



Barcellos Holdings Limited

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NEWSLETTER



Christmas 2013 **Edition**

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Christmas 2013 Barcellos Holdings Newsletter.

As another exciting and challenging year draws to an end, I would personally thank you for your custom in 2013 and say that we are looking forward to supplying you in 2014.

For all our schedule customers, John has been busy making improvements and changes to the Global Schedule of Rates system. Please read his article for further details.

Our festive opening hours are on the final page, please ensure that you pass this onto the relevant people who will be working over the Christmas period. Rest assured that full support will be given, as all our staff have the capability of remote access from their homes.

I hope you find our Christmas 2013 Newsletter of interest.

It just remains for me to wish you all A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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SOFTWARE CHANGES, OF INTEREST?



A software change has recently been completed. It involves multi-user systems. Visual Basic does not like slow servers and this can result in occasional intermittent error messages. An improvement has been the option to store the schedule(s) on c: drive of each computer instead of being shared on the server. Let us know if interested and we will issue you with the updated program.

Another change that is almost complete concerns the printout of an order. Some users enter Analysis Codes on largish orders to distinguish between different aspects of an order. The Analysis Code can be entered against each code selected. For example, this could relate to different parts of an order in Room 1, other parts in Room 2, etc. With the change there is an option on Displaying and Printing to show that part of an order for Room 1, that part for Room 2, etc. instead of listing in the sequence that items have been entered.

We have welcomed quite a few new users since the last newsletter including some in Northern Ireland, University of Edinburgh Mechanical and Electrical Contractors and a contractor for the London Borough of Enfield. Some existing users have picked up new contracts requiring additional schedules, in quite a few cases they have been using either Psa or Nsr schedules and have been appointed to use the other type of schedule as well. Assuming that they will all be run on the same computer then the program does not need to be purchased again, just the schedules.

As mentioned in the last two newsletters, the DIO (Defence Infrastructure Organisation) is putting out to tender some very large contracts using the PSA schedules, covering the whole of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Further details (new internet address), including showing the bidders, is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/next-generation-estate-contracts-ngec/next-generation-estate-contracts-ngec#regional-primes> It makes an interesting read. Having met quite a few of the bidders it appears that a good number of subcontractors will be appointed. Previously DIO did not use the PSA schedules. Currently the first contract is due to be let in July 2014. Let's hope we all get business from this.

We wish you all a very pleasant Christmas and look forward to speaking to you in the New Year.

john@barcellos.co.uk



SANTA GOES ON LINE



Goodness me, is it really that time of year yet again? It only seems 5 minutes since I last penned my Christmas article. I guess I should have seen it coming what with every advert since November and all the shops you walk into filled full of Christmas must haves and cheesy Michael Bublé Christmas music.

So what's been happening this year? Well we have been busy adding to and extending our software and have seen developments to the RFID software, enhancements to the Pool Linen software as well as adding numerous exports to our extensive range of reporting. We have also added extra features to the standard software like customers at risk. This allows you to flag a customer to be a risk and will give warning messages. There is an on screen colour display that will show in an instant if a customer is at risk and why. All these enhancements come as part of a simple upgrade.

So what's Santa been up to this year I hear you all cry? Well after bringing his elves up to speed by sending them for training and getting his quotes system all bedded in, his next venture was to go cyber and add the Web module to his system. The module enables Santa's helpers (the people that sit in the department stores and act as Santa) to go online and request all the goods (the presents we have asked him for) to be delivered. This list gets automatically processed and produces a delivery note straight to elf despatch. The elves are then able to get the delivery ready for despatch on the next delivery slot.

His upgrade also gave him access to the 'Risk' element that has been added to the software. This allows Santa to mark you all into various Risk sectors. He has the Green Risk (which is for those that have been good all year round, like me, and get extra presents). He has the Amber Risk (which he uses to put the ones that have been good most of the year like Gavin who will get some presents). Then he has the Red Risk (which he uses to show the ones that have been naughty all year like Nick who will get no presents). He then uses the reports and filters to identify these Risk areas, which then allows him to get his elves to keep track of these people and update Santa's list just before he sets off Christmas Eve.

Just a disclaimer that it is not the fault of Barcellos Holdings Ltd should you be marked as a 'Red' risk and therefore receive no presents. The Risk system is updated by Santa's Elves based on Santa's own in-house monitoring of naughty and niceness.

I just love Christmas, and with less than 15 sleeps left as I pen my article it's not too long left to wait. I can't wait for Christmas morning when the little ones open the gifts and I get to play with some new toys (for which I have a large variety of batteries ready to fit). Although I love Christmas day, it does tend to be a long old busy day, which is why I do love Boxing Day. It's that day where you get to eat even more junk but at a more relaxed pace with the feet up and a whole host of dvds, movies and sport to watch! The only down side will be the extra pounds piled on and mountain of pants and socks that Santa always seems to leave me (will have to log into the Web module and make sure he has my order correct this year). Anyway I must dash; I have got to finish off my Kung Fu lesson in readiness for the pre-Christmas shopping wars! May the best granny win! Has anyone seen my Turkey? I only said I was popping out to get some stuffing and he's disappeared!

Let me just take this opportunity to say 'Come on Santa!' and wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year, and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

Paul Moss
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PA RUM PUM PUM PUM



Welcome to winter/Christmas 2013!

I hope everyone is well? I'm pleased to report that all is well in the world of Gavin at Barcellos.

I've recently assisted a local customer get back on their feet after an unfortunate fire in their factory. Luckily their IT wasn't affected catastrophically, however it was a great time for them to review and upgrade some of their older struggling equipment. Equipment was quickly implemented and everyone was back up and running in no time.

Mark and I have provided support to a number of domestic customers of late. I must say that this aspect of IT can be challenging (due to the age of some of the computers you're faced with!) however most rewarding too (due to the age of some of the customers and the help and reassurance you've given them).

I'm looking forward to being involved with a number of new installations that are booked in for the coming months. Prep work is progressing nicely in-house and it will be great to get out on the road in due course meeting new faces and further familiarising them with the Barcellos brand.

I recently enjoyed two games at the Rugby League World Cup. These were a group game taking in England's victory over Fiji at The KC Stadium in Hull, followed by the Final itself at Old Trafford. This was of course between Australia and New Zealand; however England came so close to being there – as we were cruelly beaten in the final seconds of our Semi-Final against NZ at Wembley. Australia ran out easy winners in the final proving that England just took too much out of NZ the weekend before.

Regular readers may have noticed the lack of usual references to my good friend and colleague that is Mr Cook?! Having looked back at my previous newsletter articles I decided to go very easy on him this time round – t'is the season of good will and all that! He has however hung some mistletoe above my desk, which I'm of course slightly concerned about!

So I'll finish with a message to all customers old and new – thank you for your business throughout 2013 – here's to a pleasant and prosperous 2014. Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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MORE OF THE SAME PLEASE!



In the last newsletter I talked about how we were 'freshening' up the look and feel of the product range.

Well over the last six months we have really been doing more of the same. A huge effort has gone into introducing an export option into all the reports throughout the system, as well as a general tidy up of the printed layout. With this in mind we have also now re-written many of the old reporter style reports to give them the same look and feel as the main product, and you will be hard pressed to find one of these reports in our standard menu now.

I would ask that if you are a long-standing customer, that you would send me a list of the older reporter type reports that you use. This will help us in ensuring that all these are converted before your next upgrade.

A big thank you to all of you who have provided suggestions for improvement over the past year. I hope you have seen these filtering through as we have been working on the various code sections throughout the system.

Feedback is always welcomed, so please keep your suggestions coming in. Whilst we cannot guarantee to include everything, we do take them all seriously (well most of them).

The New Year would also be a good time for you to re-evaluate your training requirements. We can develop courses to suit individual customer needs, so whether you just need a refresh or have new starters that need a solid grounding in all things 'Global', then just ring and book a day.

It just leaves me to wish you a great Christmas and New Year, and I look forward to working with you all over the coming months.

nick@barcellos.co.uk



CHRISTMAS TV MULTIPLE CHOICE QUIZ



1. A Christmas Dr Who special entitled "The Doctor, The Widow and the Wardrobe" – is a nod to which children's author?
a) Phillip Pullman b) Enid Blyton c) JM Barrie d) CS Lewis
2. Dave Coaches proposed to Nessa in the 2008 Gavin & Stacey Christmas Special. Where did he hide the ring?
a) Inside the Turkey b) In a cigarette packet c) In his mouth d) In a can of beer
3. In what year was the Queen's first televised Christmas message?
a) 1952 b) 1954 c) 1957 d) 1962
4. The Father Ted Special from Christmas 1996 sees a group of priests get lost where?
a) In underground caves b) In a cathedral c) In a shop's lingerie dept. d) In a theme park
5. Aled Jones sings "Walking in the Air" in the film The Snowman.
True or False
6. The Downton Abbey Christmas 2011 Special is set over Christmas 1919 and in it; the Crawley family have which relatively new seasonal invention, at that time only available to the rich?
a) Christmas Crackers b) Fairy Lights c) Tree Baubles d) Cranberry Sauce
7. Who replaced Cheryl Cole on the judging panel of the American version of X Factor after she controversially left the show in May 2011?
a) Nicole Scherzinger b) Paula Abdul c) Sharon Osbourne d) Steve Jones
8. Wallace & Gromit are often shown on TV over Christmas. What's Wallace's favourite cheese?
a) Cheddar b) Wensleydale c) Cheshire d) Red Leicester
9. Who played Miss Havisham in the BBC's Christmas adaption of Charles Dickens' Great Expectations?
a) Helen Mirren b) Gillian Anderson c) Charlotte Rampling d) Celia Imrie
10. A sequel to The Gruffalo, The Gruffalo's Child, aired on Christmas Day. Who wrote the books on which they are based?
a) Julia Donaldson b) Nick Sharratt c) Lauren Child d) Jacqueline Wilson
11. What's the most watched programme in British TV history, with ratings of 30.1 million?
a) The Only Fools & Horses special from Christmas 1996
b) Eastenders, when Den divorced Angie on Christmas Day 1986
c) Coronation Street, when Hilda Ogden left on Christmas Day 1987
d) The Morecombe & Wise special on Christmas Day 1977
12. In the Friends Christmas Episode from 2002, in which US city is Chandler stuck for the festive holidays?
a) Detroit b) Denver c) Phoenix d) Tulsa



AND FINALLY...



We hope you have enjoyed our Christmas Newsletter. If there is anything you have found of interest just email the person noted at the bottom of each article.

Office hours during the Christmas period:

24th December – 9:00am to 1:00pm
25th December – CLOSED
26th December – CLOSED
27th December – Contactable on Mobiles
30th December – 9:00am to 1:00pm
31st December – 9:00am to 1:00pm
1st January – CLOSED
2nd January – Normal Office Hours

PLEASE NOTE: The following staff are contactable after 1:00pm until 5:00pm on 24th, 30th & 31st December, on the following mobile numbers: -

SUPPORT ON 27TH DECEMBER – On mobiles below from 9:00am to 5:00pm



Nick	07702 471212
Paul	07713 740145
Mark	07702 074406
Gavin	07713 740289 (24 th & 27 th Dec ONLY)

Quiz Answers: 1. d) 2. b) 3. c) 4. c) 5. False - It's Peter Dinklage. Aled Jones covered the song and released it as a single several years later 6. b) 7. a) 8. b) 9. b) 10. a) 11. b) 12. d)

