

Scaffolding Insider

NEWS | FEATURES | COMMERCIAL | HEALTH & SAFETY

MARCH 2025

MAJOR TRAINING INVESTMENT

Chancellor's Spring Statement boost for construction

MYTHS AND REALITY

Demystifying the NASC Audit

SCAFFEX 2025

First news from bigger, better industry event

THE SCAFFOLDING AND ACCESS WORLD UNDER ONE ROOF



SCAFFEX25

MANCHESTER CENTRAL 11 - 12 SEPT 2025

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FROM THE EDITOR

There can be no doubt that becoming a NASC member is hard. Standards are high and must be met – no exceptions. But of course, that's what makes membership worth having. What's the point in being a member of an organisation where the only qualifying criterion is to be able to pay a membership fee?

However, it's fair to say that there can be some confusion around the standards that NASC demands and how a company is judged against them. In the article on pages 10-12, we seek to clarify what exactly is demanded by the NASC audit, which companies must pass to become a member, and which members must continue to pass to retain their membership. We spoke to one of the Compliance Officers who undertakes the audit, so we could find out what he's looking for and where most prospective members fall down. He makes it clear that above all, this is about the way a company does business 24/7, 365 days a year – it's not a one-off. We also hear from one new member who's recently undertaken the audit and whose scepticism pre-audit disappeared once he'd been through the process – and retained his biggest client who insists on NASC members only for all scaffolding suppliers.

We also take a look at what the Chancellor's Spring Statement means for our industry. Although April is likely to bring uncertainty and financial challenges as a result of the Budget announcements, around National Insurance in particular, this may be balanced out by the Chancellor's strong focus on getting construction and housebuilding really moving. Read more on pages 7-8 where we look at the detail of a potentially major boost for the sector, including in recruitment and skills.

On page 15, we take our first look at ScaffEx 2025. To say this year's event is ambitious would be something of an understatement! The Manchester Arena space is vast and the ambition is too... NASC is expecting a huge increase in the numbers exhibiting at the Exhibition, attending the Conference and entering the Awards. It should be a remarkable couple of days. Stick the dates – 11-12 September – in your diary now.

We have our regular news features so you can catch up on all the latest from NASC, CISRS and the broader industry and, as ever, if there's anything you'd like to see in the magazine – or contribute yourself – please do drop me an email at editor@nasc.org.uk

I hope you enjoy reading this issue.



Nick Campion
Editor

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Courtesy of Lyndon SGB.

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FIRMS FACE DEBARMENT AFTER GRENFELL REPORT

In the full response to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry's final report, the Government has accepted the findings and has set out its plans to act on all 58 recommendations, with a view to effecting a transformation to enhance building and fire safety standards.

Under the proposals, industry will be held to account for failure, with new regulatory measures to prevent a tragedy like the events at Grenfell Tower from ever happening again.

Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner said: *"The Grenfell Tower tragedy claimed 72 innocent lives in a disaster that should never have happened. The final report exposed in stark and devastating detail the shocking industry behaviour and wider failures that led to the fire, and the deep injustices endured by the bereaved, survivors, and residents."*

"We are acting on all of the Inquiry's findings, and today set out our full response, detailing the tough action we are taking to drive change and reform the system to ensure no community will ever have to face a tragedy like Grenfell ever again."

Reforms set out by the Government include the creation of a new single construction regulator to ensure those responsible for building safety are held to account; and tougher oversight of those responsible for testing and certifying, manufacturing and using construction products with serious consequences for those who break the rules.

New powers under the Procurement Act will be used to investigate seven of the organisations criticised in the report. If certain grounds are met, their names will be added to a published debarment list which must be taken into account by contracting authorities when awarding new contracts. In a written statement, published after Ms Rayner's comments, the Government said it intended to immediately investigate Arconic Architectural Products SAS, Saint-Gobain Construction Products UK Limited, Exova (UK) Limited, Harley Facades Limited, Kingspan Insulation Limited,



PICTURE CREDIT: theblowup

Rydon Maintenance Limited, and Studio E Architects Limited.

Some of these firms provided materials used on the exterior of Grenfell Tower, others were part of the refurbishment of the Tower before the deadly fire.

Construction Index is reporting that since the Grenfell Tower fire on 14 June 2017, four of the seven organisations under investigation have secured £355m in public sector contracts, according to new analysis by public spending monitor Tussell.

SCAFFCHAMP TEAMS CONFIRMED

Scaffmag reports that the international scaffolding championship, ScaffChamp 2025, has confirmed its full roster of 20 teams. Taking place in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 5-7 June, ScaffChamp is the ultimate test of skill and teamwork



for scaffolding professionals, challenging competitors in speed, precision, and safety standards.

The event has become a key industry showcase, bringing together the best scaffolders worldwide to compete in various technical challenges.

Organisers received 71 applications for the 20 places. ScaffChamp 2025 will see representation from a diverse range of countries: USA, France, Italy, Germany, Poland, Norway, Ireland, Lithuania, Hungary, Sweden, Slovakia, Romania, Serbia, Turkey and Mongolia.

Despite the global expansion, the UK will not be fielding a team in this year's championship. However, organisers are optimistic that at least one British team will compete in 2026.

BSI PUBLISHES NEW STANDARDS FOR TEMPORARY WORKS

Revisions to two temporary works standards designed to provide the most up-to-date recommendations and guidance on carrying out construction projects safely and efficiently have been announced by BSI.

The revised BS 5975:2019 standard has now been divided into two parts.

BS 5975-1:2024 Part 1, Temporary works -

Management procedures for the control of temporary works. Code of practice: provides guidance on the procedural controls that should be applied when conducting temporary works in construction. It makes recommendations in relation to training and education, and for procedures to ensure that temporary works are conceived, designed, specified, constructed, used and dismantled in a safe and controlled manner suitable for all construction projects.

Part 2, Temporary works - Falsework: Design

and implementation. Code of practice: offers recommendations on design, specification, construction and on the use and dismantling of falsework. The updated standard also includes guidance on acceptable stress and

limit state design of falsework to ensure the safety of a structure and its users by limiting the stress that materials experience.

To ensure construction projects are carried out safely and efficiently, the key updates to the technical aspects of the standard include maximum wind force calculation, guidance on permissible stress, limit state design of all falsework, and the extent of control measures required on projects of various sizes.

Anthony Burd, Director of Built Environment, Knowledge Solutions at BSI, said *"These updated standards mark a significant step forward in ensuring the safety and efficiency of temporary works within construction. The revisions incorporate the latest technical advancements and best practices, reinforcing the importance of rigorous control measures, training, and design specifications to deliver high-quality, safe outcomes on site."* NASC will shortly issue updates and guidance to members.

bsi.

SKILLS SYSTEM OVERHAUL NEEDED

Inside Housing says a new report into the housebuilding sector calls for an overhaul of the construction skills system amid a 'hollowing-out' of its workforce.

The report, Transforming the Construction Workforce, says construction is at its lowest employment level since 1998. Figures from the Office for National Statistics show that the number of people employed in the construction industry fell by 17% between 2008 and 2023.

Authored by Mark Farmer, founder of Cast Consultancy, the new review questions whether the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) and the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB) are still fit for purpose. It makes 63 recommendations that aim to revamp the sector's competency, productivity and workforce retention.

According to Kelly Boorman, national head of construction

at audit and tax advisory firm RSM UK, the sector currently faces a 250,000-person labour shortage and an ageing workforce, alongside the pressure of meeting the government's 1.5 million homes target.

A key theme among the recommendations was the need for more flexible and faster career pathways. It called the current focus on apprenticeships 'too limiting' and found a disparity between the number of people taking construction courses and those who can find long-term employment. According to 2021-22 figures from the DfE, around 30% of those who study on the courses do not enter the industry on a sustained basis.

The DfE has accepted 34 recommendations without amendment, and partially accepted or accepted in principle 26 others, which it said may need sector consultation.

SCAFFOLD UP ON BLENHEIM PALACE

NASC member Allen & Foxworthy has erected a massive scaffold at Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, one of the UK's most well-known landmarks, which is undergoing a £12 million roof restoration project.

In a boost for the scaffolding sector, the impressive scaffold featured on ITV News and across other media.



HEALTH & SAFETY FOCUS

The Health & Safety Event, being held 8–10 April at the NEC, Birmingham, is the UK's largest gathering of anyone responsible for running a safe and efficient workplace. NASC will be exhibiting at this event, which is important for anyone in scaffolding and access with a responsibility for, or interest in, health & safety.

The event has a comprehensive line-up of seminars, practical workshops and exhibitors, and it attracts thousands of workplace professionals from the industrial, commercial and public sectors.

The Health and Safety Event is strategically co-located with five other events, meaning you can access even more content, more products, and more exhibitors in new markets. The event enables visitors to:

- Elevate your expertise and knowledge, whilst gaining CPD points through the seminar programme.
- Stay up to date on regulatory changes and industry best practices essential to your role as a health and safety professional.
- Explore the latest products and solutions to improve health and safety standards.
- Network with the entire health and safety industry, with professionals from various industries and sectors.



NET ZERO CONSTRUCTION

The use of hydrotreated vegetable oil as a diesel replacement is being credited with making the Pentre Awel health campus development in Llanelli a net zero carbon construction project.

Main contractor Bouygues UK says that over the past two years it, and its suppliers, have adopted a range of energy, waste and resource-saving measures to reduce carbon. Foremost among these was the use of hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) as fuel, which is now going to be rolled out across Bouygues UK's sites.

Bouygues UK is building the £96m first phase of Llanelli's Pentre Awel health campus development. Since the start of the project, more than 450 tonnes of carbon emissions have been saved thanks to this initiative, says Bouygues.

MAJOR SOUTHWARK SCHEME APPROVED

A joint venture between Places for London, Transport for London's (TfL) property company and developer Helical, has received planning approval from the London Borough of Southwark for a 15-storey purpose-built student accommodation scheme. It will comprise 429 studio apartments,

and an adjacent nine-storey building comprising 44 affordable homes, above Southwark Tube station.

Designed by architects AHMM, the development will include a new Bauhaus-inspired block which will house the student accommodation element.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Gatwick approval

Transport secretary Heidi Alexander has said she is ' minded to approve' Gatwick Airport's £2.2bn expansion plans, subject to noise mitigation measures being developed. Gatwick Airport has applied to bring its northern runway into full use; it is currently limited to acting as a taxiway or as back-up for when the main runway is out of use. Its planning application proposes repositioning the centre line of the northern runway 12 metres north to allow dual runway operations, and there are also plans to extend both terminals and create a new pier to park aircraft. The five-year programme includes new passenger facilities, car parking, offices and hotels.

Morgan Sindall growth

Morgan Sindall Group has posted results for 2024 showing revenue growing by 10% to £4,546m (2023: £4,118m) and pre-tax profit by 19% to £171.9m (2023: £143.9m). Net cash at year end was £492m (2023: £461m). Overbury, the fit-out division, saw operating profit up 38% to £99m and revenue up 18% to £1,300m with an operating margin of 7.6%. Morgan Sindall Construction also had a good year, with operating profit up 19% to £30.9m and revenue up 8% to £1,044m with an operating margin of 3.0%.

Galliford Try wins HMP Wakefield

Galliford Try has been awarded a £44.5m contract to deliver essential fire safety improvements at HMP Wakefield, a high-security Category A prison. Galliford will make improvements across the entire facility, requiring collaboration with the prison to minimise disruptions to daily operations. A 2023 report from HM Inspectorate of Prisons noted the poor condition of the prison's infrastructure and said that a fire safety upgrade was due to start September 2023.

Hire launch for Anton

Anton Scaffolding Ltd has launched of a new Hire & Sales division. The Tamworth-based company, which has seen rapid growth over the past decade, has capitalised on its recent move to a larger yard to facilitate this latest development. The expansion aims to address a key challenge that many scaffolding companies will be familiar with – access to materials. Anton Scaffolding's Managing Director and Owner, Tom Pawliw, said, "Over the years, we have often received enquiries about scaffolding components and consumables. These enquiries became more frequent, and after speaking to other local firms, we recognised an opportunity to supply a range of scaffolding items from our yard in Tamworth."

Remediation Enforcement Unit

The HSE has announced that it is setting up a Remediation Enforcement Unit within the Building Safety Regulator (BSR) to ensure that owners of registered Higher Risk Buildings (HRBs) with combustible ACM and HPL cladding are held to account for their remediation. The new Remediation Enforcement Unit should be up and running by the summer.

SPRING STATEMENT BOOST FOR CONSTRUCTION SKILLS

The Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, used her first Spring Statement last week to deliver a package of support aimed at putting a spring in the step of the construction sector, with a £625m package of investment in skills training.

A major part of the UK's Government's focus on economic growth is its mission to 'get Britain building'. This includes plans to build 1.5 million homes in England before the end of this Parliament and investment in critical infrastructure projects. While this ambition has been applauded across the industry, there has been criticism of a lack of suitable investment in skills, with the sector experiencing skills shortages in almost all areas. In scaffolding alone there are some 1,200 vacancies a week.

Announcing the package of investment in construction skills, Reeves said: *"We are determined to get Britain building again ... But this [isn't] possible without the engineers, brickies, sparkies, and chippies to actually get the work done.*

"We've overhauled the planning system that is holding this country back, now we are gripping the lack of skilled construction workers, delivering on our Plan for Change to boost jobs and growth for working people."

The Government is committing £625m in England over four years to boost existing training routes, with the aim of creating a sustainable flow of skilled construction workers and supporting employers to invest in training. This is expected to deliver up to 60,000 additional skilled construction workers this Parliament.

It will include the establishment of 10 new Technical Excellence Colleges, new Foundation Apprenticeships and expanding Skills Bootcamps to ensure new entrants, returners, or those looking to upskill within the industry will be able to do so.

As part of the new package, the Government is providing an additional £100m to support 35,000 construction-focused Skills Bootcamp places, providing a route for new entrants, re-engaging returners and upskilling existing employees (see p15 for more).

A further £40m will fund 10,000 additional places on new construction Foundation Apprenticeships to give young people a high-quality entry route into a rewarding career. An additional £165m will boost funding for providers to deliver more construction courses, including through the High Value Course Premium and Free Courses for Jobs. The Government is also launching a new Teacher Industry Exchange scheme to attract industry experts to teach in Further Education.

A key plank of the new package is government and industry working together to 'remove barriers and unlock investment in training'. In support of the investment announcement, the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) is doubling its New Entrants Support Team (NEST) programme to support employers, particularly small businesses, to recruit and retain apprentices. CITB has also committed £32m to top up the government's £100m



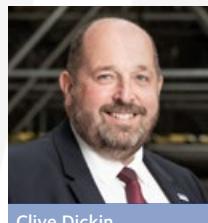
Rachel Reeves and Kier Starmer

The new funding package in brief

- £165m to help colleges deliver more construction courses
- £100m to fund 10 new Technical Excellence Colleges
- £100m to expand Skills Bootcamps
- £100m to fund over 40,000 placements a year for Level 2 and Level 3 learners, supported by a £32m contribution from CITB
- £80m for a capital fund to support employers to deliver bespoke training
- £40m for new construction foundation apprenticeships (launching August 2025)
- £20m to form partnerships between colleges and construction firms within Local Skills Improvement

investment to support over 40,000 industry placements in construction each year. The Government is also launching an £80m capital fund to support employers to deliver bespoke training tailored to their needs.

Reactions from industry



Clive Dickin

Clive Dickin, CEO of NASC, welcomed the announcement, *"It is good news to see the hard lobbying work we and other trade bodies have been doing pay off for members in this way. The expansion of the Skills Bootcamp funding means there is now a total pot of some £4m available for Scaffolding Skills Bootcamps. And the scheme has been extended beyond the initial deadline of July 2025."*

"CISRS centres across the country are ready to help employers take advantage of this money and to get more

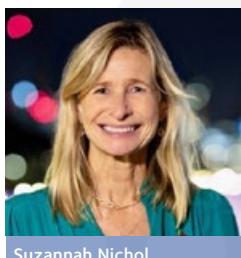
people trained and upskilled. Scaffolders are among the first people on site, and the sooner we get people started, the sooner they can get qualified and start working. That's how we can rebuild the UK economy.

"It is more important than ever that the industry comes together and collectively works to promote what a great career you can have in construction. Whether you are a new entrant, a returner or someone looking to upskill, now is a great time to take advantage of all the training pathways that are opening up. And it's also a great time for employers to consider upskilling existing staff and taking on new trainees."

"It is also worth remembering the context of this announcement, which is the impending largest tax rise on businesses since NASC began, and while the education funding is very welcome, it will not offset the impact of these tax rises on businesses."

Mark Reynolds, Executive Chairman of Mace Group and Co-Chair of the newly created Construction Skills Mission Board (see box, below) added: *"This investment is fantastic news and demonstrates that Government is committed to working with the construction industry. It's a hugely significant funding package, and the establishment of the Construction Skills Mission Board will enable us to collaborate with Government to drive change at pace.*

"Construction firms across the country are looking for certainty of pipeline before they commit to investing in new jobs and skills. This investment will be critical in giving them the confidence they need. There is now no excuse – industry must embrace the Government's growth mission and match their ambition."



Suzannah Nichol

Suzannah Nichol, CEO of Build UK, said of the announcement, *"This is a great opportunity for the industry to step up and implement a clear action plan for the benefit of the whole supply chain. Working together we can focus on delivering the core elements of a construction skills system that will really make a difference to employers and the workforce, both existing workers and the next generation*

"Combined with the Infrastructure Strategy due later this

Mace boss to chair new Construction Skills Mission Board



Mark Reynolds

Mark Reynolds, Mace Group's Executive Chairman, has been appointed as Co-Chair of the newly created Construction Skills Mission Board, an entity sponsored and created by the UK Government to ensure industry can 'secure the next generation of workers to meet future demand'.

The Board will be empowered to develop and deliver a construction skills action plan and provide strategic leadership to the construction sector as it deals with the high level of current vacancies and a shortage of skilled workers.

year, which is expected to set out a pipeline of public sector construction projects, we can give employers the confidence to invest in recruiting, training and retaining new entrants to the industry.

"We are not looking for new initiatives but to scale up the systems we have in place and provide clear routes into the industry, supporting the next generation in their journey from education into employment."

Nichol also pointed to Build UK's Levy In Skills Out Proposal, which sets out the elements of a skills system it believes are needed for it to function effectively. *"This will form part of our response to the Levy Consensus (see box, below). At the moment it is really challenging for a young person to get a job and it is hard work for SMEs to deliver an apprenticeship from beginning to end."*

Tim Balcon, CEO at the CITB, said, *"The Government's continued support for the construction industry through increased investment in construction skills is extremely welcome. As an industry, we need to collectively grasp this opportunity and be better at shouting about what a fantastic industry this is, the prospects it can offer people, and attracting people into pursuing a career in construction. I genuinely believe this is a once-in-a-generation chance for us to recruit and train our workforce – equipping more people with the skills they urgently need now and in the future."*



CITB Consensus Survey: NASC members needed

Build UK has updated its Levy In, Skills Out proposal, outlining how CITB will generate the Levy for 2026-2029. This is a crucial opportunity to have your say on the future of funding for skills and training in our industry. Can you see opportunities for improvement? Does it work for you and your company?

Your feedback will help shape how training is funded across the sector, so don't miss the chance to make your voice heard.

You can review the updated proposal here – Levy In, SkillsOut [<https://builduk.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Build-UK-Levy-In-Skills-Out-2025-Draft.pdf>] and share your views by completing the Build UK Specialist Contractor Consensus Survey 2025 [<https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/90785025/Build-UK-Specialist-Contractor-Consensus-Survey-2025>] before 17 April 2025.



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NASC AUDIT – MYTHS AND REALITY

Being a NASC member only counts for something because it demonstrates a company is working to the very highest standards. Scaffolding contractors aspire to membership because it signals that they are at the top of their game, it opens doors to new work opportunities, and it gives them access to all the tools they need to stay at the top.



Sarah Phillips

However, no company becomes a member without first passing the Audit, a process that seems to be steeped in myth but is actually very clear. There is no doubting, however, that passing it is hard – as it should be. Sarah Phillips, NASC Head of Finance & Operations, comments: *"It is a detailed, rigorous, structured audit overseen by independent, knowledgeable and meticulous compliance officers. There are no short cuts – applicants have to comply with all NASC guidance, not just parts, and this can't be for one day only – members should be able to pass this audit every single day of the year.*

"The advantages of passing the audit and becoming a member, though, are enormous. It is the only route to certifying your business as a scaffolding contractor and it unlocks a wealth of new work opportunities with contractors who will only use NASC members."

The NASC Membership Charter defines the requirements of membership and shows a member's commitment to high quality standards for their clients. It is the key document for members to understand the full extent of their commitment to NASC membership and covers areas such as:

- Standards of scaffolding and access practice
- Staff standards
- Growth plans
- Minimum CISRS card levels in the workforce
- Training
- Safety and quality monitoring
- Sustainability and environmental management
- Compliance with regulations
- Company operations

Sarah Phillips continues: *"We send all applicants our pre-audit guidance before they pay a penny. This is a list of desktop questions and a guide regarding what the compliance officers will be looking for in the yard and on site. The company chooses when they feel they are ready and can*

NASC Application Process

(New Contractor Members)



Fill out the [registration of interest form](#) to make sure you meet our basic minimum requirements. We will then take a non-refundable application fee.

PAYMENT PROCESSED

Immediately upon payment receipt you will receive a welcome email introducing you to your dedicated Compliance Officer.

You will receive an automatic email inviting you to the application portal within 1 working day, and the Compliance Officer will make contact to guide you through the process of completing the desktop compliance assessment within 10 days. The Compliance Officer may be happy for you to submit some information in person.

YES

Has your desktop assessment been completed to the Compliance Officer's satisfaction after 10 days?

NO

You can immediately set up the one-day head office, yard, and site visit with the Compliance Officer at a date convenient for you both. They will be looking to make sure you comply with all membership criteria.

If there are any compliance issues they will work with you to take corrective action.

Once you pass the site visit we will ask you to make payment for your subscription fee.

INFORMATION SUBMITTED

The Compliance Officer will work with you by email and telephone to gather all of the required information and submit it to the portal within another 10 days.

PAYMENT RECEIVED



NATIONAL ACCESS & SCAFFOLDING CONFEDERATION

All new members receive a welcome pack. You are now able to use the NASC Contractor Member logo and have complimentary access to the TG20:21 ePortal plus ALL NASC Guidance. For a full list of benefits please [see here](#).



Mark Davenport

pass the audit, and only then do they pay."

Despite this, the first-time pass rate for audits is 59%. Scaffolding Insider spoke to one of NASC's independent Compliance Officers, Mark Davenport, to find out more about the process and where

companies fall down. Mark began in the yard himself in 1989, later becoming an operative and then an advanced scaffolder. After a shoulder and collarbone operation, he went into management but it wasn't really for him, so he went back on the tools before moving into Health & Safety, starting his own firm and then joining the NASC compliance team six years ago. Mark adds: "I got into this purely for the

betterment of the industry. All NASC Compliance Officers are ex-scaffolders who want to help the industry improve."

Asked to describe the audit process, Mark continues: "Ultimately we are looking for a company to be the best it can be in every aspect. Everything starts with the yard: if the yard's a mess, more often than not, that ethos is taken on site too. Same with the paperwork: if that's a mess, usually so is everything else."

"The process involves us undertaking a desktop audit, then visiting their office and looking through their paperwork there, then looking at the yard and the quality of its standards, before picking two sites to visit. We will ask for RAMS, handover documents and any other relevant information, and then audit the sites. Sometimes there are very minor issues to resolve and companies are given two weeks to make those corrective actions and evidence them. Where the issues are more significant, the company must go away and fix the issues before applying to be audited again."

"New companies are then fully audited again the following year, and after that companies have a desktop audit annually and a full audit every other year."

Asked why so many companies fail to meet the standard, Mark adds: "As long as companies go through the guidance notes and meet the criteria, there's no reason they should fail. However, some companies believe they can make changes to their operations in order to pass on the day – but that's not enough. A company must be really living these standards and be able to prove that's how they operate, and have been operating for some time."

"The main areas where companies struggle include training and maintaining a balanced workforce with the right level of competencies and all – or at least 90% – being cardholders. Another significant issue is companies having the correct

"Ultimately we are looking for a company to be the best it can be in every aspect. Everything starts with the yard: if the yard's a mess, more often than not, that ethos is taken on site too."

policies, processes and records for harness issue and inspection; they are safety-critical but not always dealt with as such.

"Companies sometimes fall down on the monitoring of operatives when they're out working, and also simple processes at the start of someone's employment such as induction and ensuring eligibility to work in the UK. Really it's about ensuring procedures from cradle to grave – from initial enquiry to final invoice – are all watertight and contributing to maximum safety and quality."

"Companies do apply, thinking they're at a certain standard but they're simply not following all NASC guidance and criteria – and you can tell, when you're doing an audit, if a company is doing something for the very first time. These processes need to be ingrained in the company and understood by all staff."

"Conversely, there continues to be one area where companies think they will be penalised but they will not, and that's the percentage of scaffolders who are on the payroll. These rules changed two years ago, and now reflect the need for all employees to be employed to the same high standards, no matter whether they are PAYE or self-employed."

THE SCAFFOLDER'S EXPERIENCE



Lee Roberts

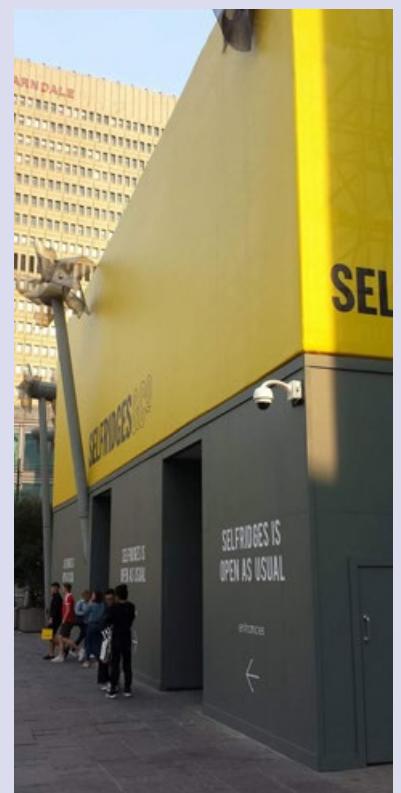
Lee Roberts, Operations Director at P&M Scaffolding has been through the process. He comments: "Over the years we'd lost a couple of jobs to members of NASC and it was starting to get annoying! Then our biggest client, Vinci, said all their supply chain had to be in NASC."

"At first we thought we wouldn't be able to be in NASC because of our size – we thought it was just for the big boys. We also thought there would be a problem with how we pay our staff when it comes to PAYE."

"But those perceptions were wrong. When we looked at the criteria, we realised it was doable. We always believed we were doing the right things for some good clients on prestigious jobs – but previously we'd listened to the people who said there was no point to NASC membership."

"The biggest thing we worked on ahead of the audit was the yard, so it was a reflection of what we do on site, where we follow all the NASC regulations anyway. We'd been well audited by our clients repeatedly, so we knew we were operating to a high standard."

"The auditing criteria are very clearly spelled out. As I say, we were doing most of it anyway, we made a couple of minor adjustments, and listened to the auditor who had very helpful things to say. It still took a lot of time and hard work – for eight weeks we thought of nothing else – but there was a lot on the line for us so we knew we had to get it right. We passed the audit last May and it's been good to have instant access to the NASC Guidance, which we've found really helpful."





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SAA AND NASC SIGN MoU

NASC and the Scaffolding Association Australia (SAA) have announced a strategic partnership. The agreement marks a significant milestone in the global scaffolding and access industry, paving the way for enhanced safety standards, shared knowledge and greater international collaboration.

The two organisations have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU); this establishes a strong working relationship between the two organisations that is designed to create mutually beneficial opportunities across the sector.

Clive Dickin, CEO, NASC, said *"This is another major milestone in the establishment of a global access and scaffolding sector working to uniformly high standards of safety and compliance. We want all scaffolders, regardless of where they work in the world, to benefit from the same protections and standards. And we want organisations commissioning and procuring scaffolding to recognise the value of these universally recognised standards and build them into their procurement processes."*



Robert Thiess, National Chair and Managing Director, SAA, said *"We're absolutely thrilled about this agreement and see it as a big step towards better and safer standards of scaffolding around the world. We look forward to working with our partners at NASC and elsewhere to enhance global standards."*

NEW FACE IN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



Emily Brouder

Emily Brouder has joined the NASC Business Development team as Events Manager. She will oversee a wide portfolio of

NASC events, including all regional meetings, the AGM, parliamentary receptions, events to celebrate NASC's 80th anniversary and helping to deliver Scaffex25. Emily has extensive experience organising and delivering events across a range of sectors.

DIGITAL CARDS AROUND THE CORNER

NASC is working on a groundbreaking mobile app that will allow cardholders to store their CISRS cards digitally on their smartphones. The app will provide instant access to qualifications, training records and certifications, streamlining the verification process for employers and site managers. NASC is aiming to have this new technology, which will enable real-time credential checks on-site, early next year.

80 YEARS OF NASC: THE 1940s

NASC was one of many associations formed during the Second World War so the Government could talk to a single body that represented whole sectors of industry. Initial membership was just four companies, who met regularly in London, and formulated a response to the enormous demand that wartime placed on Britain's construction capabilities.

As well as its more usual uses, scaffolding was also used for tank traps on the beaches, for Bailey bridges, mobile trestles for aircraft construction, and even for ARP (Air Raid Precautions) clothing racks.

These four companies remained the Association's only members until the end of the decade, when they were joined by four more. Meanwhile the presidency of the Association stayed within the four original members right up until 1958.



SUMMER OF SAFETY

There's no more important aspect of the work NASC does than helping members, and indeed all scaffolding firms, create safer working environments. In June, NASC members will be able to take part in its first ever Summer Safety Conference, providing a forum for discussion and live demonstrations, while HSE's Nina Day will deliver a keynote address.

Nina is a Policy Advisor for the HSE, specialising in road and workplace transport. She is the HSE policy lead on vehicle load security and musculoskeletal disorders. NASC's document SG30:25 Management of Transport and Safe Loading for the Scaffolding Contractor will be an important document in this regard when it is released.

NASC is also taking part in the Health & Safety Event at NEC in Birmingham on 8-10 April. This is a huge gathering of health and safety professionals, with over 350 exhibitors and over 10,000 products on display. There will also be five theatres offering specialist educational content on aspects of health and safety. Later in June, NASC staff will also be at the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Show at Olympia.



Nina Day

SCAFFEX 2025 HERE WE COME!

The ScaffEx25 Conference and Expo is a free-to-attend conference and exhibition that brings together industry professionals to gain all the latest insights into the scaffolding and access sector. After a successful inaugural event in Belfast last November, this year's event takes place on 11-12 September 2025 at Manchester Central (formerly GMEX).

ScaffEx24 attracted over 600 attendees, with NASC aiming to scale up the event by bringing 3,000 industry professionals to Manchester in 2025. Visitors will undoubtedly be attracted by the range and size of exhibitors at the event, which has a massive 10,000 m² of exhibition space, making it 17 times larger than ScaffEx24, and with no weight and height restrictions.

Event highlights include:

- **Expo:** Attendees can explore the latest innovations in scaffolding and access from the UK's top suppliers and service providers.
- **Conference:** The event features keynote speeches, panel discussions, and presentations by industry experts. Topics include training, design, safety, and more, providing valuable insights for both seasoned professionals and newcomers.
- **Awards:** The NASC Annual Ball and Scaffolding Excellence Awards ceremony celebrates industry excellence, offering attendees an opportunity to network and honour outstanding achievements.



Nina Hossain



Sophie Long

NASC has announced that ITV News presenter Nina Hossain and BBC News presenter Sophie Long will host the event.

ScaffEx25 is free to attend. To register or find out more, go to <https://nasc.org.uk/scaffex25/>



STOP PRESS: AWARDS 2025 SET TO OPEN

The Scaffolding Excellence Awards will open for submissions on 7 April 2025. There will be the same nine categories as last year, with some slightly adjusted criteria to allow applicants to demonstrate their excellence more comprehensively - but the application process will remain straightforward. Those awards are:

- Apprentice of the Year
- Product of the Year
- Project of the Year (Small)

- Project of the Year (Medium)
- Project of the Year (Large)
- Project of the Year (Major)
- Scaffold Design of the Year
- Service of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement Award

Look out for further announcements in the coming weeks – including who will be there on the night, including some old friends and familiar faces.

SKILLS BOOTCAMPS: APPLY NOW

NASC is working with City & Guilds to deliver Skills Bootcamps for Scaffolding Training. These bootcamps entail 70-90% funding for CISRS Part 1, 2 and Advanced Courses and 100% funding for New Entrant – Scaffolding Operative. The NVQ and Skills Assessments can also be booked separately.

NASC strongly supports the Skills Bootcamps initiative as a way to attract fresh talent to the scaffolding and access sector, addressing skills shortages and providing new employment opportunities. Collaborating with City & Guilds Training helps to broaden the availability of training nationwide and is part of NASC's commitment to a truly

inclusive approach to training across the sector.

The Skills Bootcamps have been going extremely well and take-up is increasing all the time. After the Chancellor's recent Spring Statement, the Bootcamps have also received a boost in funding to £4m and will run longer than originally planned. Companies who are interested in taking advantage of this offer should book their places as soon as possible: click here to sign up or find out more <https://cityandguildstraining.com/skills-bootcamps-for-scaffolding-training-with-the-national-access-scaffolding-confederation>



TALENT SOLUTION SUCCESS STORIES

As part of its drive to boost the uptake of scaffolding as a positive career option, NASC is using its Talent Solution web portal to showcase success stories, where enthusiastic new starters meet supportive employers to the betterment of all parties.

One of those success stories is James from Summit Marine Scaffolding.

James first heard about the scaffolding pre-employment course at HMP Thorncross through some people who had previously completed the course and were out working on licence. James had never worked in scaffolding before and was keen to learn something new that would help him get an opportunity to start work.

After completing the pre-employment scaffolding course, he received his scaffolding labourer card. This gave James the chance to go out on site, so when the opportunity arose to go for an interview and work trial with Summit Marine Scaffolding, he didn't hesitate.

"Since the day I started, I have loved working at Summit. Kev and everyone I have worked with have really looked after me and made me feel welcome. I have been taught so much working with the Supervisors, Part 2 and Part 1 lads.

"It has made a huge difference to me to gain a scaffolding qualification that has enabled me to be site ready and move into an opportunity like the role I have at Summit Scaffolding.

"From working in the yard and labouring several months ago to being on site in Cammel Laird, Everton's new stadium, residential and commercials sites to the one I'm on now, which is a new hospital that is being built, has been amazing.

"I'm working hard to become a fully qualified scaffolder. I



see this as a new opportunity to start a career and I recently completed a Part 1 at Fulcrum Scaffolding Training & Safety and I'm hoping to do my Part 2 when I have gained enough experience.

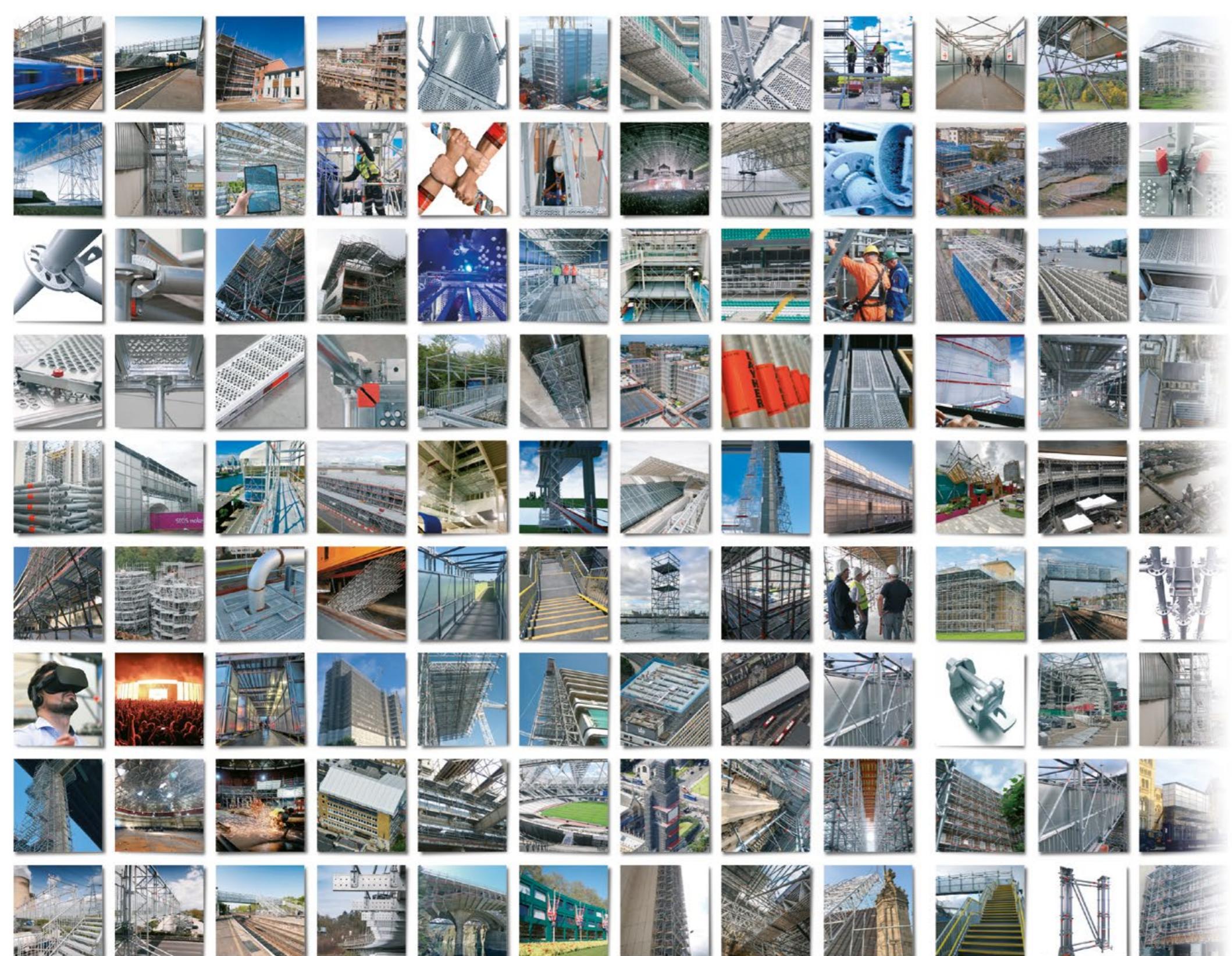
"It just goes to show that if you work hard and put the effort in you can do well for yourself. I'm grateful for the opportunity that Summit Scaffolding have given me alongside Fulcrum and Procure Plus. Without attending the scaffolding pre-employment course, I wouldn't be where I am now. The scaffolding course is brilliant, and I would recommend it to anyone."

James is a fantastic example of what can be achieved on this scheme with a supportive employer like Summit Marine Scaffolding.

NEW TEAM MEMBERS

Two new members of staff are joining the Training and Education team. Sarah Katz joins as Training Executive, bringing with her a great deal of experience in designing and developing elearning content, most recently for the Fire Brigade. Rebekah Jardine will be joining in early May as a Careers Executive. Rebekah has considerable experience in developing early careers initiatives, stakeholder relations, and dealing with education providers.

Paul Napper, Head of Education and Training, said *"These are two immensely exciting appointments, as we deliver on the operational plan and build capacity for the sector."*



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