 180B. The 224B, although lighter in weight, can actually lift the same – or more – than a 180B and indeed has a 60m jib.

It is our policy at HTC, that all our employees involved with the erection, servicing and maintenance of Wolff cranes are all trained in the factory annually – which we believe is unique in the tower crane industry in the UK.

HOIST TRAINING

Meanwhile, as part of a multi-skilling initiative, our staff are undergoing further erection and maintenance training for hoists with Alimak in the UK facility at Rushden in Northamptonshire.

We are also planning to erect a crane in their yard which – while serving as a permanent yard crane – will be seen by their customers who come from all over the UK and Ireland. The crane, a 5015 Wolff is being painted in the Alimak orange and will be a permanent fixture on the skyline in that part of Northamptonshire.

One of HTC's teams of erectors, with their trainers, during their training course at the Wolff factory in Germany. LtoR: Konstantinos Christou, Johann Schuster, Richard Kelsey, Tim Brown, Dave Stones, Saul Blackburn, Simon Jennings, Lee McNamara (supervisor).



News-in-brief

Appointed Persons

Our Appointed Person at 240 Regent Street, a Bovis project, has won the Supervisor Monthly Safety Award for August. This is a well deserved award for Tim Snow and he has won £100 of gift vouchers to be spent in a store of his choosing.

Our Appointed Persons continue to be hired on projects where even HTC has no tower cranes as in the case of the BBC Phase 2. Indeed, on the Savile Road project for Mace and Skanska at Paddington the HSE inspector turned up unannounced and our Appointed Person was in a position to demonstrate total professionalism, complete and satisfactory record keeping and show that these sites were being run to the highest standards.

Purchases

With the under-utilisation of tower cranes in the market at present, we are diverting our purchasing strategy in the short term to meet the increasing demands for our hoists – and new units are being purchased from Alimak to meet contracts throughout the UK. These units are going to different projects, including Dublin Airport, to meet the more immediate demand being experienced by this part of the company.

SET IN BELFAST'S 'CULTURAL QUARTER' AND RISING 27 STOREYS, THE OBEL TOWER WILL BE THE TALLEST BUILDING IN NORTHERN IRELAND WHEN COMPLETED IN 2010.

This residential development includes two adjacent eight storey blocks comprising office space and apartments.

The frame contractor, Fernwave – having previously worked with Structural Systems – requested a post tensioned alternative to the existing reinforced concrete scheme. The scheme consists of 24,600m² of post-tensioned slabs, varying in depth from 200mm to 300mm.

Economic savings aside, the reduction in material handling, lifting and storage at the higher levels is a major advantage to the contractor. Cladding follows shortly after floor construction, reducing available craneage time for other activities. PT slabs – utilising less and lighter materials – offer obvious benefits.

There is also an improvement in floor cycle time with PT construction. An eight day turnaround per 700m² tower level, with subsequent three day post-concreting release of the formwork will accelerate the construction programme.

Soft spots have been designed into the structure and are located between tendons. These are required in one of the adjoining blocks to accommodate a future change of use. Again, this demonstrates the flexibility and great value that PT slabs offer to clients, owners and end users of structures – whilst being kind on the environment.



Structural Systems is currently working on a major bearing replacement project at London's Gatwick Airport to accommodate the new Inter Terminal Transit System.

Keeping people moving

STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON A MAJOR PROJECT AT LONDON'S GATWICK AIRPORT TO ACCOMMODATE THE REPLACEMENT OF THE INTER TERMINAL TRANSIT SYSTEM (ITTS) – AN AUTOMATED DRIVERLESS TRAIN SYSTEM.

Although all the transit sub-systems and station refurbishment will be carried out during a complete seven month shutdown of the system starting in September 2009, the bridge bearing replacements are being carried out in advance of the main works.

In conjunction with our bearing supplier – Mageba of Switzerland – we undertook a full survey to confirm bearing condition, numbers and types. It became apparent that there were issues with the existing bearings that would affect the installation of the new bearings.

SSL and Mageba were able to provide BAA with a solution for the replacement of the 628 bearings supporting the 1.2km dual track system – whilst keeping the ITTS operational.

THE SOLUTION

This solution involves welding new supports to the existing bearing dowels, providing new fixity for the new bearings. During the summer, a full scale mock up was set up in SSL's workshop in West London and sample welds were sent to Zurich for testing and certification, as part of this trial.

We also produced temporary works designs in-house for the provision of restraints to the structure whilst the bridge was being jacked to allow the replacement of the bearings. Jacking will be achieved with the use of a recently purchased 12

Cultural landmark

Artist's impression of the completed 27-storey OBEL Tower in Belfast where Structural Systems, through their post-tensioned solution for floor slabs, are helping their client to save time and costs.



point synchronised lifting unit – with its operating tolerances of +/- 0.25mm, we will be able to control the jacking and de-jacking process very accurately.

QUALITY MATTERS

All design and temporary works designs have been independently checked and verified by SSL in accordance with BAA's design process requirements. The delivery and recording of quality – both in the manufacturing works and on site – are equally important and the BAA Project Quality leader has worked closely with both SSL and Mageba developing installation activity check sheets and quality record sheets to satisfy all parties' requirements, so that final assurance can be agreed.

Warm welcome



Roger Stables joined the Structural Systems team in August as Construction Manager and is based at the London office. Roger brings over 11 years' experience in the post-tensioning and remedial construction fields in the UK and his knowledge and experience will be an asset to the company. We are delighted to have him on board and wish him every success in his new role!