

# "FUSION LINE"

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Issue 34 – Winter 2012/2013

Merry Christmas to one and all. I know, it's hard to believe but there goes another year. We hope 2012 has been busy for you and 2013 will be better still. The welding and diving industries seem to be holding up fairly well, at least compared to other industries. Although here in Britain, the general economic client appears to be running along the same lines as the weather with recent news stories of floods all across the UK having brought misery for many. In the words of the AWD Chairman; "it's a shame that the speeds and sights of the Olympics can't be matched in the business world", or perhaps I should say the banking world! "We should all applaud the competence displayed in creating the stadia and staging this iconic sporting event; it makes you proud to be British. It's just a shame that in the background lurks growing economic concerns over the euro zone economy and how this is combining to slow the worlds productivity". For more info on AWD, go to [www.awd.org.uk](http://www.awd.org.uk). We will at least try to finish off the year on a high, because remember everyday is a beautiful day for welding.

Welding, welding all is welding. A big thank you to our new customer **Easilift Loading Systems** who recently contacted us to bring their site team up to speed on MMA welding techniques and get them



ready to take formal welder qualification tests. **Easilift** are one of Europe's leading manufacturers of loading bay equipment and we are pleased to confirm their welders obtained class I welding standards, well done boys.

Our longstanding customer **Terberg DTS**, based in Halifax, produce a wide range of shunters, ro-ro tractors, specialist trailers, etc. As well as schopf, aircraft tractor units and fire fighting machines to the aviation markets requested we carry our inspections to their fleet of fighting machines lifting arms. A total of five vehicles were examined, as shown in the photo above, to ensure the weld repairs met the specification.

**NG Bailey** who are one of the UK's leading independent engineering companies, having a turnover of over £450M contacted us to ask for assistance to write, develop and approve a range of suitable welding procedures and welder qualifications to cover the wide range of stainless and carbon steel pipework for various projects connected with the dairy and other specialist fluid carrying industries. All the welding had to be carried

out in the HL045 (6G) position to ensure all welders had qualification in the most difficult welding position possible. The photo below shows one of the welders in action.



We have also qualified a number of welders to the Civil aviation authority (**CAA**) welding standards. CAA requires welders to take a series of tests, including tube to tube, sheet to sheet and tube to tube using a branch connection. Weldcraft-Pro continues to see greater and greater demands. In the UK this programme is available via The Professional Diving Academy (**PDA**), but also the courses are available in Sweden, Belgium, Greece, USA. Please visit our website at [www.specialwelds.com](http://www.specialwelds.com) for full details. We recently made changes to the way the Weldcraft-

pro is delivered. The programme is now delivered via web based flash files, which assist the instructors and helps maintain quality of tuition. The **PDA**, in October this year, was the first school to deliver training via this method and the feedback from students and instructors was great, all agreeing it really assisted the learning process. **Divewise (D-Tec)** in Belgium have also been very busy running Weldcraft-Pro welding courses, with three busy classes so far this year. Remember this qualification is the **only** independently assessed



educational programme that follows the **IIW** underwater welding guidelines and is accredited by the UK's largest engineering awarding-body, **EAL**. **Marex**, our Greek training partners also commenced training in Athens, despite a difficult economic climate, they also have run three courses so far this year. We can only hope that the economic climate allows for continued demands. We wish Mr. George Maroudas every success and very well done George on your excellent in-house management procedures; always a pleasure to conduct end of course audits.

**Hammerhead** wet-spot welding process finds another satisfied customer. **Kaymac Marine & Civil Engineering** has offered their thanks and appreciation for our service and assistance with regards to their recent purchase of one of our Hammerhead Spot Welding systems, for a welding project at Devonport Naval Base in Plymouth.

Kaymac representative, Mr. Jon Dean explains; "we were originally commissioned to fully weld approximately 20 sacrificial anode brackets, using conventional fillet welding, to a number of cylindrical piles on a newly constructed jetty. But instead we proposed Speciality Welds novel Hammerhead wet-spot welding system to the client, which thankfully, was approved". "The divers were able to use the system efficiently and safely after a minimum amount of set up, having never used the process before and very quickly completed the welding with confidence and ease". "The Hammerhead System saved a tremendous amount of time on an already tight construction programme ". We are very happy to recommend this system to any commercial diving contractor on any underwater welding application". It really is as simple as ABC and quality welds are produced quickly without the need for traditionally trained/skilled welder-divers. "A great process David, thank you".

**York Council** request we attend

their workshops to conduct welder and safety awareness training for the maintenance personnel. This involved training on MMA and MIG/MAG welding exercises as well as basic oxy/fuel equipment safety check-list assessments, to ensure personnel understand how to check equipment is safe to use.

**Gas Safe Consultants** return for more oxy-fuel cutting training for



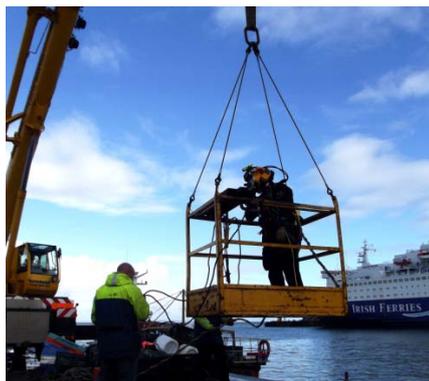
their safety instructors. We are delighted to work with the UK's leading gas safety organisation. Gas safe provide a full range of training services for uses of compressed cylinder gases and





cryogenic liquids/gases. The synergy between our two companies provides an even wider range of expertise for our customers.

**Kolm Polti** request we attend site in Estonia to undertake diver-welder qualification testing for their dive team. So we sent our intrepid welding expert David to Estonia; it's a good job he likes vodka as they don't drink anything else! Thank you guys for a very warm welcome on my first visit to your country. I enjoyed it very much, including the vodka. The vodka was, of course, simply medicinal, due to the cold weather. Although the weather was cold the hospitality was warm, thank you guys, I am available to do it again anytime you like. Well done to everybody for passing.



A recent trip to a sunny County Wexford, Ireland to visit **Irish Sea Diving Contractors** saw their dive team qualify to BS 4872-1 standards for fillet welds in plate; well done guys.

Another, albeit long awaited visit to Belfast was also undertaken last month, with a visit to **Hulltec**, again to carry out welder qualification testing to BS 4872-1 for fillet welds in plate. The welding was carried out onsite in the port itself, with the inevitable poor visibility conditions; but the weld quality was good (see photo below). Well done boys; it was nice to visit Belfast again; don't leave it so long next time.



**Bradford Tool Group** make a visit to request advise on welding of a specialist martensitic stainless steel hinge bracket, that required a modification following a drilling error. Martensitic stainless is a high carbon version, with very different welding characteristics to that of

the austenitic range of stainless steels you may be familiar with. This repair involves pre-heating to temperatures in the region of 250oC and then a very slow cool, which is achieved by immersing the item into a bath of vermiculite.

**Ace Engineers**, a local aluminium specialist welding and fabrication company invited us to assist and assess the cause of a recent weld failure in one of their aluminium lifting easy lift three legged crown assemblies. Following an investigation, which did see some material and welding issues, we were able to advise on improvements to their in-house quality control procedures both prior, during and post welding and also developed a new welding procedure to cover this



materials/weld type and qualified their welders against this welding procedure to BSEN ISO 9606-2.

A big thank you to Norwegian based **Martintek** for their recent order, which involved a full underwater welding set-up, including the new Mahe 4000 delta digital MMA inverter, double insulated welding cables, Piranha 400 amp safety switch, stinger, clamps, etc.

The **Mahe 4000** Delta Digital machine is the latest in MMA welding technology, particularly underwater welding, as it comes with a range of OCV setting to provide the best possible safety protection for the diver. For the full range of Mahe welding machines,

please visit our website at [www.specialwelds.com](http://www.specialwelds.com)



**Lastek** welding consumables, here in the UK continue to go from strength to strength. Lastek offer a full range of welding products for MMA, TIG, MIG/MAG, including fluxed cored wire, for mild steel, low alloy and difficult to weld steels, cast irons, stainless steel, aluminium and nickel, alloys, hardfacing, silver solder and soft solders to special electrodes. The Belgium based company has been



manufacturing top quality welding consumables since the early 1960's. We are pleased to be offering their extensive range of welding consumables. So no matter what you're welding problems, **Lastek** has the solution, please call us for more information.

**Piranha** safety switches continue to show very strong sales throughout the year, with orders going to all four corners of the globe. Other products, including **Barracuda Gold**

welding electrodes, **Swordfish** and **Scorpion blue** cutting electrodes / lances, underwater welding **Stringers** and **auto-darkening** welding filters are all showing strong sales over the year. For more details on any of our products, please visit our website at [www.specialwelds.com](http://www.specialwelds.com)

The AWD race-day event was a great success and a great opportunity to meet other members, who we wouldn't otherwise normally meet. David and Julie, looking rather smart, (see centre of the photo). It was a great day out and I am told a few dollars were made on the gee-gee's, although David says it didn't meet Julies outfit costs!

Do please keep sending in details about projects you are working on; remember it's free advertising and we are very happy to include it in the next issue.

We welcome a number of new customers who have requested our services in the last few months, including; **Ultra-Fabs, Brocol Mechanical, Easilift, Bradford Tool Group, Ti Management, Mach-Tech, Hot Courses, Proweld, Beuchat Int'l SAS, Ward Fabs, and**

**Burgess & Co** to name a few. Can we request all our customers take note of our shut-down holiday times. Please note we will be closed over the **Christmas break** from Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> of December and will not be re-opening again until January the 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013. May we take this opportunity to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and happy New Year and remember; every day is a beautiful day to weld.

**We would like to thank all our customers for their continued support during 2012 and may we thank the following customers for their business during the last quarter of 2012; ICH Hytech, Calvert Site Services, PDA, CTS Group NYD, BPN Explorer, Divewise, Terosystem, Advanced Welding Products, The Underwater Centre, Shearwater. Chamber Oceanics, K. Rouse Civil Engineering, JG Burns, SMP, Oceanic Offshore, Gas-Safe Consultants Pommec, Tuomas Villi, Guernsey Harbours, PT Yontomo, SubTech Systems, RCH, Clyde Commercial, Dutch Diving, Spiro, Tecnosoud, Terberg and Morrison supermarkets (VMU).**

