

Well, a very happy New Year to one and all. We hope the prospects for 2010 are looking encouraging for all our customers. What, with the financial climate and the weather causing us all a big freeze, we hope business gets off to a better start for you. For us here in good old Blighty, everything comes to a complete standstill with a bit of snow, nothing usual there then! But I can report here in West Yorkshire, it has been business as usual. We hope the weather hasn't caused you too many problems and your New Year is off to a good start.

OK, we might not have the technology to keep the roads clear, but at least when it comes to welding; we still have plenty of ability and skill. Following a recent seminar at TWI in Cambridge, **Lincoln Electric** was showing off their new welding simulator. The simulator, which was based on a MIG/MAG semi automatic welding machine, uses a software approach to teach welding, without actually making a spark. For all you PlayStation® experts, we're sure you'll know what we mean. Basically, you hold a simulator MIG/MAG gun and draw it along a special test plate, just as you would if it was a real weld. The software then records your progress, measuring angles, travel speed, tip stick-out length, etc. Not sure how this technology will progress ourselves, but great for schools (nice and safe/clean). I think we are a way off from simulating underwater welding yet, but it just shows you how this technology is moving on, so one day soon you might be able to wet weld without getting wet! Our ever popular **Piranha** safety switch receives an additional colour option. You can now have it in any colour as long as it's yellow! Only kidding, we are still offering the utility case model in



black, although yellow is now proving, by far, the most popular colour choice (choice of colour options



subject to availability). **Cameron's** the Leeds based manufactures of blow out preventers (Xmas trees) for the offshore oil and gas markets required our inspection services for their new high shed's, 60t overhead crane, which underwent engineering work to



strengthen the main beams, to up rate the crane to 80t. This work required use of a fire engine to gain height to the main beams, as they were over 30M high. The work was subcontracted from our regular customer **SS Fabrications** and required the examination of all the strengthening welds to the main horizontal beams. We were delighted to have been of service to fellow **E.I.A** (Engineering Industries Association) member, **Progressive Engineering**, based in Manchester, who specialise in the manufacture of hatch covers and valves, etc for



the tank transport, storage and process plant sectors within the petrochemical and food industries. Although the company has been manufacturing these

products for many years, a new German client required stringent approvals to be in place for all their welding procedures (WPS) and welder qualification documentation, etc. We sent our intrepid welding expert, non other than David Keats to the **Fire and Rescue's** diving school in Gothenburg, Sweden last year. Dan the head of the dive school is adopting the Weldcraft-Pro welding programme for all their students, following attendance at the IDSA presentation in Philadelphia USA. Also present was Kalle, the head of the Finnish diving school, Innofocus, who have also expressed interest in running the programme. Other persons present in the photo opposite are the head welding instructors for both schools and diving instructors, Ella and Per. A special thank you to Ella who acted as official translator and who's English is better than ours. Thank you Ella, we are not worthy! Following an enquiry from **SAS Software** we are pleased to have been of service for their welder training



requirements, which also included plasma cutting and oxy-acetylene safe use and set-up. The photo shows the prestigious building the company occupies in Marlow, in Buckinghamshire, which is set in 137 acres. Very nice; but not a typical location for welders. Our new real-colour auto-darkening welding filters are proving very



popular, with orders coming in from all over the world. Thank you again to **Tuskar Rock** for entrusting us to look after all their formal diver-welder qualifications. We are pleased to report successful qualifications to British



Standards, using our Barracuda Gold electrodes. Well done to everybody, always nice to visit you all over in Ireland. Our **Swordfish** electrodes seem to be finding niche markets around the world, with the latest order coming from a company in Italy, **Subsea Services**. The product is going to the fire departments for use both above and below the waterline. The Swordfish arc-cutting electrodes offer a great alternative to traditional

exothermic cutting lances, as they have been proven to be safer for the diver, due to very low oxygen potential in the fume. These



electrodes are available in the normal waterproof coating, or non-coated for use in air. The **Professional Diving Academy** is ready to run another Weldcraft-Pro course later this year, in March to be precise. So anybody wishing to gain internationally accredited certification should contact the school directly on **01369 701701**. PDA is based in Dunoon, Scotland and is accredited to run the course, under license. We in turn, are audited by **EAL (EMTA)** Awards, the certifying authority and we are approved to **ISO 9001**. The

Weldcraft-pro is the only fully accredited, certified underwater



welding course available that follows the International Institute of Welding (IIW) and The European Welding Federation (EWF) guidelines. The programme is also recognised by The Institute of Marine, Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST). So if you are looking for the best in welding skills; look no further and contact PDA now. Next Course starts in March. We are delighted to have been of service to **Red 7 Marine** for their welder training and certification requirements for a contract at Felixstowe docks. This work also included training and certifying a number of divers employed directly with **Costain** (the main contractor). The project involves fitting over 2000 anodes (three different types) at three different levels for the reconfiguration phase at the Landguard terminal. Welding was performed using our **Barracuda Gold** electrodes, both 3.2 and 4.0mm and the boys had to produce a multipass fillet weld.



The photo above shows just some of the mutely crew who managed to pass! Well done boys. **Norsk Yrkesdykkesole**, in Norway will commence welder training shortly at their dive school and have entrusted all their welding requirements to us. We have

recommended the Mahe, 420 Delta Digital welding inverter, which is a first class machine for underwater welding, not least for the fact that you can adjust the OCV (big safety feature). We have also supplied all other ancillary equipment, including double insulated welding cables,



stinger, welding filters, Piranha safety switch, etc. We are pleased to announce our client **D-Tec** has decided to adopt the Weldcraft-Pro underwater welding course. **D-Tec**, a new specialist diver training organisation based in Antwerp, is making plans for the introduction of our Weldcraft-Pro welding course to be available in Belgium. The company has acquired a city centre building and plans to build a purpose built training tank. It is expected courses will start this year, hopefully, within the next few months. **A first for the Weldcraft-Pro**; the course will

be available in a number of languages, other than English, including Dutch, German, Italian and French. The programme, which is the only externally accredited underwater welding training programme available, follows the **IIW** and **EWF** guidelines. **A note for your diary** David will be presenting a paper at the **UI2010** conference in **New Orleans** on the 9th February, room 235/236 at 10:30AM, hope to see you there.

We would like to thank the following customers for their valued business over the passed few months; Hytech, Dutch Diving, Divewise, Pommecc, Terrosystem, The Underwater Centre, Reel, SMP, Reds, HullTec, Shearwater Marine, Holstan, Ellison Energy, Northern Divers, Specialised Technologies, Millennium Marine, Morrisons, Clyde Commercial, Abco Divers, Tuskar Rock, Amron Int'l Lastek, Subsea Services, Advanced Marine. Remember, we would be delighted to include a story about a project you have been involved with, so do pls send us a few words/photo and we will include the details in the next newsletter for you.

