

Communiqué Scotland & Ireland



September 2005

Hello Again

Welcome to the 2nd instalment of our re-styled Scott Wilson Scotland and Ireland (SWS&I) Communiqué. As Ronnie Hunter, our Divisional CEO explained in the first issue, one of our aims will be to provide you with some background on contemporary issues as they affect the Division.



Probably our most noteworthy actions over the past month have occurred across the Irish Sea in both Southern and Northern Ireland.

Southern Ireland

As you know, we are now responsible for all work on the island of Ireland, and the past month has seen a number of Senior members of staff visiting Dublin to assist with the assimilation of the existing SW operations into SWS&I. We are currently operating two joint ventures out of Dublin, one with **TJ O'Connor** dealing with building structures, and a second with **Malone O'Regan** involved in the design of road schemes. Both JVs have significant on-going work commitments, and a small number of staff will be transferred onto the SWS&I payroll. Obviously, this is a big opportunity for us, and will involve other staff movements over the coming months.

Northern Ireland

As most of you will know, we have been working successfully in Northern Ireland over the past 7 years, mainly thanks to a JV with **Ferguson McIlveen**. Whilst the JV remains a great success, we have been planning for some time to open our own premises in the Province, firstly to simplify and improve our service through the JV, but also to allow us to explore other opportunities in the area as the might arise.

We are therefore proud to announce that on the 27th September, we took possession of the keys to our new office in Stockman's Lane, just off the M1 in South-west Belfast. The office is around 2000sqft, and will ultimately hold around 15-20 staff. For the time-being **George Kissick**, a new recruit at Grade 4.1 level, will be responsible for the local operation, under the guidance of **Kenny O'Hara**: two more members of staff have also joined, and we hope to make further appointments shortly.

This Month's Issue

A word from Alan Frew

Divisional Performance Update

Our People

Recruit to Plan

New Staff

Training

Jeans for Genes Day

Around the Division

MOU1

MOU2

MOU4

MOU5

MOU10

Quality, Safety & Environment

Quality

Safety

Environment

Marketing

Continuous Improvement

And finally



Alan Frew
Director

Communiqué Scotland & Ireland



September 2005

Divisional Performance Update

Our financial figures to the end of August 2005 continue to show a good performance, with most of the indicators on or slightly above our Business Plan targets. Well done to all!

While this continued success is to be welcomed, it does create its own problems, in particular cash flow. All project managers are therefore reminded to ensure that accurate and timely invoicing is essential to reduce cash flow difficulties.

Our People

Recruit to Plan

Those of you who read your New Civil Engineer may have noticed the “wrap-round” which accompanied the 29th September edition. This represents the official launch of our UK-wide campaign “Recruit to Plan”. The idea behind this campaign is that through the HR community it has been identified that attracting experienced staff is a cross-divisional, cross-discipline problem. In a bid to be more pro-active in our approach to recruitment this campaign has been designed to address our needs - both short and long term.



In conjunction with this, we are taking the opportunity to remind staff of the employee referral scheme. It is of great benefit to us, not to mention you financially, if you know of anyone that you think could become part of the Scott Wilson team. Flyers are being passed round all offices and if you want more details then contact Susie Edward.

New Staff

We welcome the following staff to the division

MOU1

Peter Ritchie

Graduate

MOU2

Ryan Hutchison

Technical Director

George Kissick

Principal Engineer (Belfast)

Donald McMurray

Graduate

MOU4

Michael Kidd

Principal Engineer

Alan Hill

Principal Engineer

MOU5

Lynn Jones

Accounts Assistant

MOU6

Nicholas Dadds

Ecologist

Nicholas Whitelaw

Assistant Planner

MOU7

David Ayles

Senior Engineer

Andrew Tyron

Graduate

MOU9

Salwa Yassin

Geotechnical Engineer
(transfer from Chesterfield)

Communiqué Scotland & Ireland

September 2005

Training

Our autumn programme of in-house training seminars are upon us again. These are an excellent way of learning from and utilising the variety of skills and experience that we have working in our offices and individuals should make use of this facility.

The first, of the programme covering “**Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG)**” will be presented by David Webster on Monday 24th October, commencing at 4:45pm in the Conference Room of Park Circus. Graduates and technicians are expected to attend, however all staff are welcome.



The full list of seminars is as follows

24th October	Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG)	David Webster
31st October	No presentation - dooking for apples instead?	
7th November	Multi-Modal Transport Modelling	Marwan Al-Azzawi
14th November	Professional Review the Conventional & Non-conventional way	Steve McKenna/ Andrew Leven
21st November	MX Design	Dave Watson
28th November	Site experience from both a Consultants & Contractor's view point	Graham McFarland
5th December	'Revolutionary' strengthening of the Stobcross On-Ramp, Kingston Bridge	Danny Boothman
12th December	Magical Mystery tour of Accounts	Eleanor Crozier/ Lynne Dowling

Jeans for Genes Day

Thank you to everyone who took part and contributed to Jeans for Genes day. A total sum of **£266** was collected in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Newcastle.

For those of you who didn't see Interchange - here is another chance to see the Edinburgh office staff.



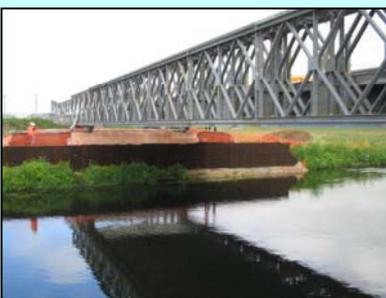
Communiqué Scotland & Ireland

September 2005

Around the Division

MOU1 was the subject of a special feature in the last issue, and as a result, many staff have been clamouring to find out how the projects have been developing. Here's an update on some of them.

Passenger services are now operating on the Maryhill Branch of the **Larkhall-Milngavie Railway** following the opening of a new station in Kelvindale and Driver Training is being carried out on the Larkhall Branch. SWS&I were involved in Structures, Earthworks, Geotechnics and Highways aspects of the scheme. The photograph on the right shows the refurbished overbridge at Strathcona Drive, Anniesland on the Maryhill Branch with the refurbished overbridge carrying the Forth and Clyde canal over the railway in the background. (This was where Ronnie Hunter used to collect train numbers as a wee boy!)



Construction is well underway on the first of a series of contracts to upgrade the **Trent Valley** section of the **West Coast Main Line** in Staffordshire. The work includes two major bridges to replace the River Tame Viaduct, extensions to a pair of existing three-span flood relief arches, and embankment widening.



The photographs show a temporary Bailey Bridge being launched over the river, and preparatory work in the river to enable the remaining piers of an even earlier bridge to be demolished.

New projects include a commission by Wren & Bell to design and check a new bridge over the Glazert Water, Lennoxton, and assisting MOU2 to develop preliminary scheme costs for upgrade of 56km of the A9 from Perth to Blair Atholl.

MOU2

As Alan Frew has already mentioned, the key piece of news in MOU2 is the opening of the Belfast Office. It would be fair to say that the timing could not have been better given that we have just been appointed by Roads Service Northern Ireland to identify, develop and take forward plans for a bypass of **Ballynahinch**, which is located on the A24 road from Belfast to Newcastle. Congratulations to Kenny and all who contributed to this tender.

We also welcome Ryan Hutchison, a new Technical Director who has joined us from KBR (Kellogg Brown & Root) in Surrey. Don't be fooled by this however, Ryan originally hails from Ayrshire and was a fellow student of a certain Mr K O'Hara at Strathclyde University. Ryan brings extensive roads design and management experience to the team. Together with David & Kenny he will deliver roads projects in Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Communiqué Scotland & Ireland



September 2005

MOU4

Renewable Energy

It is an exciting time just now in the area of Renewable Energy, and our contacts and opportunities are expanding well outside of the UK. We have now completed our work with SW China on two wind farms in that country, and these are under construction. We are assisting our colleagues in China with construction issues, as they arise.

We are talking to senior people in the Pakistan government and financiers in relation to a number of upcoming wind farms in the coastal area of Pakistan, in conjunction with the International Division.

We have also recently provided to General Electric a detailed proposal to develop a bespoke software package for the finite element analysis and design of wind turbine foundations, and are honing the requirements for that just now.

Closer to home, we are working with the UK Central Division on a project near Manchester, as well the environmental impact assessment for a wind farm in the Central Belt of Scotland.

MOU5

Eleanor Crozier reports that the admin section is currently experiencing some difficulty in recruitment of a suitable secretary. It is for this reason that agency staff are being utilised.

However, while a third pair of hands is required, there are times when the staff are under utilised. Could everyone make sure they are making full use of the staff available for typing, filing and organising files etc.

MOU10

Work on our major projects in Scotland and Northern Ireland is progressing well with route corridor studies for the A96 east of Inverness, the A82 north of Tarbet, both of which have involved working closely with MOU6, and the A6 to Londonderry featuring significantly in our current workload. In addition to the above, we are presently working on the A6 Castledawson to Randalstown Stage 3 assessments and the A9 Perth to Blair Atholl project with MOU2.

Discussions with our JV partners Ferguson McIlveen are leading to new commissions in Transport Assessments in Northern Ireland, the latest of which has just been completed. We also welcomed the positive client feedback from Land Securities for our work on the Transport Assessment of the Almondvale Centre, Livingston, with 10/10 for understanding and focus on client's needs. Well done team!

Communiqué Scotland & Ireland



September 2005

Quality, Safety and Environment

Quality

There is concern that only 12 Client Feedback Questionnaires have been returned in the first 5 months of this financial year. Project Manager are reminded to ensure that they ask their clients to complete a questionnaire for each project once a year or at the end of the project for those that last less than a year.

Safety

There is now are new Health and Safety Organisational structure for the firm. Please visit your Health and Safety Notice Board for details.

To new members of staff who do not know about, 'CSCS', please consult Gordon Bathgate to learn more about this important health and safety initiative.

There was a burglary in the Edinburgh office in August. Please take this event as a reminder of the importance of your ensuring all windows and doors are locked at night.

We are currently seeking registration of our health and safety system under OHSAS 18001 with Lloyds Register, and will be audited by Lloyds Register in January 2006. Gordon Bathgate is doing the rounds of health and safety inspections of our offices. The areas which require constant care are the shared facilities. Please be aware and look after these areas. It is everyone's responsibility.

Lastly, staff in Nos 5 and 6 Park circus should remember that the main entrance/exit for the office is via reception in No. 6. The door at No. 5 is not the main entrance/exit and should only be used in special circumstances, making sure that it is closed properly and carefully behind you.

Environment

Training has been given to the Office Environmental Managers on the changes to the EMS system, in particular the extension to include our services, and roll-out of the required elements of this to Divisional Offices is now being planned.

Communiqué Scotland & Ireland



September 2005

Marketing

Red CVs

A plea from Karen Miller: - To simplify the duplication of one page Red CVs, a “Variations” area has been created on the “Shared” drive under “Marketing Red CVs” This is the ONE and ONLY place revised CVs should sit and named as follows, eg:

hunter_ronnie_Traffic_121005

Do not place CVs from other divisions in this area, deal with your own only.

This varies from the Marketing Red CVs area where ONE up-to-date general version will sit for each member of staff, and once updated the old one will be removed. Either place your CV in this area or ask Karen to amend your CV accordingly and she will place in the appropriate place thereafter”.

Continuous Improvement

For both economic and environmental reasons we should seek to improve our use of printers across the Division. For example, there seems to be an increasing use of colour printing of draft documents which is clearly an inefficient use of resources. Before pressing the print button, please consider a few simple questions:

- Can I print at 2 pages to a page?
- Can I print double sided?
- Is colour really necessary?
- Can I use the photocopier to print this document?

Generally, where possible the photocopier should be used since it offers significant financial benefits over laser and colour prints – please use it.

Think before you Print!

And Finally

- We are really serious about needing a new name for this publication. **Think Harder!**
- If your MOU hasn't featured - **write an article!!!**