

Watson & Hillhouse

Unrivalled Service in Piling Equipment Supply Since 1972



2015

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Welcome - from the Managing Director

Welcome to the latest edition of the Watson & Hillhouse newsletter.

It has been another busy year for us with our hire department having a very successful year so far supplying and supporting plant on sites right across the UK. Having made the decision, in 2013, to invest in two BSP CG hammers and large hydraulic vibrators, this has proven a good move with all our big equipment being on almost permanent hire throughout 2015. Within the ports and harbour sector our Damen dredge pump agency has started to bear fruit with two long term hires in London.

Sales wise, as economies further afield have begun to decline, we have seen a reduction in our overseas used sales business. Conversely, in a sign that the UK construction industry continues to grow, specialist sheet piling contractors continue to invest in new Kowan pile pressing machines.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition and look forward to your ongoing support.



Phil Bell

STILL WORKER UPDATE

At the start of the year, Berryrange bought another WP-150 to add to their existing fleet of three machines. As with previous units, the power pack has a crawler unit enabling the operator to move it around site without the aid of a crane. The power pack is also fitted with the latest EU compliant Stage 3B engine.

Beens Groep, from the Netherlands, invested in a second ZU-100 for a five year project to install 'Z' sheet piles for the reconstruction of the 'old canal' in the centre of Utrecht.

We have also purchased a new ZU-100 & WP-150 which have been added to our rental fleet.

After twenty-six successful years as global agents for the Still Worker we continue to work closely with Kowan using the feedback we get from our customers, as well as our own operators and engineers, to enhance the pile pressing machines further. In June this year, Robin Watson, Marcus Watson and Phil Bell visited the Kowan factory



to discuss a number of new features that will be introduced in forthcoming machines, to give greater functionality and efficiency in use. Kowan also agreed to increase their inventory to improve lead times.

In the recent budget the Chancellor, George Osborne, decided to preserve,

in a permanent state, the annual investment allowance (AIA) but at the lower rate of £200,000. This means the current rate of £500,000 will end on 31st December 2015, so take advantage of the higher level whilst you can!

To enquire about the Still Worker, please contact Phil Bell: phil@w-h.co.uk

DREDGING THE DEPTHS USING THE DAMEN DOP SUBMERSIBLE DREDGE PUMP



We are very excited about our first two hires of the Damen DOP submersible dredge pump, both a DOP 200 and DOP 250, which have commenced at Canary Wharf in London.

The project entailed removing the existing soft sediment and depositing hard-core to reclaim part of the waterway for construction. Having already provided equipment for the piling operations that are part of the project, whilst speaking to our hire controller Scott, they learnt about our recent agency with Damen. After discussing the features of the DOP submersible dredge pump they concluded that it would complete the job perfectly as it is comparatively small

and can be manoeuvred into tight spots fairly easily.

Due to the specifications of the task, this method was chosen over the use of a bucket attached to the excavator arm for two main reasons: The first being the requirement to dredge up close to the existing pile wall - because of the working arc of the excavator arm it would have been unable to remove all of the material, whilst the pump can be dropped down against the face of the pile wall; The second reason was due to the ability of DOP's to pump the dredged material over a greater distance. This removes the need for a barge, and all associated plant, to manoeuvre and empty the material at

the desired location. Thus saving time and money overall.

The unit can be suspended via a chain assembly or mounted to the arm of a long reach excavator to allow more accurate control and, depending on pipe diameter, these models can pump between 600 and 4000 cubic metres per hour (m³/h).

If you would like to discuss how the Damen DOP pump range might work for you, please don't hesitate to contact us. For hire, contact Scott Double: scott@w-h.co.uk and for sales, Phil Bell: phil@w-h.co.uk

SENDING IN THE HEAVY MOB

Our Northern office has been extremely busy this year. They have been overseeing the rental of our heavy duty CG/CX hydraulic drop hammers and large vibratory piling hammers to various sites in the North of the UK - here's an update on a few:

Mersey Gateway



Photographs courtesy of Merseylink

We are very proud to have supplied six vibratory and impact hammers over the course of the year to undertake the piling for the Mersey Gateway project.

The project will see the construction of a new six lane toll bridge over the River Mersey, between the towns of Runcorn and Widnes, with the aim of relieving the congestion on the existing Silver Jubilee Bridge.

Our PVE 40VM high frequency vibratory and BSP CX85 hydraulic piling hammers were supplied to install 610 and 710 mm o/d tube piles for the construction of a temporary trestle bridge. Three sheet pile cofferdams were then installed to allow for the construction of the foundations for the main bridge pylons. The 40VM was used for pre-driving and the CX's drove the piles to the final depth.

Progress can be followed on www.merseygateway.co.uk - where you will also find their social media links - it's well worth a look.



Hartlepool



One of our CG240 hammers has been busy at ABL Seaton Port in Hartlepool where it is installing 660mm dia tube piles. The project involves the installation of over 900 of these bearing piles - all to be driven to a pre-determined set point.

Two new quays are being created: one, a heavy-lift quay which, at 60T/m², will be one of the heaviest load out quays in Europe for the purpose of North Sea oil rig de-commissioning; the second, a new import/export facility, will provide additional capacity for vessel and rig berthing.



Liverpool 2

Work continues at Liverpool 2, where they are building a new container terminal in their bid to become the 'central gateway' to the UK.

This significant construction project involves the installation of a 854 metre long combi-piled wall and a sand compaction project working tidal shifts 24/7. Three million tonnes of sand is required to reclaim an area the size of ten football pitches.

One of our CG300 hammers has been on long term hire together with a collection of other hydraulic hammers and hydraulic vibrators. This has resulted in on-site support being required for up to ten pieces of equipment at any one time. To undertake this we have, by special arrangement, provided seven days a week support for breakdown assistance - including one person on-site at the weekends.

It has meant a bit of juggling of staff from both the Warrington and Ipswich depots. However, we are extremely lucky to have such dedicated employees, enabling us to offer this support to suit our customers' needs.



IT'S PILES BETTER WORKING WITH YOU

Since good customer service is at the core of what we do, we thought we'd carry on our feature from the last issue. We have years of in-house experience and can help you find a solution to most problems, as following stories will testify:

Case Solved

In November last year our Operations Director, Paul Lee, was approached by one of our customers, one of the UK's largest foundation contractors, to solve a particular issue. They wanted to be able to install casings more efficiently whilst maintaining safety on site.

Paul and his team set about designing and fabricating dedicated casing handling brackets - specifically for rotary bored pile temporary casings.

The resulting handling brackets enable the casings to be connected to the vibrator, by means of a chain and shackles, and lifted together. Pictured right is a PVE 40VM, fitted with the brackets, lifting a casing and inset a PVE 2319VM with the bracket.

The design has been approved by manufacturer Dieseko Group, and can now be fitted to all PVE vibratory hammers in the Watson & Hillhouse fleet.



Jet Powered Extraction

Beckton Sewage Treatment Works, one of Europe's largest sewage treatment works (currently serving 3.5 million people), is undergoing a £190m upgrade. The improvements will enable the site to treat 60% more sewage than it does now and allow for a 10% population increase until 2021.

As part of the improvement works, our customer installed a temporary AZ36-700 pile wall using a hydraulic vibratory hammer and an impact hammer. This wall enabled installation of twin outfall pipelines before our PVE 25M crane suspended vibratory hammer was employed to extract the piles.

The suction of the mud proved too much and the piles were refusing. One call to our hire department and our water jetting kit was sent down to



assist. It worked a treat and the job was quickly back up and running.

This Is Cool!

In another innovative modification, we recently fitted a water cooling system to a BSP SL30da hydraulic hammer.

As far as we are aware, and according to the manufacturer, we are the first and only piling equipment hire company to have this system fitted and we have found that it offers our customers significant savings on replacement dollies and has been proven on other hammers.

A bespoke design including: nozzle, hoses and pipe work; with water provided by a diesel powered water jetter and IBC for water supply which facilitates a calibrated jet of water at high pressure to the dolly.



“Wish we'd come to you in the first place.”

Civil Engineering Firm

“ Just ringing to say thank you. Robin Baker was of great assistance on site this morning. Not only fitting and instructing but also providing advice and assistance to find solutions to problems on site.

Housing Developer

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Still Worker Qualified



Toureen's Piling and Welding Supervisor, Michael Couves, and Operator, Alan Hutson, undertook Still Worker training on-site and in their yard by a Watson & Hillhouse trainer.

The course involves theory and hands on tuition and can be undertaken either at our training facility or at your place of work as well as on-site.

Here's Alan (left) and Michael (middle) receiving their CRO cards and certificates from our Ops Director, Paul.

Please contact Paul Lee for more information on the CITB recognised training for your operators: paul@w-h.co.uk

The Going Is Good



In 2005 we opened a new depot in Warrington to better serve customers operating in the north of the country. Opened and managed by Ken Smith he very quickly employed a fitter and after two years of successful trading they moved to larger premises.

Now operating with a staff of four they celebrate ten years of existence this year and they did it in style. The senior management team travelled north to take the Warrington team to a day at the races at Chester Racecourse where they were entertained in a private box.

Ken was later presented with his ten year service award by our Chairman, Robin Watson.

A good time was had by all and we have some photographs to prove it..!

New Workshop Office



The workshop management team at Ipswich had started to outgrow their existing space, which consisted of three individual offices, so we bought in architects to design a working space to accommodate the expanding team (we're not talking waistlines here). Their solution was to knock through all three offices and borrow a bit of extra, unused space, from the workshop to create the great new open plan space seen above.

New Apprentice

Since the last edition we welcome a new addition to the team. Elliot started with us in July as an apprentice straight from school.

He is undertaking part of the apprenticeship at the CITB accredited Bircham Newton Campus in Norfolk which he started at the beginning of September this year.

As well as regular attendance at college, at work Elliot has been assigned a mentor in the workshop who he works alongside. However, if a project of particular interest pops up he will join the person who is overseeing that job.



Elliot (l) and Paul (r)

Our Operations Director, Paul Lee will be conducting a monthly review with Elliot and so far Paul has been impressed.

Meet 2 Of The Mobile Team

Our fitters deliver all our excavator mounted vibratory hammers on hire to ensure they are fitted and working properly and sort out any problems - should any arise before leaving you to it. They also attend all equipment breakdowns and because we use vehicle tracking we are able to find the closest fitter to you and divert if necessary.



Steve Slacik

Steve Slacik has been with Watson & Hillhouse for two years and is based at our Warrington depot. He came to us after seven years as a plant engineer.



Robin Baker

Robin Baker is a maintenance engineer with considerable prior experience which includes running his own business selling and servicing agricultural machinery. He is based at Ipswich and has been with us for twelve years.

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