

We would like to start this newsletter on a positive note, as good news seem hard to find these days, with all the doom and gloom merchants on TV. If it's not the state of the Euro, it's the economy, with talk of recession and negative growth. Of course we all know times are hard, but it's about time we had some positive talk and let's not forget all the hard work and determination we are all contributing. However, at this time of year it's usual to reflect and summarise on how the year has gone. We are most encouraged by the commitment we have seen by engineering and diving companies up and down the country who are still investing in their welding personnel. It's a full year since we moved into our new building and we haven't stopped training all year. We have two new schools opening in Europe in the New Year, running the Weldcraft-Pro underwater welding course and January is already fully booked up with training and testing services. After such a busy year it feels extra important to take time out for our nearest and dearest, so we can then return stronger and even more motivated. From all of us to all of you, wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

We were asked by Marine Specialists, a company based in Ireland, earlier in the year to assist with developing and producing welding procedures and to undertake training and qualification testing for their welder-divers for a project in Dublin Docks, for the Harbour Board, fitting anodes and a number of other welding works. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Specialised Industries Group for the use of their diving tank to undertake the initial training.



We recently invested in a unique tool for our training school to prepare weld bevels. This is an extremely important aspect of weld testing and offers significant improvements for weld bevel preps over flame/hot methods, including plasma. This tool, which we imported directly from Korea, is the only tool on the market in the UK that prepares bevels for both plate and pipe materials, all in one tool. It is light enough to be held with one hand and utilises the motor from a 125mm angle grinder and results in an extremely cost effective way producing high quality and accurate weld bevels. The tool as shown in the photo, which also shows the optional pipe rollers fitted, is the smallest machine available; the GTW-1500 and will put a 45° bevel on 10.0mm thick material. There are two other

tools in the range to cover thicker materials. There are a number of machines on the market which put bevels on pipe, but to find one that can be used for both pipe and plate is quite unique and one that can be held in one hand is truly unique. If you are interested to learn more about this tool, pls visit our website where you can see a video and more technical details, etc.



Our Piranha safety switch undergoes independent testing for safe current capacity, as for the first time ever we had a customer who advised us of a possible fault. Although we are pleased to advise, as we expected, the system has passed with no issues. We asked the specialist firm Albright to undertake formal UL procedure testing of the switch. The photo



shows testing underway recording current and temperature readings while under 250 amp loading. Testing was continuous for over a two hour period before increasing to the full 400 amp switch capacity for a fixed timed period.

We were very pleased to welcome from Poland, Agnes and Gregory of BPN Explorer earlier in the year. They are planning on starting to run underwater welder training in Poland, purchased a range of welding equipment and were requesting advice and technical services for training and certification of underwater welding. We look forward working with them in the near future.

Thank you to Ocean Kinetics, Marex, Lease Marine and a number of other companies for purchasing the Swordfish arc-cutting electrodes, which we understand did everything they had to. Remember this product doesn't require any oxygen to cut and although does require a degree of skill, with sufficient power, will cut a wide range of material types and thicknesses, up to 20-25mm.



Don't forget that as the UK's official distributor of **Lastek**, we can offer the full range of welding products. The Belgium based company has been manufacturing top quality welding consumables since the early 1960's as well manufacturing a wide range of welding equipment, including welding inverters and transformer-rectifier

machines. We are pleased to be offering their extensive range of consumables, which include mild steel, alloy steel, difficult to weld steels, stainless steel, aluminium, hardfacing, cast iron, copper alloys, silver solder, etc, etc. So no matter what your welding problem, **Lastek**



has a solution.

We are pleased to continue our long term relationship with the Tadcaster based Lambert Group, for developing and qualifying welding procedures and welder qualifications. Lamberts produce a range of bespoke automated production machinery and work in steel, stainless and aluminium alloys. Congratulations to Tommy Orr for meeting the grade. The Keighley based Autoclaves Group requested our specialist training

services in order to train and qualify their welders in MMA, using basic hydrogen controlled electrodes to BSEN 287-1 qualification standards. The group which manufactures a wide range of autoclaves for the aerospace, motor, investment castings, glass, sterilisation and rubber industries are looking to increase production and bring more in-house welding skills under one roof.

Humberside HETA College sent one of their welding instructors for training and formal approval qualifications in welding aluminium alloys 5083, using double pulse MIG welding, for butt and fillet welding. It's expected that the Humberside region will see



an explosion in use of aluminium alloys for fabrication of a wide range of products, due to the onset of the wind farm industries. HETA has invested in two new pulse



Autoclaves Systems - Aerospace

"Fusion Line"

welding MIG inverters, similar to the model shown below.

The machine shown is the Mahe Hyper-MIG, which is suitable for standard pulse, double pulse, high speed and forced arc welding. If you have any requirements for MIG welding of aluminium alloys, please don't hesitate to contact us.



We are delighted to advise all our customers that we have teamed up with Gas safe Consultants Ltd, to deliver welder



training, qualification services, as well as development of welding procedures and approval testing. Gas Safe Consultants Ltd provides a full range of training and consultancy services for users of compressed cylinder gases and cryogenic liquids/gases. The

synergy between our two companies was such that this working relationship was essential. As a partner to Gas Safe, we can now provide our expertise to a much wider audience. We look forward to the New Year and working together.

Our intrepid welding specialist David is invited to Norway to conduct welding training for all of NYD's instructors. David comments. "I was particularly impressed with the facilities and set-up at NYD. They have an excellent centre and are even able to offer closed bell diving facilities, of which I was able to undertake a dive myself, in a hot water suit". Their system is fitted out inside a building on the pier, has under floor heating and the diving bell drops directly through the floor into the fiord, offering a water depth of about 10-12 metres. "I am pleased to be able to report I can still show these young pups a thing or two you know"!

Clyde Commercial Diving based in Glasgow, invited us to provide welder training and certification services for their dive team, in both wet and dry welding. We are pleased to report that all divers passed their codes and welding is progressing well, on the harbour piles, despite some lousy

weather conditions, making life difficult onsite, in Clyde Port. The divers have to enter the water through specially prepared man ways, cut directly through the road surface.



AB Ports, in Hull asked us to check and verify their atomic hydrogen welding procedures and conduct welder qualification testing for one of the blacksmiths for welding chain links. The atomic hydrogen process is extremely rare these days and unfortunately it's a process that's almost completely died out. Which is a great shame, as it truly is a wonderful process to use. As far as we are aware, there are probably only two or three machines left in the UK. The last time we had any involvement



"Fusion Line"

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Issue 32 – winter 2011

with this process was back in 2001 for BDC Lifting. As this company has now ceased trading, we have no idea where their machine disappeared too!



We were pleased to welcome Mr. George Maroudas of Marex to our training centre. George, who successfully completed our instructor training course, is expected to start running the Weldcraft-Pro underwater welding course. It is expected that training courses will become available early in the New Year, subject of course to our site audit of their facilities and staff being acceptable.



CTS Group sends more welders for approval on stainless steel and carbon steel pipe. Local company CTS are involved with a

range of specialist on-site welding of pipeworks, from gas to power stations, to nuclear work. All welding is to BSN 287-1 class I standards and the welders have to take their test in the H-L045 (6G) test position, which is fixed at 45°.

We were very pleased to accept an invitation from a new customer, North West Marine for David to visit their facilities in Oban, on the west coast of Scotland. Speaking with Tony Radcliff, owner and MD of North West Marine, who had explained their clients need for formal welding qualifications for a current underwater welding project. David produced a preliminary welding procedure specification (pWPS), and this was submitted to the client for approval. With approval granted, David then immediately commenced training of their dive team. Training was conducted over a three day period and all divers had to produce single pass fillet welds, with the approval testing standard in accordance with BS 4872-1 (class II) standards. We are happy to report all divers' welds were successful.

Do please remember to

keep sending in as much as information possible about projects you have been, or are currently working on, as we are very happy to include the details for you. Believe it or not, this humble newsletter of ours is received by hundreds of businesses and individuals alike, with most recipients' requesting a copy, so don't miss out on your opportunity for some free publicity!

would also like to say a big thank you to the following customers for their support since the beginning of the New Year; Hytech, Peter Nobel, Calvert Site Services, Hulltec, PDA, Trans Continental Exports, Dutch Diving, Divewise, Terrosystems, Underwater Centre, Shearwater, Advanced Marine, Complete Energy Solutions, Kolm Polti, Resolve Salvage, Canadian Gov, Red 7 Marine, BAE Systems, Addison Engineering, Chamber Oceanics, JG Burns, SMP, Ship Technics, Kortek, ADS Diving, Spiro Services, JS Dykkerservice, Coral Windows, Peter Noble, Provence Soudage, Sea & Land Technology, Tecnosoud, Trans Continental and Morrisons.



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