

# BARCELLOS LIMITED

## NEWSLETTER

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### Summer 2008 Edition

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### Introduction

Welcome to the Summer 2008 Barcellos Newsletter.

I would like to start by welcoming all our new customers who have joined us in 2008 so far, and to thank our existing customers who have upgraded their software/hardware so far this year. We appreciate your continued business and support.

We have had quite a few Workwear/Linen & Global 3000 training courses take place here at Barcellos since Christmas and it is always nice to put a face to a voice. I often speak to our customers on the phone, but don't get to meet them very often. Not that I get to spend much time with them, as Nick is such a hard task master!

I have been busy updating our Health & Safety and Fire Procedures, following our monthly/annual risk assessments. Policies are changing all the time and I'm sure you will agree with me, this can be a full time job.

For those that don't already know, Paul got married in February and I'm sure that you will join me in congratulating and wishing Angela and Paul all the best for the future.

Finally, I hope you find our Summer 2008 Newsletter of interest. If you have any questions regarding any of the articles, please email the author.

Happy reading !

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# ***Christmas Reunion***

At Christmas the Barcellos old guard met for a reunion lunch. Many of you will remember them and they send their best wishes. The old guard consists of Ken Tapp, Adrian Lungenmuss, Mike Southwell and myself. Ken has succumbed to retirement, keeping busy maintaining and sailing his yacht and visiting his grandchildren. Adrian has always liked his projects and spends a considerable amount of time helping his local school, when not building a set for the local drama society. Mike enjoys part (or is it full) time work with a friend in his village carrying out building repairs. Email him for a quote. Being the younger member of the four I still enjoy my Schedules of Rates, along with Ballroom dancing, learning Portuguese, steam trains and I did enjoy football until Leicester City were relegated (soon get over that I hope!).

In January I visited Edinburgh, one of my favourite cities. Edinburgh University had let four Measured Term Contracts to Electrical contractors using the PSA Electrical Schedule of Rates 2006. The four successful contractors had the software installed and were trained on it. However, one day the wind was so bad that nobody was venturing forth in the evening, unless it was to visit Wetherspoons or the Oxford Bar (for fans of Ian Rankin/Rebus).

Software has also been supplied for a contract covering East Kent Hospital NHS Trust and a Metropolitan Police contract. There was another visit to Belfast, still no sign of the Titanic, although they were dismantling part of the MSC Napoli that beached off Dorset in January 2007. Mostly that was a rather large pile of scrap metal. Thankfully the computer that I installed the software on wasn't.

There are two new PSA schedules this year. One is the Decoration Work Eighth Edition 2008; this was fairly easy to create and is available. Only just available is the Property Management Second Edition 2008 schedule. We have not seen the book yet, so the data will not be ready for a while.

We have carried out a very significant enhancement to the software. When entering an order and the Next Code is to be entered, you can now right click on the form and display the order or select any other order to display or print. Amendments can be carried out if required. Then entering order details can continue. This option is very useful for making speedy changes as input is being made. On a Psa contract you can also enter a Psa code and see the column numbers, e.g. entering D20001 on Building, columns 1, 2 and 3 will be displayed. This enhancement will be released shortly when fully tested in the field. But if you would like a copy now then let us know.

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# A Bit of Everything

Wow six months since the last newsletter, where did that time go. It has been a busy six months and I have been getting involved in all kinds of things. Since we started advertising our services to the educational market we have had some good responses, Gavin and I have done several site visits earlier this year.

I have been heavily involved in creating a program for a college so they can complete forms electronically instead of paper based forms. They are currently testing the beta version of this program and we are looking forward to their feedback.

Our Global Workwear customers that have upgraded to the new invoice line database have kept me busy, as new backdrops have been created for them for the Adobe printing. Also, the payroll upgrades went through very smoothly again this year. The smoothest I've seen so far I think.

On a personal note, I became a Gym member as part of a new year's resolution and I'm still going strong three times a week. I thought about how I sit at my desk all day and it's doing me no good, so I thought I would take action and get fit. Well that's me; let's hope we have some nice weather and a good summer and I'm looking forward to see what happens in the next six months.

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## Bits 'N' Pieces

I can't believe we are almost at the half way stage of yet another year, where does the time go? Let's just hope that this summer brings us a little more in the way of good weather, than it did last year with all its rain and floods.

So what have I been up to since last article at Christmas? Well following the launch of the new invoice line database, I have been busily getting round you all demonstrating and installing the new module. Since then we have now finally merged the emailing aspect of the new module, so that you can now automatically email your customers their invoices, without having to incur any of the cost and time of printing, folding and posting out all your invoices.

As well as this we are in the early stages of giving you the ability to control your Pool stock levels, so that you will finally be able to know what stock is coming in and out of your pool stock system. It is hoped that this will give you the same control that you currently have with the JIT (Just In Time) system that currently controls all the workwear side or ordering.

This development goes along with the various other little add-ons that we have added to the system, which include the ability to control van loadings when it comes to weights, the ability to pack out into bags, as well as the addition of a new type label, which works in a similar method to labels used to tag plants, to attach to all your bags and cages. For further details see Nick's article.

On a personal note, I finally got married in February this year, so I am officially a married man, (even though I have been un-officially married for 6 years), I can officially get moaned and nagged at now and I have the certificate to prove it, but on the brighter side, I have now managed to officially half my debts.

I hope to get out and about again soon to see how you are all doing, and to see if we can pick up any new ideas that I'm sure you all must have.

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# The Done, The Nearly Done & The Well Done!

## The Done!

Since Christmas I have been working with TIS to implement full bar-coding of the Global 3000 POP product to allow items received into stock to be quickly scanned. This will avoid the mistyping of product codes. This development followed on from several bar-coding enhancements that TIS had already added to the Global 3000 Distribution programs. We are working with an existing customer in this area along with a supplier of portable tablet style computers to allow for remote scanning around a warehouse or stores area. Watch this space for further developments.

The above tablet pc may be of interest to our Laundry customers as it allows, via WIFI, an interactive connection to the main server but still allows the use of the excellent Heron G scanners with fuzzy logic.

## The Nearly Done!

Emailing of documentation was not as easy as first thought as we had to cut into the programs supplied by TIS and try and insert our email routines. After discussion with TIS I have convinced them to add this as a part of the core product so that all users will see the benefit. It will allow any report to be easily emailed as well as invoices/credits in a batch mode without affecting the normal invoice/credit run. TIS are currently developing this and I will supply the enhancement packs as soon as they are ready.

## The Well Done!

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big "well done" to my friend Keith Markley who risked life and limb to do a 13,500 feet skydive in aid of LOROS (Leicestershire Hospice).

Barcellos, the staff, friends and family provided sponsorship to him. He also managed to get two of his friends to do the jump alongside him. I was there on the day (yes, my feet were firmly on the ground) with my camera and DV camera to record the event. The weather was excellent, blue sky and plenty of sun.



I would like to thank Matthew Kerry at Aspley Workwear Limited for providing a t-shirt for Keith with a fancy design on it. Time was short but Matt pulled out all the stops and got the job done, 65000 stitches in the front and 85000 in the back.

*The Front*

*The Back*

# Keith Markley Jumps For Loros



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I do not know the total amount raised as yet but I am sure that LOROS will be very pleased with the final figure.

Well “that’s all folks” for this newsletter and I am sure that it will not seem long until Debbie gives us the nudge to get typing again for the Christmas newsletter.

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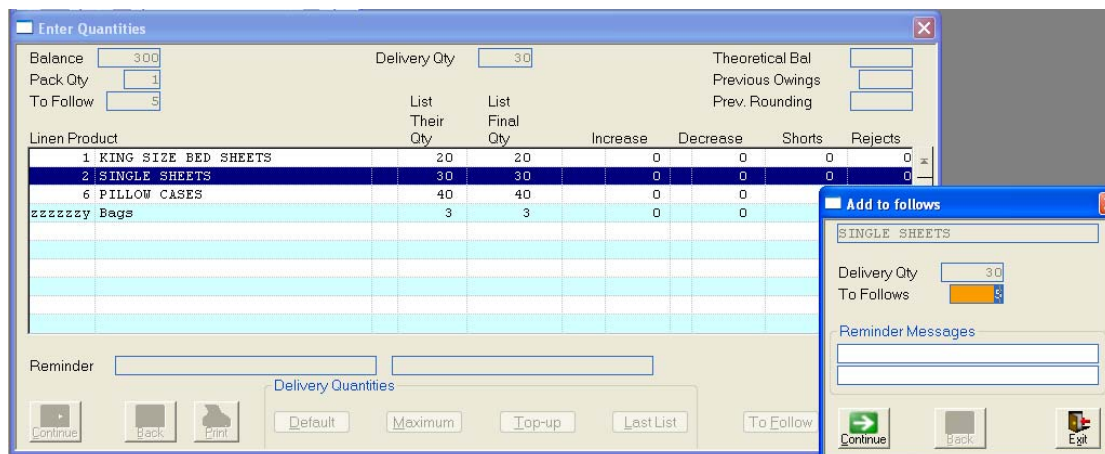
# Laundry Products Continue To Get The 'WOW' Factor!

## Laundry Products Continue To Get The 'WOW' Factor!

The last six months has seen yet more enhancements to the laundry suite of programs, much of my time has gone into improving the linen product lines we offer.

Pool linen has undergone some major pieces of development. For starters, you can now base all your 'to-follows' on the next delivery list (as opposed to the next entered list). Lists entered in any order will now allow for 'to-follows' (and any rounding if applicable), automatically recalculating as new lists are entered or amended.

Amending a list after it has been closed has now got easier. We have added a 'to-follows' button at item level to speed up amendments and also a delivery note re-print button.





If any of your linen customers always have the same delivery quantities, we have made this easy too. You can also operate a top-up facility, and if a requirements docket has not been received, you can send the customer what they had on their last delivery at the simple push of one button.

A third packing matrix has been added, namely 'loose'. This is for items that do not get packed into bags or cages. We are also considering adding other packing methods so look out for this in future updates.

# Laundry Products Continue To Get The 'WOW' Factor! - cont.

## Laundry Products Continue To Get The 'WOW' Factor! - cont.

We have also started to improve the printed output from pool linen. The bag labels can now print on a laser printer and optionally include a barcode, for bag tracking and packing. Currently under development is a new suite of programs for packers to check off each bag, add to-follows and reprint delivery notes where applicable. The delivery note layout is also under review, and we expect to have a revised colour delivery note in the near future. There is now an abused stock report and also a temporary loans report, adding to the growing family of real-time pool linen statistics.

<b>POOL CONTRACT</b> POOL CONTRACT Tue 03/06/08 20 KING SIZE BED SHEETS	<b>POOL1</b> ROOM 420 No. 125	<b>Route: 01-0020</b> Bag 1 of 3	
Wt= 0.2010Kgs			
<b>POOL CONTRACT</b> POOL CONTRACT Tue 03/06/08 30 SINGLE SHEETS	<b>POOL1</b> ROOM 420 No. 125	<b>Route: 01-0020</b> Bag 2 of 3	
Wt= 3.0010Kgs			

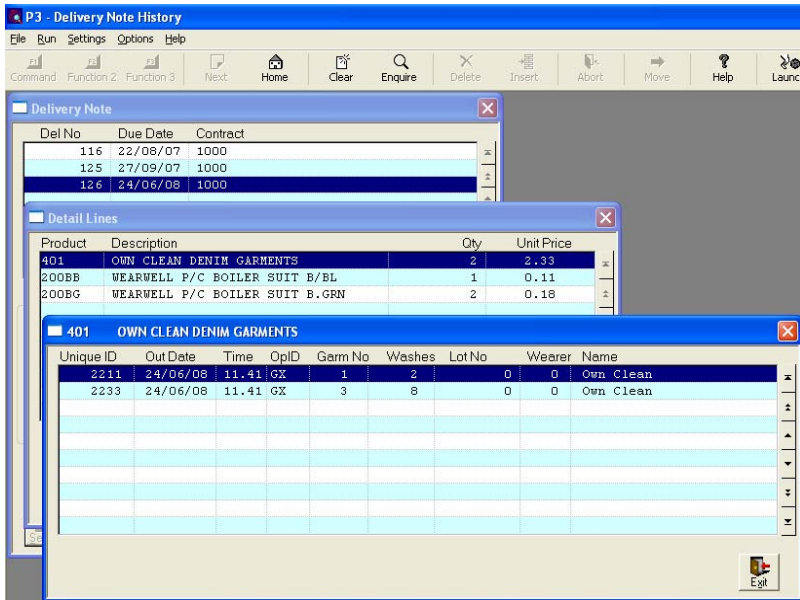
Pool linen purchase ordering has now been enhanced and you can issue from new stock to the pool, and transfer to and from second hand stock to the pool. You can already see outstanding orders and full stock movements, but watch this space for more linen POP reports, as users see how powerful this has become.

On the Workwear front, we have now incorporated individual weights for items. This is a feature that has always been present in pool linen, and will allow us to ascertain the exact weight of each delivery and hence the total weight of a van route.



# Laundry Products Continue To Get The 'WOW' Factor! - cont.

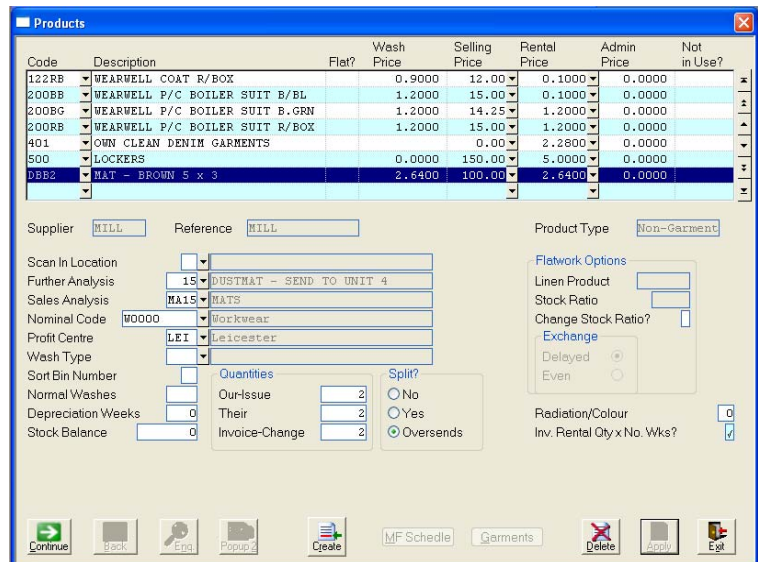
## Laundry Products Continue To Get The 'WOW' Factor! - cont.



Workwear scanning-out has had a new search facility added to show all contracts (in reverse drop order) for a given delivery date. This will help those of you who want to pack out by route. A new colour delivery note has been produced, which gets added to the new delivery note storage system. You can even 'drill-down' to individual garments scanned on each delivery if required.

For the first time you can now have full split and 'over-sends only' items together on the same contract, and we have allowed monthly invoiced non-garment items to bill a flat rate.

For those of you who use the Multi-Frequency module, the copy contract routine will now create the route and move all MF items, schedules and locations to the new contract.



A big thank you to all those who have contributed improving the portfolio, keep those suggestions coming so I've got lots to talk about at Christmas.

If you would like further details please email me – [nick@barcellos.co.uk](mailto:nick@barcellos.co.uk)



# **Steve McClaren Spoilt My Summer!** **(Well, not really!)**

We have recently had my daughter visit the offices for a World of Work day, so this does bring home the fact that life is progressing – and fast! It was great to have her here and to see her dealing with set tasks and interacting with colleagues without my involvement. She really enjoyed the day yet summarised that she feels she wouldn't like to have a job based solely in an office as she would like to also get out and about to meet people.

The hardware side of Barcellos life is going well and day to day maintenance is rolling along quite nicely. I have installed some new servers over the last couple of months, and peripheral/software purchases have also increased a little. TIS have now added the ability to use bar codes for Purchase Order entry and receipt, as well as in Stock Management. Mark has completed the development of these features and these are currently in test on one of our customer sites. As detailed back in the Christmas 2007 newsletter, I did some initial on site suitability testing with a ruggedized portable PC. Now that the bar code features are in place, I will shortly be scheduling in a further pilot scheme with this Wi-Fi device to test out the new system features in real time within a warehouse/laundry environment. Hopefully by the next newsletter, if not before, I'll have some successful results to report and a new product/service for Barcellos to offer your business.

On a personal level, I have recently gotten into watching Rugby League (Leeds Rhinos to be specific). I've still a way to go with the rules but have really enjoyed the action and atmosphere at the games I've attended so far. Burnley have just sold a 20 year old to Rangers in a deal worth almost £4m – the world's gone mad! It only seems 2 minutes ago since Alan Shearer signed for Blackburn for a then record shattering £3.3m! Should I bump into Steve McClaren anywhere this summer, I intend to thank him for saving me the obligatory tournament Quarter Final heartache yet again! Hopefully the decent sunshine will arrive eventually, though weren't we saying that this time last year?!

If it's a while since we've spoken, I'll take it that means your system is running along quite nicely, which is great. However, should you have any requirements or thoughts regards upgrading your equipment, please give me a call.



Have a great summer, regards, Gavin.

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# "I saw the Boss and Fell in Love"

Fear not! I have not recently "come out" and declared my undying affections for Mr Cook.

I refer to the real 'Boss', Bruce Springsteen, and his entourage, the E Street Band. I first encountered these people in 1980, and 28 years on I was lucky enough, to be among the 60,000 crowd at the Millennium stadium (it's fantastic!!) in Cardiff for his 4th and final concert in the UK. Being roughly the same age as myself, I was wondering how they and their music would have developed and if they would stand the test of time. I'm delighted that after 27 songs and 2 hours 50 minutes without a break, I can say that they are still the best live band ever.



Well the 6 months since my last article has flown by, and I'm now within a month of completing my third year at Barcellos – time certainly does fly when you're having fun!!! Again on a personal note, during August I'll be celebrating my third wedding Anniversary.

Work wise, the majority of my time has been spent on enhancements and the development of our Multi Frequency system. I've also been helping Nick with the development of the WR system, a welcome relief from Workwear and I've enjoyed it because it's all been new programs. Finally the enhancement to our invoicing software to provide automatically generated emails to customers has been put through its paces by Paul, and after a few tweaks will become available with new upgrades. This compliments our Purchase Order email software and is open to further use within the Global Workwear system.....any ideas? For once we're ahead of TIS in implementing this email software, they are currently working on developing it within Global 3000.

Anyway my final wish for this summer is for the afore mentioned anniversary to come round quickly, as it means we'll be three days into the new football season and another roller coaster ride that comes from supporting Sheffield United FC.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you a warm and happy summer.

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