

Crummock

solutions in construction

newsletter

Issue 6, April 2008

letter from the management

Welcome everyone to what is now the 6th edition of the Crummock Newsletter.

Firstly may I say that when Lynda asked... sorry... TOLD me to write this months management letter I felt humbled and honoured to follow in the footsteps of the previous highly respected and educated gentlemen who have already graced the front page.... and also David Jardine... only joking David!

Well now that summer is upon us, we enter what is usually found to be the most efficient and busy time of the year to carry out the projects we have in our order book. However, over the February, March and early April period, it felt as if there wasn't a minute to spare with contracts spread from Dunfermline to Bonnybridge and Loanhead all having to be managed, supervised and carried out as effectively as possible. Given the geography of these contracts, it felt as if more time was spent on the road than anything else during this period. I'm glad to say that we have suc-

cessfully managed to deliver 2 of the 3 contracts with the Loanhead contract continuing.

However, given the timescales and pressures passed on to us during this period and in delivering one certain project on time, we have found that in producing the quantity the client required, the quality has suffered on a few occasions. It was John Drain who talked about the quality of workmanship back in Newsletter 2 and with the benefit of hindsight, these issues could and probably should not have occurred. It is also worth saying that in the middle of this period, we have had the wettest March in 20 years... !. However, we will learn from this and move on. It is worth saying however that in more recent weeks, the quality has improved dramatically and this has shown our client that without the same pressures put on us as before, Crummock can indeed produce a quality finish to our work.

Given the above, it is also worth noting that our client up at our

Dunfermline contract, The Vine Church, has made a point of informing the site team that in all the years he has had contractors in to carry out works, Crummock have by far given them the best service and project to date. This confirms what we already know, that at Crummock, we CAN provide an excellent quality of service to our clients.

In summary, I would like to thank all the Staff and Operatives for their efforts through this particularly busy period. Let's continue to move forward positively & effectively, and strive to continually provide the best quality of project we can for our clients.

Just remember the good old saying - its quality, not quantity that counts!



Colin Winning
Projects Manager

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projects update



Ingliston Park & Ride

Working for RJ McLeod, we have recently completed surfacing adoptable roads, car parking and footpaths at Phase II of the above facility. Worth more than £400,000 to us, the works were completed in approximately 4 weeks to a high specification and excellent quality, much to the satisfaction of the Main Contractor and Client.

East Lothian - Footpath Reconstruction

We are currently carrying out footpath improvements in Tranent and Prestonpans for East Lothian Council. This work is very similar to works we carried out with West Lothian Council over the last 3 years. Although works are in a residential area and require careful planning thanks to great efforts from David Binnie, Duncan Bain and Alan Rae we have managed to make a successful start.



St Ninians Park, Peebles

Small contract for Scottish Borders Council involving the construction of footpaths through a playpark providing wheelchair access to the individual pieces of play equipment for disabled spectators. Also the construction of Precast Concrete steps across a railway embankment. The contract was completed within the two-week contract period all bar the red microcolour surfacing which couldn't be applied straight away due to the prevailing ambient temperatures.

The Cedars, Colinton - Phase 2

We have now commenced the second phase works at the latest Applecross Development. This involves drainage, soiling and footpath works for both the east and west apartment blocks. The works have involved quite a bit of planning and programming with Gordon Sim, Alex Jeffrey, Rab Whitelaw's squad and Johnny Cowie's squad.





Dundas Street, Heriot Row Junction

This involved the upgrading of a busy junction in Edinburgh city centre. The works involve road crossings, traffic signal installation and foot path improvement. One of the most awkward areas was the resurfacing works which was carried out recently under the watchful eye of Brian Johnstone. Due to the careful consideration of Gordon, Alex and Phil Kellys squad despite the numerous existing utilities in the area we have managed to carry out the works without damaging any of the them.

Old Glamis Road, Dundee

This is the first purpose built indoor football centre in Scotland and Crummock have been fortunate to carry out the ground works on this contract. Over the past 4 weeks all ground beams have been completed ready for the main frame erection. Although the work was quite demanding, thanks to efforts from Rob Erskins we managed to achieve the programme completion date.



A701 - A703 Junction

Part of the 'Bus Priority Measures' scheme on the A701, Crummock are widening the existing carriageway to give the required width for a separate bus lane. Works on this job have been hampered by the discovery of a large number of underground cables, including High Voltage electricity cables, which have had to be either diverted or lowered.

A701 - Ikea

Through our very successful partnership arrangements with Midlothian Council we have recently been awarded our largest ever contract with them. We are currently constructing an additional bus lane, removing the roundabout and installing traffic Lights on the A701, the main route between Edinburgh & Penicuik. The job includes large-scale earthworks, drainage, ducting and a significant road make-up.



employee profile



Name:	<i>Barry McGrory</i>	
Age:	<i>34</i>	
Marital Status:	<i>Married (with 3 daughters)</i>	
Place of Birth:	<i>Bellshill</i>	
Residence now:	<i>Larkhall, Lanarkshire</i>	
Job Title:	<i>Construction Chargehand & Safety Representative</i>	
Why did you join Crummock:	<i>As it was a good company to further my career</i>	
Time with company:	<i>1 year 4 months</i>	
Best contract and why:	<i>Shotts, good atmosphere on job and a good laugh</i>	
Fun experience at Crummock:	<i>Shotts because of Johnny Cowie, Colin and Iain</i>	
Best reason to work at Crummock:	<i>You're not just a number on the payroll and even the directors know your name</i>	
Something you do at weekends:	<i>Work them—if Derek McAllister will let me! Spend time with the children and do d.i.y.</i>	
Favourite place in Scotland:	<i>Nairn</i>	
Favourite holiday destination:	<i>Sunny Beach (Bulgaria) or Benidorm</i>	
Sports/hobbies:	<i>Badminton, swimming, football and reading</i>	
Favourite music:	<i>The Beegees</i>	
Favourite films:	<i>Groundhog Day and Forrest Gump</i>	
Favourite restaurant/food:	<i>Tony Roma's and my wife's cooking</i>	
Favourite drink:	<i>Diet Irn-Bru or tea</i>	
Who do you most admire:	<i>My daughter who hasn't let type one diabetes stop her at the age of 9</i>	
What do you deplore in yourself:	<i>I try to please everybody</i>	
What do you deplore in others:	<i>Bigotry and bullying</i>	
What is your greatest fear:	<i>My phone ringing in the early hours of the morning bringing bad news</i>	
Your idea of perfect happiness:	<i>Divorce! No I love the beach, a book and a beer</i>	
What is your motto in life:	<i>Everybody makes mistakes that's why they put rubbers on the ends of pencils</i>	
Five words that describe you:	<i>Funny, quiet, approachable, tightfisted and fair</i>	
How would you like to be remembered:	<i>As someone who was reliable and helpful</i>	
The most important lesson life has taught you to date:	<i>It doesn't matter what hand life deals you, there is always someone worse off than yourself</i>	

caption competition

Can you come up with a caption to best sum up the picture?

Send all answers to Lynda Selfridge at Head Office. 01875 825 115 or lynda.selfridge@crummock.com

The winner will be the best entry in the judges opinion and will be announced in the next issue of the Company Newsletter. With a bottle of wine going to the winner. The judges decision is final.



future workload

Just before the start of the new financial year, the Directors and our Accountant got together to set targets for the year ahead.

This year the turnover target is set at a modest increase on the past year's actual figures.

It is satisfying to note that when broken down to monthly targets, we already have a future order book showing the value of contracts already confirmed, meeting or exceeding these monthly targets up to August. This is in every month except June where the shortfall is minor and will be easily made up by then.

Future contracts include work from our respected clients; Applecross, Fulcrum, ROK, Midlothian Council, Bell Building, Morrisons and Gladedale.

health & safety

Our first two Employee Safety Reps, Lynda Selfridge and Barry McGrory successfully completed their training in February and can now be approached with any health and safety issues. We hope to have the other two reps trained in May, to complete the programme.

Four Crummock employees underwent the full five day Site Manager's Safety Training Scheme course at the CITB Training Centre in Glasgow over a five week period in February and March. I am pleased to confirm that all four were successful and have now achieved the industry standard safety qualification for construction managers. Those taking part are to be congratulated for the effort they put in. Well done to Brian Johnston, Alex Scougall, Gordon Sim and Iain Keay.

accounts

This is traditionally a very busy time of year for the Accounts department at Crummock, and this year is no exception. The Purchase Ledger team of Jennifer & Bridie are busy with the higher than usual volume of invoices that arise due to the increased workload around February and March. The end of March is also the company's financial year end, so they are also making sure that all transactions and any associated queries are resolved before the year end cut-off.

It is an extremely busy period for payroll for a number of reasons. Donna has an increased workload due to Easter holiday pay to be calculated and processed. The year end payrolls on the computer system have to be checked and finalised and year end returns need to be made to HM Revenue & Customs. The latter is done electronically to HMRC's website, and if last year is anything to go by, with all the changes, delays and computer crashes that they had, this will be a time consuming and frustrating process. P60s are required to be prepared and issued. Finally the computer's payroll module needs to be set up for the start of the new fiscal year, with various changes to tax rates and legislation that entails.

As mentioned above, the end of March is the company's year end. In preparing the year end accounts, all the individual control accounts need to be checked and reconciled. At the time of writing the year end accounts are being produced for the directors' approval. Once that is done, preparations continue for the arrival of the auditors, usually in mid May.

Apart from the usual day to day matters, there are other issues being attended to. The budget for the 2008 / 09 year is being finalised and we are preparing for a major upgrade to the computer system.

As you can see, this is a busy time for the department and your co-operation as issues arise is appreciated.

technology

"The fastest, most reliable broadband in the galaxy".

This advertising slogan shouts at you from billboards around the country and Crummock is one of the early adopters of the technology.

Each Project Manager and Site Manager has now been equipped with the latest High Speed Mobile Broadband devices to allow them to stay in the office, when out of the office! This should mean that they are able to dedicate more of their time to being on site where they are needed.



construction idol

Construction Idol - Contestants Required

Never before has such an ambitious project been undertaken to raise funds for the Construction Industry Charity, 'The Lighthouse Club'.

Crummock are organising a Pop Idol/Britain's got Talent type of event, featuring people employed in the construction and related industries from all over Scotland.

There will be auditions to select a cross-section of 12 acts to appear on Finals night to be held in the Inchyra Grange Hotel on 20th September 2008.

The acts can be individuals or groups of employees and are not limited to singing. Any type of entertainment acts will be auditioned for suitability.

The organisation is in the early stages but so far, the hotel is booked, and prices are being sought for; Staging, Lighting, Sound, Stage Curtains, huge TV screens, and Filming. Also, letters have been sent out to over 100 companies in Scotland inviting them to participate

This is where you come in. As organisers, we need to put in some high quality acts to hopefully lift the 2008 trophy in the final so we need all you closet entertainers to put yourselves forward for the auditions which should be held in June. With over 150 employees there must be some good singers or entertainers waiting to be discovered.

If you make it to the final, you will have the opportunity to perform in front of over 300 people on a professional stage with musical backing as required. Six of the twelve acts will be eliminated by the judges and the remaining finalists will return to the stage to be subjected to the 'Clapometer' to decide the winner. The winner will do an encore after being presented with their prize.

So, help us, help the Lighthouse Club, help the people, or the families of people, killed or seriously injured in the construction industry every year.

Please give names and details of your proposed act to Lynda at head office.

lynda.selfridge@crummock.com or telephone 01875 825 115.

THE LIGHTHOUSE CLUB
THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY CHARITY
EAST OF SCOTLAND BRANCH



employee news



New Starts



Neil McLarty

Plant Operator
Start date: 21/01/08



Jamie Banyard

Construction Operative
Start date: 04/02/08



Nikki Cornwall

Office Trainee
Start date: 18/02/08



John Brown

Plant Operator
Start date: 25/02/08



Mark Howley

Site Engineer
Start date: 05/03/08



Ian Gillie

Construction Operative
Start date: 04/03/08



Andrew Bain Jnr

Construction Operative
Start date: 17/03/08



Alan Rae Jnr

Construction Operative
Start date: 17/03/08

Goodbye & Good Luck

David Ray, William Thompson, Thomas McDiarmid, Thomas Mathieson, Scott Wilson, David Ferguson and Scott Napier have all recently left Crummock and we would like to wish them well in their future.

Your News

If anyone has any news they would like published in the next newsletter please pass this on to Lynda Selfridge in the office.