

Scaffolding Insider

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DECEMBER 2024

SCAFFEX24

Spectacular start
for new event



COP OUT

Hands are tied
as climate crisis
continues

THE INDUSTRY'S FINEST

Meet the Award
winners

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FROM THE EDITOR

Did you go?

Yes, I'm talking about ScaffEx24, which exceeded all possible expectations for a brand new event and already has everyone looking forward to ScaffEx25.

What I couldn't get over was the sheer professionalism of the whole day, from the moment you landed at the airport and saw ads for ScaffEx to when you arrived at the Convention Centre to see huge ScaffEx flags, then the exhibition which had the feeling of a busy, major show, the Conference which attracted hundreds of delegates, and finally the absolutely spectacular Gala Dinner and Scaffolding Excellence Awards.

No stone was left unturned as NASC sought to put on a show the industry could be proud of. It seems the industry agreed, if the numbers attending and the lively conversations I heard are anything to go by. Everyone I spoke to had been seriously impressed by the whole event, and I know that most of the exhibitors had already signed up for even bigger stands for ScaffEx25 by the end of the day.

ScaffEx25 will be a major event. Being held at Manchester Central, it will take place over two days instead of one, and will occupy a space several times bigger so more exhibitors can show their products and services over a larger area. It takes place on 11-12 September and I know the NASC ScaffEx team is already busy planning to make it into a magnificent couple of days in the north-west.

The new-look Awards went down a treat and there were some delighted and deserving winners. The entertainment from the band was top-notch too, as were the trio of hosts, James Nesbitt, Mike Tindall and Denise van Outen. A spectacular night. Read all about the day and the evening on pages 8-10

Back down on planet Earth, we recently saw the COP29 gathering where every country from around the world comes together to try and address the pending climate catastrophe. On pages 12-13, we look at the main outcomes from COP29 and the implications for the construction industry.

NASC News on p14 looks back at the recent AGM and the transfer of the Presidency, as well as other news including one story that just squeezed in before we went to press: a new £1m fund for training from City & Guilds. We'll bring you more on this next issue.

With Christmas around the corner, Scaffolding Insider will be taking a short breather and will return with our next issue in February.

Until then, safe scaffolding and a merry Christmas.



Nick Campion
Editor

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NASC ANNOUNCES NEW £1M+ TRAINING FUND



NASC will partner with City & Guilds Training to offer Skills Bootcamps funding for scaffolding training. The partnership covers courses run in CISRS centres, including Part 1 & 2, the Advanced Scaffolder Course and new entrant as part of an upskilling programme for scaffolding operatives.

Funded by the Department for Education, as part of the Government's Lifetime Skills Guarantee, these 'Skills for Life' Bootcamps provide a range of flexible training options targeting specific industries and are aimed at equipping individuals with skills for working in sectors with high job demand, providing learners with job-ready skills. This funding can also be combined with other funding such as CITB.

The Skills Bootcamps offer 70-90% funding for the approved courses and are open to members and non-members as part of NASC's commitment to the broader sector. The fund is anticipated to be over £1m.

Clive Dickin, CEO, NASC, said "We strongly support the Skills Bootcamps initiative as an excellent way to

upskill talent in the scaffolding and access sector. It is well recognised that we face significant skills shortages across the sector and this significant funding will hopefully play a major part in providing new employment opportunities. Collaborating with City & Guilds Training helps to broaden the availability of training and is part of our commitment to a truly inclusive approach to training across the sector."

Anyone interested in accessing the Skills Bootcamps should direct potential learners to complete a registration form via <https://cityandguildstraining.com/skills-bootcamps-for-scaffolding-training-with-the-national-access-scaffolding-confederation>, so they can be directed by the team at City & Guilds Training to the correct centre.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE UPTAKE STALLS

A new report has revealed that the use of electric vehicles in the construction sector remains low. The report by the Construction Leadership Council sets out the four main issues which have led to the slow uptake of electric vehicles in the construction industry: home charging; on-site charging; legislation regarding Light Commercial Vehicles (LCVs) and Electric Vehicles (EVs); cost of ownership.

The report studies the impact of each issue and makes recommendations to Government to overcome them, with the aim of increasing electric vehicle uptake in the sector,

currently at just 5.2%.

Matt Palmer, Industry Sponsor for Net Zero and Biodiversity at the Construction Leadership Council, Executive Director of the Lower Thames Crossing and sponsor of the report said: *"Whilst uptake of electric vehicles in the construction industry has been slow to date, I'm optimistic that our report sets out clear actions and suggested policy changes that would make electric vehicle ownership or lease a more attractive option for our whole industry."*

REEVES ANNOUNCES PENSION MEGA FUNDS

Chancellor Rachel Reeves has taken inspiration from the way large Canadian and Australian pension schemes work, and has announced that pension mega funds will be created under Government plans to increase infrastructure investment.

Reforms could unlock £80 billion of investment, according to Treasury plans, which say fewer but larger funds can get greater returns. Rachel Reeves said the creation of pension mega funds is 'the biggest set of reforms to the pensions market in decades'.

Almost 90 local government pension pots will be grouped together, with defined contribution schemes merged and assets pooled together. Pension schemes get greater returns when they reach around £20bn to £50bn as they are better placed to invest in a wider range of assets, according to the Government.

This is backed up by evidence from Canada and Australia, the government argues - with Canada's schemes investing four times more in infrastructure, and Australia three times more than the UK's defined contribution schemes.



Rachel Reeves

SCAFFOLD BOARD PRICES TO RISE

Scaffmag is reporting that the price of scaffold boards is expected to increase in the coming months as the timber market faces a period of significant upheaval, according to Ollie Appleby, Director of Brent Scaffold Boards Ltd.

Appleby explained that the challenges currently facing the European timber industry, including the recent collapse of Ziegler, a major German timber mill, are having a significant impact. Known for its aggressive pricing strategy of selling timber at a loss to drive volume, Ziegler's very recent downfall is sending shockwaves through the timber trade.

The timber market has struggled over the past two years, with mills across Europe reporting significant losses due to depressed prices. The situation is now reaching a tipping point, and many in the industry are predicting that timber prices will rise into next year as suppliers adjust to maintain profitability.

For the scaffolding sector, which relies heavily on timber scaffold boards, these price increases will likely lead to higher project costs.

£633K FINE AFTER SCAFFOLDER INJURY

EDF and Trillium Flow Services Ltd have been fined a combined total of £633,333 after a scaffolder was seriously injured by a falling two-tonne counterweight at Dungeness B power station.

Scaffolder Colin Dell, 62, was carrying out work in the vicinity of the main cooling water discharge valves at the site in Kent when the accident occurred. On 13 June 2022, he was involved in scaffolding work but a hydraulic actuator was not in place, which meant the unsupported heavy counterweight could fall at any point.

While the contractor was measuring up, the unsupported counterweight suddenly fell from a cooling water pump, striking Dell's hand and then his foot, and leaving him trapped. He sustained serious injuries to his left foot including broken and amputated toes for which he was taken to hospital where he remained for four days.

Dell's injuries have been described as lifechanging and he has been unable to return to work as a scaffolder. He has also been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Both EDF and Trillium Flow Services Ltd pleaded guilty to safety offences at Folkestone Magistrates Court following a prosecution prepared by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR).

Dungeness B ended its power generation activities in June 2021 and is now in the defueling stage.



ALTRAD COMPLETE ACQUISITION

Industrial services giant Altrad has completed its acquisition of Norwegian company Beerenberg AS, strengthening its presence in the region and expanding its global reach.

The deal, part of Altrad's growth strategy, brings together two companies with shared values and a commitment to providing innovative solutions for their clients. Altrad's Co-CEO, Ran Oren, said the acquisition would bolster the group's operations in Norway and beyond.

"We're thrilled to have finalised this latest acquisition, which adds strength and depth to our activities," he said. "By combining Beerenberg's expertise with Altrad's resources, we're aiming to deliver even greater value for our clients."



BEERENBERG



PICTURE CREDIT: Mikael Blomkvist

WOMEN STILL EXCLUDED BY CONSTRUCTION

A report by MyWorkwear has revealed that the number of women in construction has declined in the past year, having improved by just 1.2% in the last decade. The study shows that plumbing and electrical work are the worst offenders, especially in terms of the pay gap.

The key issues that the study found, which are making the sector unappealing for women are:

- The gender pay gap
- Maternity pay
- Menopause leave

A further issue highlighted in the report is the lack of workwear tailored specifically for women.

NEW LABOUR RATE HIGH

According to Hudson Contract, labour rates hit a new high last month, reaching £1,048 per week for self-employed tradespeople. Latest figures from the industry's biggest payroll provider show average earnings for self-employed tradespeople increased 1.9% to £1,044 per week during October.

The return of inflationary pressure in the labour market mirrors price increases in parts of the materials and product market with some manufacturers citing employer national insurance contributions as fuelling the need to raise prices.

Hudson Contract pay trend data shows year-on-year earnings up 4.8% despite ongoing uncertainty in the market. London saw the strongest growth (up 4.9% to £1,147) followed by Wales (up 4.4% to £1,208) and the East Midlands (+4.1% to £1,097).

NEWS IN BRIEF

SP chooses partners

SP Energy Networks has confirmed its preferred partners for a £5.4bn contract to deliver the biggest rewiring of the national electricity grid since its inception. The deal includes up to £3bn on new overhead lines and £2.4bn on new and upgraded substations, including design, engineering, construction and electrical works.

Nineteen winners have been announced for the strategic partnership which will run for an initial five years with the option to extend up to 10. SP Energy Networks, part of ScottishPower, owns and operates the transmission network for central and southern Scotland.



Morgan Sindall pick up ISG job

Vale of Glamorgan Council has agreed a £22m deal with Morgan Sindall to finish a stalled ISG school job in Penarth on the outskirts of Cardiff. Morgan Sindall Construction's Cardiff business is currently putting together a workplan before construction recommences on the school in Ysgol Llyn Derw, designed for pupils with Additional Learning Needs.

Camstead in administration

Leeds-based Camstead Homes has gone into administration with the loss of 20 jobs. Camstead Homes specialises in prestigious residential developments in prime and rural locations and has completed more than 4,000 properties across the country.

The company currently has three developments underway in Derwenthorpe, Shepley and Adel, where work has been stopped.

NFB backs farmers

Following protests by farmers about changes to inheritance tax and agricultural property relief, Richard Beresford, chief executive of the National Federation of Builders (NFB), said that the agricultural sector can count on construction to understand their concerns.

"Construction companies are also generational businesses operating on tight margins, uncertain cashflow and aging workforces," Beresford said. "We therefore stand behind farmers who oppose this budget decision because the growth-hindering, anti-business tax changes also apply to our industry."

High rise in Manchester

Manchester Council has voted to add three new high rise schemes to its booming skyline, creating a combined total of nearly 1,500 homes. The council's planning committee voted in favour of proposals by Hawkins Brown, Bell Phillips and Simpson Haugh. The tallest, designed by Simpson Haugh for JRL Group and Central & Urban, is a 28-storey tower containing 359 apartments on Sparkle Street.

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SCAFFEX24 SETS THE STANDARD SKY HIGH

Brilliant new event captures hearts and minds of the industry

On 29 November, Belfast played host to ScaffEx24, the inaugural conference and exhibition for the scaffolding profession and the first of its kind in Europe.

Over 500 visitors attended the International Convention Centre during the day, while over 700 attended the NASC Ball and Scaffolding Excellence Awards in the evening.

NASC CEO, Clive Dickin, said *“I’m delighted at how the entire industry has responded to this first event, whether they are NASC members or not. There’s no doubt that ScaffEx will become a regular fixture in the industry calendar. Today marks a turning point for the industry. We’ve already been approached by exhibitors wanting to book bigger stands for next year’s show. After today, the industry will come together more often to share insights, ideas and innovations in this way.”*

There was no doubting the enthusiasm for the Conference element of ScaffEx, with delegates arriving bright and early and packing the 320-seat conference room so there was barely space to stand. The presentations from Wayne Connolly, NASC President, and Lee Rowswell, Group Director, GKR Scaffolding Ltd, on the theme of Opportunity were warmly received, with their stories of success in the scaffolding sector striking a chord with many in this entrepreneurial and hard-working industry.

The room remained packed for the Innovation strand of speakers, with Julio Black, Head of Product & Marketing, At-Pac and Dr Yasuo Toyosawa, President, SCEA, both



Sean Pike, Layher

giving great examples of how new technology could transform training and the understanding of building structures, as well as how biomechanical suits could prolong the working life of the scaffolder.



Suzannah Nichol, Build UK

The remaining two strands saw the issue of Training and Education addressed by Barry Neilson OBE, Chief Executive, CITBNI, Tim Balcon, Chief Executive, CITB and David Abraham, Co-founder, Fulcrum Scaffolding Safety – this included a number of announcements about new CISRS offers in 2025; and Meet the Buyer saw excellent overviews from the client side from Suzannah Nichol OBE, Chief Executive, Build UK, and James Butcher, Executive Director, NFB who explained what clients are

expecting and how valuable a NASC endorsement is.

ScaffEx24 saw NASC unveil two major announcements that will also change the industry. It unveiled the game-changing TG30, which promises to do for system scaffolding what TG20 did for tube and fit. And it also announced it is adopting the Common Assessment Standard (CAS) as an optional add-on to its audit.



What ScaffEx attendees said...

"A special highlight of the event was the introduction of TG30, the new system scaffolding guidance, which is set to make a big impact on scaffolding safety and standards. A huge thank you to everyone who made the day such a success. We had an incredible time and are already looking forward to next year!"

The team from Creator Scaffold Designs and Temporary Works Consultants



"I'd like to thank NASC for putting on a great night and giving our team the recognition they deserve and another reason to be proud of the work they do. Congratulations to all the winners and nominees, the competition is always strong when you're surrounded by the finest the industry has to offer"

Jamie Angell, Scaffolding MD, Shield Services Group



"ScaffEx24 was a fantastic event. It's events like these that showcase the progress and innovation in our sector by all manufacturers and suppliers. A big well done to the organisers for putting on such a successful show. The quality of the awards entries was genuinely impressive, and congratulations to all the winners and entrants for raising the bar."

Des Moore, Consultant



"The event itself was a celebration of innovation and collaboration within the scaffolding industry. It highlighted the immense potential we have as professionals to drive progress in our sector—through creativity, teamwork, and a shared vision for the future. For me, this experience was a powerful reminder, meaningful change begins when we apply ourselves with purpose. Belfast and ScaffEx24 have reignited my belief in the power of unity and progress."

James McMillan, H&S Advisor/Inspector, APT Scaffolding Ltd

Exhibitors at the ScaffEx Expo enjoyed an incredible amount of traffic as visitors squeezed into the new exhibition, filling the stands and getting deals done. It is testament to the success of the expo that many exhibitors signed up to ScaffEx25 on the spot and for much bigger stands.

ScaffEx24 drew global attention, with representatives from Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Caribbean and from across Europe attending the conference and exhibition. Visiting dignitaries were keen to see and learn best practice from UK businesses, who have a world-renowned reputation for excellence in health and safety practices.

ScaffEx25 will be held at Manchester Central on Thursday 11 to Friday 12 September 2025, and again the Conference and Expo will be free to attend. The space will be several times bigger than this year's and excitement for the event is already building.

**AIR AMBULANCE
NORTHERN IRELAND
CHARITY**

Delegates at ScaffEx and guests at the Scaffolding Excellence Awards were invited to support the charity Air Ambulance Northern Ireland. This critical charity takes the emergency department to the scene but relies on public support.

Please give if you can by clicking on the QR code

INDUSTRY CHAMPIONS

Following a busy day learning and networking, over 700 guests enjoyed an evening of celebration at the Scaffolding Excellence Awards Gala Dinner. The event was hosted by TV and film star James Nesbitt, who was on fine form, as were his co-hosts Mike Tindall and Denise van Outen.

Guests were serenaded into the room by brilliant performers from band In The Red, who played again after the awards finished as guests danced deep into the night. The 700+ guests celebrated some of the industry's finest, as awards were given out across nine categories.



Scaffolding Excellence AWARDS

2024

Apprentice of the Year



Albie Cooper,
Benchmark Scaffolding

Highly Commended:
Harrison Mapley,
Star Scaffolding



Scaffold Design of the Year



SRK Scaffolding



Service of the Year



Costain, Skanska and Strabag's Scaffold Request App



Lifetime Achievement Award



Lee Rowswell,
Group Director,
GKR Scaffolding



Product of the Year



PERI's
PERI Up Cladding system



Project of the Year (Small)



Shield Services Group

Highly Commended:
Ingleford Scaffolding
St Mary's Lighthouse, Whitley Bay



Project of the Year (Medium)



Inner City Scaffolding



Project of the Year (Large)



Lyndon SGB



Project of the Year (Major)



GKR Scaffolding





PICTURE CREDIT: COP29

THE ENVIRONMENT: ALL-IN OR COP-OUT?

COP29, held in Baku, Azerbaijan last month was a pivotal yet contentious meeting under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The magnitude of both the conference and the need for action can be seen from some of the key outcomes:

- **Climate Finance:** Developed nations agreed to raise \$300 billion annually for climate finance by 2035. However, this fell short of the \$1.3 trillion demanded by developing countries.
- **Fossil Fuels:** Despite calls to accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels, negotiations stalled. Saudi Arabia resisted including specific references to fossil fuels in the text, pushing the issue to future discussions.
- **Just Transition Programme:** Efforts to establish a global framework supporting workers and communities impacted by the energy transition failed.
- **Energy Transition Goals:** Proposals to expand global energy storage and grid infrastructure were deferred due to lack of consensus. This setback undermines efforts to meet renewable energy targets set at previous COP meetings.

Overall, the summit highlighted increasing divisions between developed and developing nations over financing and the pace of transitioning to renewable energy. The return of fossil fuel-friendly stances and delays in critical negotiations cast uncertainty over global climate commitments.

Construction implications

The outcomes of COP29 hold several implications for the UK construction industry. The construction sector is crucial in achieving national climate goals, as it accounts for a significant proportion of greenhouse gas emissions due to building operations, materials production and energy consumption. Here's how COP29's developments could impact the industry:

- **Increased Pressure for Energy Efficiency:** COP29 reinforced global commitments to reducing emissions, although it fell short of setting strong renewable energy or fossil fuel reduction targets. However, the UK government is likely to introduce stricter regulations for energy efficiency in buildings, aligning with its net-zero targets by 2050.
- **Focus on Sustainable Materials:** Global discussions at COP29 emphasised the role of material sustainability in reducing emissions. The construction industry could face increased scrutiny regarding embodied carbon, with further pressure to invest in supply chain transparency and adopt lifecycle assessments for projects.
- **Expansion of Green Infrastructure:** Although COP29 deferred decisions on large-scale renewable energy storage and grid expansions, there remains an emphasis on supporting green infrastructure globally, and the UK is already making those investments through renewable energy projects and upgrading transport and energy networks.
- **Skills and Workforce Adaptation:** The failure to agree on the Just Transition Work Programme at COP29 highlighted the need for nations to independently manage workforce adaptation in energy transitions; the UK will need to continue increasing investment in training programmes for green skills around retrofitting, renewable energy installation and sustainable design.
- **Stricter Compliance and Reporting:** COP29's focus on adaptation and resilience underscores the importance of monitoring and reporting emissions and climate risk.
- **Challenges from Financing and Investment:** The outcomes of COP29 revealed disparities in funding commitments for global climate initiatives; any delays or uncertainties in funding for green projects may slow down large-scale infrastructure development.

Writing for New Civil Engineer, Madeleine Rawlins, global practice leader – climate change, Mott MacDonald, said: "While COP29 faced difficulty with international commitments on areas like climate finance and adaptation, it

BACKGROUND PICTURE CREDIT: freepik

will make a positive impact on the UK's infrastructure sector over the next decade.

"Holding to a commitment to act as an international leader on climate change, the UK Government opened its presence at COP29 by announcing that it would adopt a new and more ambitious Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

"An NDC is each country's forward plan for limiting and mitigating climate change, in line with its commitment to the 2015 Paris Agreement and the collective aim of keeping global temperatures well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. Submitted in cycles to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change every five years, the latest set of NDCs are due by February 2025 and will cover the period up to 2035.

"For the infrastructure sector, the new NDC means our role in enabling decarbonisation will come sharply into focus, with clarity about the performance that programmes and projects must achieve.

"The UK's new NDC will target an 81% reduction in carbon emissions when compared to 1990 levels, which follows on from the previous commitment of 68% by 2030. Rooted in the independent, expert advice of the Climate Change Committee, the Government's decision is ambitious because it's an uplift on the previous target for the same period, which had been a 78% reduction.



"In delivering its recommendation to the government, the Climate Change Committee outlined that the NDC is deliverable with a high level of sustained and shared ambition, across government, society and the private sector.

"While the UK's headline NDC is a political commitment at this stage, it sets events into motion that will influence how our sector designs, develops and operates infrastructure assets going forward. The new NDC is based on the Climate Change Committee's work toward the seventh Carbon Budget, which is set to be published early next year and cover the period up to 2042. It will detail the amount of greenhouse emissions the UK can produce and remain aligned with its commitment to 2050 net zero and provide a more detailed view of how emissions will need to be reduced across different sources, including industry, the public sector, transport and households.

"The key benefit of this process is increasing clarity and direction on what we must achieve – and when.

"For the UK's engineering and infrastructure sector, an unambiguous commitment to significant emissions reduction means that we can work to design, develop and deliver accordingly. The frameworks to manage this process, like PAS 2080, the international standard for managing carbon

in infrastructure, are already in place, so we can consistently quantify carbon, work to achieve reductions throughout the value chain and manage the costs of doing so.

"Where expertise in engineering, management and development will come to the fore is in enabling the Government and the infrastructure sector to understand the performance and prioritisation of existing and planned projects. Our capabilities will also be critical in identifying the balance of technical solutions required and ensuring that the commitment to lower carbon outcomes is met."

On the ground

As we have seen on these pages in previous issues, there are many in the scaffolding sector not only talking the talk but also walking the walk when it comes to sustainability. But how much more can scaffolding companies actually do unless there is movement elsewhere in the supply chain or the infrastructure that supports the industry?

Danny Dwyer, Managing Director, PHD Modular Access Services, comments: "I fully support and see the merits in sustainability, not least because it should lead to a more profitable, sustainable business – especially in scaffolding, which is an industry all about maximizing use of resources.

"However, high-level commitments at events like COP29 have very little impact on the ground. Access to HVO or a decent electric charging network are still not close enough for companies to change fuels – and even access to green grants and loans don't seem to have materialised. There's so little visibility from Government to aid business planning, so much remains unknown.

"There has recently been something of a drive in public sector procurement around a greater focus on sustainability and social value, which is a start. But even then, there's no single metric being used to measure the effectiveness of a company's sustainability approach, which undermines this shift a little and perhaps leaves procurers reverting to type.

"The biggest change in our industry is likely to come via the embodied carbon of the materials we use. For example, the recent Tata announcement about converting their steelworks to a more sustainable process will – eventually – bring a big drop in embodied carbon. Whether anyone will be able to afford it is a different matter..."

James Attridge, Director, Attridge Scaffolding, agrees: "There are just not many options for sourcing lower carbon steel. Go to suppliers and they will only have what people will buy, so why would they supply more expensive materials? On top of that, there's a whole process to go through regarding the spec of the new steel to ensure safety and compatibility. It's not a quick fix.

"There are no real alternatives to the embodied carbon of timber and steel: they're still the best products for our industry. We can all continue to use them as sustainably as possible – for example, when we can't cut boards down any more, we use them as a renewable heat source. The only other big change would be vehicle fuel but to make HVO or electricity workable, the Government has to lead.

"In terms of materials, ours is a simple industry: we need wood, metal and transport. While we can use solar panels, go paperless and so on, beyond that there's only so much we can do."

PRESIDENTIAL HANDOVER AT AGM

This year's NASC Annual General Meeting (AGM), held in Belfast the day before the inaugural ScaffEx, marked a transfer of power from outgoing President David Brown to new President, Wayne Connolly.

David Brown told the meeting of his pride at how NASC had progressed over the two years of his term in office. *"The organisation in 2024 is stronger and more vibrant than in 2022 and it has become something the scaffolding industry wants to be part of. It has become the gold standard for the scaffolding industry."*

He highlighted achievements over his term including the President's Fund for training, a drive to promote sustainability in the sector and the hugely influential #IthastobeNASC campaign, which he said had become a rallying cry for the organisation.

Wayne Connolly then ran through his key areas of focus for the coming two years, including improved governance,



David Brown hands over to new President Wayne Connolly

digitisation, the Talent Portal, the arrival of the Common Assessment Standard and TG30, ScaffEx and the CISRS review, saying he was looking to build on the legacy of past Presidents to 'deliver on these big projects'.

The meeting heard from CEO, Clive Dickin, who presented updates on progress this year and forthcoming plans. He also announced ambitious plans for a partnership with City & Guilds Training and a potential fund of £1m for training via CISRS centres. On CISRS, he presented top-line findings from the recent perception survey, which showed that while there is a lot of positivity towards CISRS, there are also areas with significant room for improvement.

MOU SIGNED WITH MALAYSIA

NASC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Malaysian Occupational Scaffolding Association (MOSA), cementing already close relations between the two organisations.

The official signing took place immediately after the NASC AGM in Belfast on 28 November and it marks a pivotal moment in fostering greater collaboration between two highly regarded organisations, renowned globally for their commitment to excellence and advancement of the industry.



The MOU is the latest of several such global agreements NASC has signed in the last 12 months, symbolising a dedication to closer global cooperation, innovation and the elevation of standards across the scaffolding profession.

Clive Dickin, CEO, NASC, explained the purpose of the agreement: *"Like our other MOUs, the aim of this partnership is to cultivate a harmonious exchange of expertise, resources and best practice. Through this alliance, both organisations are displaying our unwavering commitment to excellence and a shared vision of advancing the scaffolding industry to unprecedented heights."*

Under the terms of the MOU, NASC and MOSA will collaborate on projects aimed at fostering enhanced recognition of standards, facilitating training and championing best practice to elevate safety and efficiency across all scaffolding operations.

NASC MEMBERS READY TO OPEN DOORS

NASC members will be participating in BuildUK Open Doors 2025, taking place from Monday 17 to Saturday 22 March next year. This unique event provides an excellent opportunity for scaffolding and construction industry professionals to showcase the fantastic range of careers available to young people.

BuildUK Open Doors is a national initiative that gives visitors a behind-the-scenes look at the world of construction. Hundreds of scaffolding and construction companies across the UK will be opening their doors to the public, offering tours, talks, and workshops. This is a fantastic opportunity for young people to learn about the different career paths available in the industry, from scaffolding and site management to civil engineering and architecture.

The scaffolding industry is currently facing a recruitment crisis, with many companies struggling to attract younger people to the industry. This is why NASC developed and launched its Talent Solution to help members attract and retain talent. This includes the **Talent Portal**, an online platform to connect members directly with qualifying candidates and experienced recruiters, eliminating the time-consuming burden of traditional recruitment methods.

NASC encourages all NASC members to get involved in BuildUK Open Doors 2025.



SPRING REGIONAL MEETINGS

The next tranche of regional meetings will be held around the country in the Spring, as follows:

Thursday 23rd January –
Scotland & NI – Doubletree Edinburgh

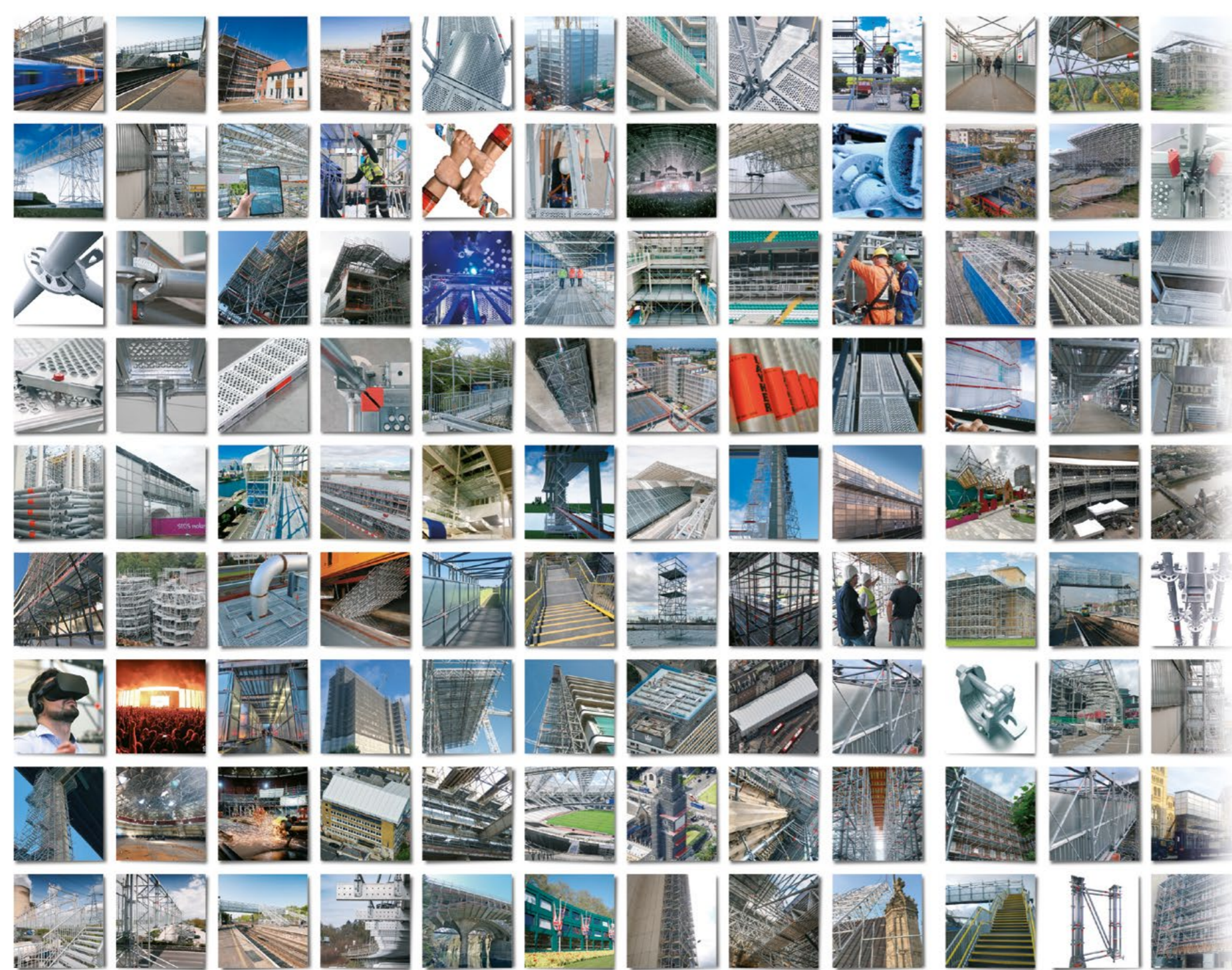
Thursday 27th February –
South West & South Wales – DoubleTree Bristol

Thursday 27th March –
London and South East – Venue TBC

Tuesday 15th April –
Midlands – MTC Coventry

Thursday 22nd May –
Northern and North West – Durham Cricket Ground


For more information go to:
<https://nasc.org.uk/events/>



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