

# Bristol sponsorship



Barry Bradshaw, Director of Bristol Rovers and Neil Sherreard, Divisional MD Cowlin, celebrate the renewed sponsorship deal.

Cowlin has renewed its partnership with Bristol Rovers FC for another season. The latest sponsorship agreement will take the affiliation between the two parties into its eleventh year. The extension of the current sponsorship deal will see Cowlin remain as the shirt sponsor for the 2008/09 season.

Neil Sherreard, divisional Managing Director of Cowlin Construction, said: "We are delighted to continue our partnership with Bristol Rovers Football Club. I believe this one of the longest associations between club and main sponsor in the Football League and it is testament to the benefit both parties derive.

# Plymouth students see how it's done



**70 environmental building students from the University of Plymouth visited Cowlin at the Signpost Homes student accommodation project in Exeter in March as part of their education courses leading to careers in construction.**

The first-year university students were given a tour of the £7.5m project, which includes 243 student accommodation apartments and 37 communal kitchens, currently being built in collaboration with Signpost Homes and the University of Exeter.

Cowlin's Project Manager Gordon Lake was on-hand to talk to the students about the construction project, he said: "We are very pleased to welcome the University of Plymouth students to our site for Signpost Homes. The students have the chance

to observe how a construction project of this size works and get a bird's eye view of the various aspects of construction working together on a large building project," he said.

Due for completion in September 2008, the student accommodation development is ideally situated near Exeter city centre, with external works incorporating a new cycle path to the existing highway; external lighting; car parking and landscaping. The building will be constructed comprising pre-cast beam foundations and a timber frame structure, finished with a mixture of coloured render system, timber rain screening cladding and curtain walling. PVCU windows on upper floors and a single ply roofing system will complete the external finishings.



## The Cowlin Interview

Jeff Came  
– Site Manager

A big congratulations goes to Jeff, who was recently awarded Site Manager of the Year in Devon and Cornwall by the Building Safety Group for his work on the Cullompton Medical Centre.

**Q. When did you join Cowlin?**

A. I joined Cowlin in April 2003.

**Q. How did you get to where you are today?**

A. With 45 years in the industry I have had a varied career, after starting and working as a carpenter and joiner for 20 years. I went on to own a construction business for eight years, then went on to work in several roles including site manager, contract supervisor and contract manager for various south west contractors during the next 20 years, before joining Cowlin in 2003.

**Q. How has the construction industry changed over the years?**

A. The industry has changed dramatically in the time I have been part of it. In the past, the site manager would set out the building as well as run the site because the paperwork in the office would be a small part of his day. Most of the labour would be directly employed by the company. Health and safety, welfare and general site conditions have vastly improved, almost to the point of making some jobs very difficult to do, but for the overall benefit for everyone.

**Q. What do you look forward to at work?**

A. I always like to have a goal each day to try and achieve. I enjoy meeting people each day and making plans to make things happen and get things done. As site manager, a major goal is completing the contract on time, which can be quite a challenge!

**Q. If you could change one thing about your job what would it be?**

A. To be able to be more hands-on out on the site, like it was in the past – as I think this creates better relationships with employees and breaks down barriers.

**Q. What is your ambition?**

A. To be honest I am 60 years old this year, I feel like I have had a rewarding and varied career – so my ambition now it to use all of my experience to carry on in my role to the best of my ability.

**Q. If you could offer one tip to someone wanting to follow in your footsteps, what would it be?**

A. To get well qualified and not to lose the personal day to day contact with colleagues, because employees on site can make it difficult or easy to get the job done.

**Q. What do you do to relax?**

A. I like to walk and cycle, take my grandson on rugby weekends away and spend time with my grandchildren, go on holidays, and dare I say, DIY on our bungalow.

# Cowlin Edition 5 – Summer 08 news

## Smooth sailing for Cowlin

Since the acquisition of Cowlin by leading UK construction group Balfour Beatty, it is very much business as usual. Integration with Balfour Beatty has been seamless, as Cowlin continues to operate autonomously across the South West and Wales.

David Harris and Neil Sherreard, Divisional MDs at Cowlin reflecting on the past year, commented:

"We are now able to pursue much larger value tenders and opportunities across all market sectors, while maintaining our local and hands-on style of management. Cowlin is progressing through 2008 with several key contract wins, and is maintaining a healthy tender book and forward prospects list."

Cowlin's group structure comprises two distinct divisions: the South West division and the Welsh division, with offices in Bristol, Yeovil, Exeter, Plymouth, Truro, Cardiff and Swansea.

"Our offices enable us to provide coverage from the tip of Cornwall through Dorset and Wiltshire, while extending our operations into Cheltenham, Gloucester, Swindon and Oxford, where Cowlin is particularly seeking to increase its market share. Equally, within Wales we are expanding into west Wales from our new base in Swansea and we are actively pursuing new business opportunities in the north," they said.

Following the acquisition of Dean and Dyball by Balfour Beatty in March, Dean and Dyball's Swansea and Bristol offices have been merged into Cowlin Cardiff and Bristol, respectively.

2008 has also seen Cowlin invest significantly to improve internal processes and systems across the group.



Cowlin's Devon and Cornwall gig-racing team row to victory for Children's Hospice South West

Roll-out of the new-look Cowlin branding is now complete, with offices sporting the new blue and white signature.

An updated health and safety management system has been implemented across Cowlin – a significant investment representing the ongoing importance placed on continual improvement for the safety and wellbeing of employees and workplaces.

Similarly, Cowlin is currently updating and improving its environmental and quality systems and anticipates that new documentation addressing ISO procedures will be completed at the end of this year.

Improvements in the company's IT systems are also in progress for completion in October 2008. This will see improved data storage and sharing across the group, and incorporates an updated intranet system, which embraces many Balfour Beatty organisational communications processes.

"Cowlin is investing in improvements for our business, which will help to take us forward as we continue to grow in Wales and across the south west." Neil and David concluded.

# News round-up

## IAN CARROLL: COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR Wales



Cowlin Welsh division has appointed Ian Carroll as Commercial Director to build on the success of the commercial division. Based in the Cardiff office, Ian will be managing 20 staff and will be sharing his 33 years of experience with the 220 strong Cardiff team. Originally from Lancashire, Ian has spent most of his working life in London working with some large names in the building industry including Mowlem, Taylor Woodrow and more recently Balfour Beatty.

## JO KANE: HR MANAGER



Jo Kane joins Cowlin as human resources manager for the south west. The first of a dedicated HR team, Jo is responsible for implementing the HR systems and providing generalist HR management across the division. Her role includes managing employee resourcing, performance management, training, and employee relations.

Jo has relocated to Bristol after holding a similar role at Balfour Beatty. She has a strong background in construction and is currently in the final stages of achieving her CIPD (Chartered Institute of Personal Development).

## ROB WILLIAMS: CONSTRUCTION DIRECTOR



Rob Williams joins the group as construction director for the Bristol region. Rob is responsible for the delivery of Cowlin's building projects, reporting to divisional managing director, Neil Sherreard.

Rob Williams has more than 20 years experience in the construction industry and comes to Cowlin after 11 years with another national construction firm, based in its south west team.

## BRIAN SMITH: HEALTH & SAFETY MANAGER



Brian Smith has been promoted to divisional health & safety manager, overseeing the health and safety programme and planning across the organisation, for both Welsh and South West divisions.

Brian is working with Cowlin's regional health and safety directors to manage the company's standards and provide a central reporting role on H&S for the group. He was promoted in January from his previous role as health & safety manager in the Bristol area.

## ALAN McCULLOUGH: QUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER



Alan McCullough joins Cowlin as quality and environmental manager, responsible for the group's management systems. His role includes maintaining and managing the ISO environmental health & safety and quality management systems, ensuring they are implemented to the highest standards across the group.

Alan joins Cowlin from Balfour Beatty, after leaving a similar role in the London area. Alan is based at Cowlin's Bristol and Plymouth offices.

# Working for WISP

During 2007 and 2008, Cowlin in Wales has been working on several projects for the Welsh Investment Strategic Partnership (WISP).

## What is WISP?

WISP is a project to deliver £150m of office and high-tech manufacturing premises (300,000 sq ft) throughout Wales over the next 10 years, for the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG).

The purpose of WISP is to provide an efficient development structure for the WAG and the Welsh Development Agency (WDA), aiming to encourage private sector development and investment into Wales.



## Fabian Way, Swansea

In December 2007, Cowlin completed construction at Fabian Way: a 50,000sq ft, £7m, Grade A office building development in Swansea. The striking building forms part of the major Swansea Waterfront redevelopment and has achieved a BREEAM Very Good rating.



## Lower Dock Street, Newport

Cowlin recently welcomed the Chairman of Construction Skills, Sir Michael Latham, to its second WISP development on Lower Dock Street in Newport to showcase the training and community involvement initiatives that have been practiced on this site. Due for completion in September 2008, situated in a very prominent location on the western approach to Newport City Centre, this building includes 48,000 sq ft of Grade A office development, and is valued at £7.8m.

Cowlin is also currently costing for a third WISP project on Cardiff Road, Nantgarw.

# £1.5m in Falmouth community developments

Cowlin's Devon and Cornwall branch boasted a positive start to the year, having been awarded two contracts for community developments in Falmouth, Cornwall totalling £1.5m in new business.



Cowlin is working with Cornwall County Council on the extension and refurbishment of the Design and Technology buildings at Falmouth School, a project that is part of the Sorrell Foundation's 'joinedupdesignforschool' programme, which has seen college students work with Urban Salon architects to design their own extension building that will house a new graphics resource room. The project is due for completion in August 2008.

Cowlin is also working with the Falmouth Youth Club to replace its existing deteriorated facilities with a new state-of-the-art community building for the young people in the town. The newly-named Dracaena Youth Centre development aims to

provide much needed facilities for the community – including space for recreational activities, skills development and health education.

Mike O'Neill, Regional MD of Cowlin in Devon and Cornwall, comments:

"We are very pleased to be working with Cornwall Country Council and the Falmouth Youth Club on both of these projects - they will certainly have a positive impact on the Falmouth community.

"It has been a good start to 2008 for Cowlin in Devon and Cornwall - we hope to continue our success in the region and are looking forward to a busy year ahead in the South West," he said.

# It's a dog's life at Wheal Alfred Farm

Cowlin commenced onsite at the Wheal Alfred Farm in May, working with the National Animal Welfare Trust (NAWT) to construct a much needed new animal re-homing shelter on its existing site near Hayle, Cornwall.

Due for completion in time for Christmas 2008 the £1.2m, 39-week project will provide 24 new re-homing kennels and a 20-pen cattery, as well as a separate residential log cabin for the centre manager. The centre accommodates wheelchair access and works include parking and landscaping.

The design of the new shelter includes several considerations to ensure there is minimal impact on the environment and its surroundings, with the inclusion of a small scale 9kW wind turbine, roof mounted solar hot water panels and a rainwater harvesting system. The building will incorporate measures to dissipate noise from the



kennelling areas to avoid any disturbance to the surrounding area.

Cowlin will use building materials sympathetic to the rural location of the site, such as feather edge boarding to the external walls and metal profile roofing, resulting in an 'agricultural' feel. The kennelling areas will be fronted with galvanised panels.

# The changing face of education

Members of the Association of Women in Property (WiP) Bristol participated in a site tour of Merchants' Academy in April, hosted by Cowlin. The new £22m school is replacing the existing Withywood Community School in south Bristol and will set the standards for education facilities in the south west.

With construction due for completion in June 2008 the school is close to completion - consisting of seven academic buildings with state-of-the-art technological facilities, built around an impressive central courtyard.

WiP committee member and marketing executive at Cowlin, Cathy Dallosso said:

"Merchants' Academy is an example of the future for schools in the UK and WiP members and their guests are very pleased to have the opportunity to visit the site and gain further insight to construction in the education sector," she said.

Merchants' Academy will cater for 1,150 pupils aged between 11 and 18 years and is co-sponsored by the Society of Merchant Venturers and the University of Bristol.



# Cowlin hands over £4m Cullompton Medical Centre

Cowlin completed construction of the new £4m Cullompton medical centre in March this year, a building to replace the existing medical centre and provide administration offices for the Primary Care Trust (PCT). The project brings a state-of-the-art medical centre to the Cullompton area with more than 100 rooms built in line with the Primary Care Trust 'infection control' specifications. The innovative design of the two-storey building features a large curved front wing with spiral staircases leading to a central 'tower' and various rendering finishes.

Neil Sherreard, Divisional MD said: "The finished building is a testimony to our expertise in the sector, and will no doubt be a valuable addition to the region's medical facilities.

"Cowlin has developed a strong reputation for construction in the medical and care home sector - with recent and current contracts in the region totalling more than £25m, including the Glenside Manor neurological centre near Salisbury, a senior care home in Sway, a nursing home in Wells, and close-care apartments at Dunwood Manor, near Romsey," he said.

# News round-up

## WiP celebrates 20th anniversary in style

Guests from across the construction and property industries in the south west celebrated in style at a dinner dance to honour the 20th anniversary of the Association of Women in Property (WiP) in April. Held in a stunning Edwardian Baroque building at the City Museum in Clifton, the guest-list included representatives from companies Cowlin Construction, Barton Willmore, Arup, King Sturge, Hyder Consulting, Osborne Clark, Clarke Willmott, Bond Pearce, GVA Grimley, TLT Solicitors and CODA Architects.



Emma Glynn, Associate at King Sturge and Chairman of the WiP South West branch, commented at the event: "This occasion marks the culmination of a successful series of 20th anniversary events held to celebrate an important year for Women in Property. It also marks the start of what we hope will be another highly successful 20 years for WiP in the south west," she said.

## Lord Mayor visits Merchants' Academy: The changing face of education

The Lord Mayor of Bristol The Rt. Hon. Royston Griffey enjoyed a tour of the Merchants' Academy site in April, giving Cowlin the chance to showcase its work on the £22m secondary school project. The Lord Mayor also visited Cowlin's Bristol headquarters, at nearby regenerated Cater Business Park in South Bristol. The trading estate has recently received substantial public and private regeneration investment and has been elected to become a Business Improvement District (BID), the first in south west England.



## Princess Royal opens Wiltshire History Centre

HRH The Princess Royal was guest of honour at the official opening ceremony of the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre in Chippenham, held in May.

Cowlin worked with Wiltshire County Council and Swindon Borough Council to complete the construction project on time and under budget.

Princess Anne was given a tour of the building and saw some of the conservation work being undertaken at the centre.

