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NEWSLETTER

Summer 2012 Edition

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Introduction

Welcome to the Summer 2012 Barcellos Holdings Newsletter.

I would like to start by welcoming new customers who have joined us during 2012 so far, and to also thank our existing customers for your continued business and support, it is very much appreciated.

As mentioned in our Christmas Newsletter, John and myself finally completed the PSA Mechanical Schedule 2011, and is now available. John also took the plunge in May and got married. I am sure you will join me in congratulating John and Katie and wishing them all the best for the future.

The hardware department have been extremely busy organising our London 2012 Olympic contract, and have implemented several scanning stations throughout the Olympic villages.

The Workwear Department is certainly buzzing at the moment, with the completion of the Web Module and a certain four letters being mentioned every 5 seconds.... RFID I believe they are!

Well I hope you find our Summer 2012 Newsletter of interest. If you have any questions regarding any of the articles, please email the author.

Happy reading !

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Additional PSA Schedules now available in PDF format

In the last newsletter we mentioned that the PSA Building Works Tenth Edition 2009, Electrical Services Fifth Edition 2006, Sixth Edition 2011, Mechanical Services Fifth Edition 2006 and Sixth Edition 2011 were available in PDF format. The fact that the price is substantially cheaper than the printed schedule has undoubtedly contributed to its success. Building 2009 in printed format is £270, the electronic solution is £225 plus VAT, and multiple copies get cheaper. The additional schedules are Building Works Ninth Edition 2005, Landscape Management Third Edition 2005, Decoration Work Eighth Edition 2008 and Property Management Second Edition 2008. Please let us know if interested.

After creating the Electrical 2011 schedule to operate with Global Schedule of Rates, Debbie and I have just completed the Mechanical Services 2011 schedule. You would not believe the time it takes. Recently the Decoration Work Ninth Edition 2012 has appeared and is also available. Please let us know if interested in either schedule.

Since the last newsletter we have been incredibly busy supplying software and schedules for contractors in the Falklands, Cyprus and Afghanistan, each requiring quite a few users and using a number of schedules. I have not managed to visit any of them yet. There was an Addendum Schedule required for Cyprus, this consisted of 1,700 items and took a good while to create.

Program changes. On M&E PSA contracts with separate A, BDE and C rates contract percentages according to value bands, currently the contract percentages are selected by the value of the A + BDE + C rates. However there is now an option to select the A rate % according to only its value, not the combined, and likewise for BDE and C.

On PSA contracts there is the ability, when printing or displaying an order, to show the value of each section within the order, e.g. on an M&E contract to show the value of A, B, C, D, E rates, subcontractors, dayworks, materials, etc.

When entering an order or estimate, in the Schedule Search routine, after selection of a code, return is made to the top of that section. If this is a large section then to resume searching from the code just selected can take time. There is now a parameter so that return is not made to the top of the list but back to the code selected, the choice is yours.

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Running Rings

Welcome to my “summer” newsletter article, however as I type this it is indeed raining outside... again!

I have recently been involved in an exciting project to aid the running of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. We were approached by Clean Event to write a check in/out system to track the washing of event participants clothing during their time at the athlete’s villages. This has been commissioned in the form of a twin PC/bar code scanner solution at each laundry location – one at the Olympic Sailing Village in Portland, Dorset and also ten sites at Stratford in London.



I carried out the smaller Portland installation on my own however made the trip to London accompanied by Mark due to the scale of the job in hand! We spent two hectic days on this immense site having had all the equipment shipped down in advance for screening and accredited delivery. On arrival (we were couriered in down the Olympic traffic lanes no less!) we were allocated a buggy to assist in getting to and from each laundry. Access security for the site was tight given the accreditation required though in our experience and those we witnessed the scan/search processing was rather inconsistent. In the days following our visit the G4S story broke in the media – I do hope they get it right come the live games!



The site was huge and even has official road name signs in place for when the apartment blocks become general housing when the games are complete – see www.eastvillagelondon.co.uk/ for details! Royal Mail has assigned the post code E20 which only ever existed within the (sorry to spoil it folks!...) “fictional” TV soap opera Eastenders! Each laundry has been positioned within the converted under building car parks. Despite the size of the site all we needed to know for distribution was which ten buildings and that at each location a blue door equalled a laundry!

It has been a privilege to be part of the on-going preparations at the Olympic Villages and something I'll never forget. Hopefully the site is finished in time (at least we got our bit completed to schedule!). Fingers crossed that there are no service calls to attend to throughout the games meaning all is working fine(!), however I'm already looking forward to revisiting to collect everything back in once all is complete.



And finally, whilst we're on the subject...

Between the 2nd and 3rd of July the Olympic Torch Relay passed through Leicestershire. This is how our section differed to any other:

Jet Pack stuntman Nick Macomber gave an airborne aspect to proceedings at The National Space Centre.

Local footballing legend and man of crisps fame Gary Lineker was back in town.

"All aboard" as the torch travelled from Leicester North station at Birstall over to Loughborough on The Great Central Railway.



Enjoy the rest of your summer, surely the best of the weather is yet to come?!

Gavin.

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Summertime Blues!

Summer at Swan Street

Perhaps I should be saying “Summer at Swan Lake!” Due to the torrential downpours of rain that we have been having we had one day when we were nearly unable to leave our offices. I shall be bringing either a pair of wellingtons or a surf board to work just in case our summer gets any worse.



Come On Team BG for 2012

We have had the pleasure of supplying a simple scanning system to Cleanevent to control the laundry bags at the Olympic Village in Stratford and the Sailing village at Portland & Weymouth. Gavin will fill you in on the details as I know he has kept a full diary of events so I will not steal his thunder, just to say it has been a very interesting experience and a good opportunity to see the village where all the athletes and their parties will stay.

The Wrinklies Move House

This year my parents who are in their 70's have moved house, downsizing from a large 2 bedroom bungalow to a smaller 2 bedroom first floor flat. This was to generate a large sum of money to spend on their No. 1 son (oh I wish), more like holidays and leisure time.

As the flat had not been lived in for a while it needed a lot doing to it so out came all the tool boxes and I set to work (with a little help from my sister) renovating the flat.

Walls knocked down, walls put up, doors removed, loft boarded and new loft hatch, plastering walls and ceilings, old flu removed, electrics, plumbing, painting and decorating the list seems endless – as is my job list of stuff still to do.

Here are just a few photos to give you an idea of what I have been up to.



Spot the empty wine rack in the picture on the left – that is what it has driven me too as it was full at the start of the job. Above right is just before I got plastered !



As you can see from the pictures above it is a very diverse project covering my skill sets, this is also true of BHL. Being flexible and diverse allows us to make the software fit your exacting requirements, you can then obtain the edge over your competitors who may be using an off the shelf product. For details of how we can help you get that edge please feel free to contact us.

Welcome to the new!

For all the new customers who joined us during 2012, may I take this chance to thank you for your custom and hope that we will have a long and prosperous working relationship.

We'll must dash as need to get my Screwfix order placed for my next job this weekend Think it may be the bathroom next.

Good luck to all involved in the Olympics and especially Team GB, let's hope we get plenty of gold medals.

Mark A. Capewell

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Just for Fun!

Find 12 words that you can be found in our Summer 2012 Newsletter

T N Z R E M M U S Y S L D P D
K F O O G A P X U Y A A I R R
X R O I W X L H Z B M U F F S
Z P K G T O K L P M T N R J Y
L A C I N A H C E M S D G H X
O K H D U H R R F Y I R A B F
R L O C X J A O Z O R Y E D L
O N Y P R E V D C L H W G I Q
D S L M W O W B R E C W Z N V
X O E K P D T J J N D X U B T
L X R S U I R L Q R H X P D Z
U O G K X G C Q G L N G K J B
W S C H E D U L E B A W S W P
H C B C T K N B F O K T Y P E
C Z N R I Q O Y Z J V C D L F

Find the solution on page 10

Hungry for Chips?

The last six months has seen two major developments continuing apace here. Firstly (loud fanfare please....) the linen online web ordering module is now live and available for general release....

Secondly, we have been working hard 'behind the scenes' implementing multi-read RFID transponder technology into our software. Those of you lucky enough to have had an upgrade in the past few weeks would already have seen the unique transponder chip length increase from 16 to 24 characters. This will enable the software to carry the UHF chip when it becomes widely available.

I know many of you have been asking lots of serious questions regarding chipping linen, and with linen suppliers now planning to attach the transponder at manufacture stage, things are getting exciting....

So, to answer a few of the questions I keep hearing:-

Will you be able to scan an entire bag of linen in one go? – **YES**

Will you be able to scan an entire cage of linen in and out? – **YES**

Will delivery 'pick' lists be created automatically from linen scanned in? – **YES**

Will my packers see what's left to pack, in real time, as they make up deliveries? - **YES**

Will this help to reduce stock losses at my customer? – **YES**

Will I be able to stock check a customer by waving a scanner over the shelves? – **YES**

Sounds too good to be true? – Well I thought so too!! But it is becoming a reality.

That's why we continue...

“developing software today to address the needs of tomorrow”

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It's Time to get Together and become One

Its summer time again so that must mean it's time to write our news article. I can't believe we are past the half way stage of the year and it only seems 5 minutes since I was last penning my Christmas article.

So what's been going on I hear you all cry in the last few months? Well there have been a few major projects that have been worked on, one of the major ones being the long awaited Chip technology that I'm sure Nick will be speaking about in his article. One of the other major developments has been the Web module that has been developed, delivered and is now bedding in nicely at Zip Textiles.

The web module itself is now fully functional and has been helping Zip deliver a first rate web solution to its Pool Linen customers. The module allows each restaurant, Hotel, or other linen users to be able to log on to their own account on-line and order the stocks they require on forthcoming deliveries. This then gets filtered down to the Laundry who then processes the delivery and despatch the items that have been requested. The Module still gives Zip the ability to control the maximum amounts of linen that can be ordered as well as prevent customers from selecting incorrect items, that used to cause incorrect deliveries when the old laundry books used to be in use.

We hope to be enhancing the module with the addition of allowing customer to decrease stock that is no longer wanted, and reduce stock quantities, which we hope could be available by the back end of this year.

We have also had some Web interest from the Workwear / Garment rental side, with some customers wanting to be able to offer their customers the ability to order stock online and be able to drill down to their own accounts and reprint off invoices and simple reports. All of this development is possible, although it is not a cheap option, which puts a lot of you off looking at making this development a reality. However, there could be some light at the end of the tunnel, especially if our laundry users were to get together and even form a long awaited user group, which could give you all the power to make your wishes come true. I know that a user group has been talked about in the past, but nothing ever seems to materialise, however by getting together as a group you could come up with a full specification of how you would like a module to perform and function. From this we could get costing's together, which would then be divided amongst all the users to give you what you want at a fraction of the cost.

I am long overdue my site visits, so will be more than happy to discuss this possible option with you and get a general feel as to whether or not you see a possible user group as something you could use and make work. We at Barcellos Holdings think it is a fantastic idea, but I'm sure we can chat about this when I'm next with you.

Anyway enough about all of that lets give you an update of what's been going on with me. Well as we head deep into another Glorious Summer (if you are a duck), having had the not so disappointing exit from the Euro's and Andy Murray almost giving us something to smile about, we at least have our number one in the world Test and T20 cricket team to look forward too, taking on the South Africans in a

winner takes top spot fight. The odds of late are stacked in our favour, but I think they will be one of the toughest tests we have had for a while, so fingers crossed we can remain the number one test nation in the world come the end of August!

Let's also not forget the Olympics (how could we ever be allowed to forget it, especially as we have had a very small part in supplying some software for the Olympic Parks), but love it or hate it, it's now just days away now. Let's hope it can and will live up to all the hype and leave us with memories and legacies that will last long into the future, and not the debt and misery that it has threatened us with.

Finally let's not forget the New Football season that is fast approaching, which means we have lots to look forward to. Let's hope Steve Clarke can build on the fantastic work done by Super Roy Hodgson at West Brom, before England came calling. Although knowing the English Press like I do, not sure Roy will last too long as England Manager, given that he has not got the players with the ability that everyone seems to think we have, and what's the old adage 'You can't make a silk purse out of a sows ear'. I'm sure only time will tell on this one, and if they give Roy the time, I'm sure he can make us a more competitive team, although they might not be a team with the flare of the Spanish, but nevertheless a team that can compete at least at a higher level.

Well I think that's about it for now, I look forward to seeing you all very soon, so keep an eye out for my e-mails inviting you to arrange a site visit. I will leave you with this chilling thought, by the time the Olympics draws to a close on Sunday August 12th, we will be just 19 weeks and 2 days away from Christmas ☺.

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Solution

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+ N + R E M M U S + S L D + +
+ + O + + + + + + A A I + +
+ + + I + + L + + + M U F + +
+ + + + T O + + + + T N R + +
L A C I N A H C E M S D + + +
O + H D + + R R + + I R + B +
+ L O C + + A O + + R Y E + +
+ N Y + R E + + C + H W + + +
+ + + M W O + + + E C + + + +
+ + + K P + T + + + D + + + +
+ + R + + I + + + + + + + +
+ O + + + + C + + + + + + + +
W S C H E D U L E + + + + + +
+ + + + + + + + + + + + + +
+ + + + + + + + + + + + + +

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CHRISTMAS (11, 9, N)	DECORATION (11, 10, NW)	LAUNDRY (12, 1, S)
LONDON (7, 3, SW)	MECHANICAL (10, 5, W)	OLYMPIC (1, 6, SE)
RFID (13, 4, N)	SCHEDULE (2, 13, E)	SUMMER (9, 1, W)
TORCH (7, 10, NW)	WEB (12, 8, NE)	WORKWEAR (1, 13, NE)