

Well aren't we having a blooming lovely summer, here in good old Blighty; what a wash out this summer has been so far. Never seen so much rain! Floods have caused havoc to large areas of the country, but luckily for us here in West Yorkshire we have fared pretty well, although we had to keep a close eye on things when the drains started overflowing. We hope that our customers in the UK have escaped the worst of it. We sincerely hope this weather improves, particularly as the Olympics are almost upon us. We are all looking forward to the games and hope for lots of gold medals for our athletes. We would like to take this opportunity to wish them all well and hope they have successful and rewarding games. We're backing Britain, but we also wish all athletes every success; good luck to one and all.

A busy start to the year for the Weldcraft-Pro underwater welding courses, with The Professional Diving Academy (PDA) having high



demand for welding courses. Two back to back courses were delivered in January for students coming from as far away as Sweden, Estonia and Greece. We are pleased to affirm all students successfully completed these



courses with certificates issued

issued for both theory and practice by EAL and Zurich for both class I and class II welds.

A trip to Sweden in February and in May saw the start of the new 2012 class of divers commencing the Weldcraft-Pro courses in



Gothenburg. A warm welcome always awaits David when he arrives at the diving centre of the Fire and Rescue department and as always, the Union Jack is flying proudly onsite; thank you Dan. Even though we did not fair too well at the European song contest compared to Sweden, no one pulled his leg; well done Sweden, we'll do better next time. David would like to take this opportunity to thank the diving contractors association for their kind invitation to a most enjoyable evening, with a very fine meal being much appreciated at one of Gothenburg's finest restaurants. An excellent and

refined evening was had by all. Representatives of this employers association arrive every two years for each new class to introduce themselves to the students and offer employment opportunities to the divers. This particular class has all been offered work in their summer break.

DTec in Belgium has also started running our welding courses. Their centre, based in the centre of Antwerp, offers a first class, top of the range facility, with a brand new bespoke dive tank designed to allow for up to 6 divers to be in the water at any one time and a super high tech dive control station. All instructor training was undertaken at the beginning of the year and we are pleased to welcome DTec to the fold and wish them every success for the future. DTec has also informed us that the powers that be in The Netherlands are going to make this qualification a prerequisite for all underwater welding in the Port of Rotterdam. 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 course partners also commenced training in Athens, despite a difficult economic climate. David was invited to make a presentation in December last year, to a number of local diving companies. We are pleased to advise that a full house was in attendance. We are also working closely with Marex on a number of underwater welding procedures, for forthcoming projects and Mr. George Maroudas has completed a multipass pipe socket weld in the 6G/HL-045 position, which is a very difficult wet welding position, particularly on small diameter pipe; congratulations George, nice weld.

service and will bring you more



We have also been in discussions with a new venture due to open an underwater welding facility in the **UAE** shortly. Through discussions with **Interdive**, the client has expressed an interest in running our Weldcraft-pro courses and has sent us a photo of their dive tanks. We shall look forward to being of

news as and when things get started.

Dr. Mahadi of the Kula Lumpur university makes a visit to discuss running our Weldcraft-Pro welder training courses in Malaysia. Dr. Mahadi, who is the senior lecturer in the welding technology department has already committed to setting up a diving and welding facility and once he heard about our accredited **Weldcraft-pro** course, he decided on a visit to meet us and look at the programme in detail. Suitably impressed, he will be sending his instructors for training later this year, with a view to commence training early in the New Year. We welcome the opportunity of working with our new partners and relish the opportunity of working to train divers in Malaysia.

We are making changes to the way the Weldcraft-pro materials are delivered, with new flash based



programmes available online to help instructors deliver the programme materials. These systems will be delivered via the website login, where presently all schools login to enter data for their students. This new material will help control each LOC and ensure the delivery of all lectures follow the same pattern for all schools. We will be putting out a **BETA** version for trial shortly, but we think you will be impressed, although we welcome all remarks and comments.

Flexitallic, a local company based here in Cleckheaton with a massive international reputation for very high tec gaskets in a range of



materials, including stainless, inconel and hastaloy, supplying to the offshore and petrochemical industries, contacted us for advise on qualifications and procedures for their flash-butt welding operations. This involved conducting operator qualifications to BSEN 1418 and produce a standard operating procedure manual. A significant amount of work was also involved in developing and writing a functional knowledge test. This test is a requirement under BSEN 1418 and all operators must clearly demonstrate their understanding of all the operations involved with the process and equipment We are pleased to say all operators were

successful; congratulations Flexitallic.

Training is definitely looking up, despite all the doom and gloom we hear on the news, with many



companies and individuals alike looking for welder training and formal qualifications. One of the most popular tests is still TIG root and stick fill on pipe in the 6G (H-L045) test position. But this is closely followed by welding of aluminium alloys in TIG or MIG. With many years experience in the welding industry we are pleased to offer a wide range of services, from welder training, developing welding procedures and advice services connected with British, European and ISO Standards. One such standard making waves is the new **construction products regulations (CPR)**, which points to, two standards; namely BSEN 1090 and ISO 3438. This new directive will



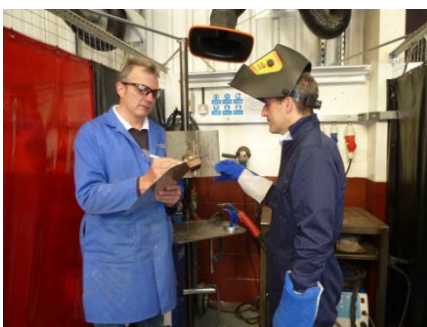
change the way steel and aluminium structures are built and specified; big changes are on the way here and we shall make sure we are on the ball with this one.

We welcome a number of new customers who have requested our welder training and testing services; such as **Powertherm, Easilift, Loughborough Endowed school, JBC Industrial Services, Ellis Fabrications, Folding Sliding Door Co, AB Ports and Burgess & Co** to name a few. A recent visit to a potential new customer, **Bootham Engineers**, who are part of the **Sulzer group**, based in York was very interesting. The company operates in the reclamation sectors, which involves welding repairs, building up wear faces and refitting of a wide range of components for the rail, quarry and heavy engineering sectors. What was most impressive was their high velocity oxygen fuel process (**HVOF**). Strictly speaking of course this isn't a welding process at all, but a coating process used for machine parts requiring high hardness and corrosion and wear resistance. It produces a hard, thick dense coating and has a fine, homogeneous structure. The application has to be carried out in a sealed, soundproof booth, as the typical noise levels produced during its operation are in excess of 150 dB. Bootham's contacted us to discuss a number of welder qualification demands and are presently using **Lloyds**, but were looking for the same level of professional services, by a local welding specialist, with the backing of a leading insurance provider, for a more cost effective price. As accredited Zurich welding surveyors, we know we can fulfil the role and we look forward to the challenge.

Our relationship with **Gas Safe**



Consultants started with a training course for one of their lead instructors. We are delighted to be working with Gas safe, delivering welder training and qualification services. Gas Safe provides a full range of training services for users of compressed cylinder gases and cryogenic liquids/gases. The synergy between our two companies provides an even wider range of expertise for our customers.



It is very encouraging to see more companies coming over to **Lastek** consumables. As the UK's official Lastek distributor, we can offer a full range of welding products for MMA, TIG, MIG/MAG, 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 as well as manufacturing a wide range of welding equipment, including welding inverters and transformer-rectifier machines. 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 are showing very strong sales to date and we are delighted to see this product going to all four corners of the globe. We have even seen **TWI** purchase one for their Middlesbrough diving centre. Other products, including our **Barracuda Gold** welding electrodes, **Swordfish** and **Scorpion blue** cutting electrodes/lances, underwater



welding **Stringers** and **auto-darkening** welding filters are all showing strong sales this year. For more details on any of our products, please visit our website at www.specialwelds.com

We are pleased to include a new cleaning product into our range. This product offers a safe and effective way of cleaning stainless, without the usual risks and hazards associated with pickling pastes. There is a starter pack available which comes with a 250ml of Innosoft B570 and 250ml of Innoprotect B580, including a special sponge.



Do please keep sending in details about projects you are working on; remember it's free advertising. **Our thanks to the following customers for their business so far this year; ICH Hytech, Peter Noble, Calvert Site Services, PDA, Trans Continental Exports, NYD, Custom Fittings, BPN Explorer, Dutch Diving, Divewise, Jack Vilas, Terrosystems, Underwater Centre, Shearwater, Advanced Marine, United Sterling, Chamber Oceanics, K. Rouse Civil Engineering, JG Burns, SMP, Oceanic Offshore, Gas-Safe Consultants and Downstream, Pommecc, Tecnosoud, Morrisons, Atlant products, Terberg, Ale Piling and Sumergia.**