



Laissez les bon temp rouler

With oil at nominally 115 dollars a barrel and Rig count up month on month on a global basis, some solid optimism has, it seems, returned to the oil business. The "R" word is still very much on the tips of the tongues of world economists and I think it's fair to say that we are not completely out of the woods just yet. Compared to this time last year things are so much improved and within the oil and gas sector at least there is room for some optimism.

Politically the Middle East has been experiencing unrest and disruption all across the region. This has caused some uncertainty and perhaps a degree of caution for IOC's in making further short term investments in some war torn countries.

At the same time business in Iraq seems to have picked up for international operators, drilling and service companies as well as Iraqi companies that have come to the fore.

We recently exhibited at OTC (Offshore Technology Conference) in Houston, TX. Attendance at the show was at a thirty year high echoing the renewed industry confidence of delegates from all corners of the planet.

WWG operations continue to be active and perpetually driven by QHSE objectives. All of our largest clients have now made the firm decision to only accept contractors who are registered and active on a third party attested competency scheme. WWG have been making ready for the day when the tide would eventually turn in this direction for several years now and the endorsement of mandatory competency by our client community is very welcome.

We have sent out several suspension notices to contractors who have not contributed at the required level in recent weeks. Simply being registered on the scheme is not all that is required regular submissions need to be made at a minimum of 5% per month. For most people the message is now transparent..... competency is mandatory not obligatory and doing nothing for weeks on end is not an option either. As an anecdotal parallel, it might be useful to remind you that not so many years ago, it was still possible to work offshore West Africa without a survival and a medical certificate. The dogs of war and old industry contracting cohorts held out for these remote location jobs on the premise that they didn't need to or want to do their certification since there was still plenty of work in such places. Inevitably the survival and medical loop hole eventually closed and those that found themselves without the required certification also found themselves without work.

The emerging requirement for 3rd party attested competency holds similar prospect, since while at this time, there may be places that you can still work without it being necessary for you to prove competence, these places are rapidly disappearing.

The good news is that we already have most of our contractors enrolled and activity submissions are now vastly improved. We all know and appreciate that it takes time and energy to produce a competency portfolio... but then again nothing worth having comes for free!



Club Communique

Oil Barons Ball – Great Yarmouth Section

Staff from the Wellwise Group attended the annual Oil Baron's Ball at the Ocean Rooms on the 2nd April, 2011. Rod Leach of A1 Training was voted the 27th Oil Baron in 2011. A good evening was had by all staff and their partners.



Third left, Aaron Childerhouse



Lesley Smith, Brigitte Galenski, Fourth left - Helen Pearce, & Levi Fisher

David Mason, Glenn Durrant & Dan Pavitt attended a fishing competition with PNS last November. Tide and sea conditions were perfect. Dan Pavitt won first fish caught and most fish caught. Wellwise Group won the challenge shield – which now sits proudly in our reception area.



Arrivals

James Franklin announced the arrival of a baby daughter, born on 11th August 2010, weighing 7lb 1oz. James said after a few days of him and his wife disagreeing they decided to call her Lydia Rose Franklin. Lydia has a proud big sister Paris who is seven and both daughters have the best mum in world James could want for them especially as he is away from home so often.

Bill Heslop is the proud grandfather of Lily Rachel Heslop, who arrived on 16th March, weighing 6lb 6oz to Christopher Heslop and his partner Carly Chapman. Bill says he is looking forward to babysitting duties in a few months time. He said when he first saw Lily he had forgotten how tiny newborn babies are and was a bit scared of holding her – although once done she was gorgeous to hold. Lily's middle name comes from Christopher's sister (Rachel) so Rachel is the proudest auntie in the world. The proud granddad also says "I am looking forward to buying her first Newcastle United football shirt as she has to be raised properly"

Levi Fisher (pictured below) joined us last September as Office Administrator to replace Helen Pearce who has been promoted. Levi is responsible for answering the telephone, and looking after and maintaining the Contractor Database as well as other front office duties. Helen now has more responsibilities assisting in the QHSE department, as well as assisting accounts and Fardux Limited as needed.

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Glenn Durrant got married to Sharon on August 27th, 2010. They travelled to Sorrento for a quiet day with friends and family. Glenn said it was a lovely day, the weather was fantastic and Sharon looked absolutely stunning.



Wayne Palmby was 50 in November - we know he doesn't look it!!!! David, Wayne, Glenn and Dan went to Barcelona for the weekend to celebrate in style – well you are only 50 once! They went to watch Barcelona v Vila Real. The score was Barcelona 3 – Vila Real 1



Wayne wanted us to mention his 'mate' Lionel Messi scored twice and waved at him after each goal. Apparently Lionel then asked Wayne after the match if he could have his picture taken with him. We think Wayne must have drunk far too much champagne – what do you think?

Wellwise Group Calendar

Thank you very much to all of you who contributed to the Wellwise Group Calendar – hopefully you have received your prize which has been posted to you.

As usual the Calendar has been well received by contractors and clients alike, and we hope to produce another calendar for 2012. So please send in your photos anytime!

Vantage POB System

You may or may not be aware that the WWG subscribe to the Vantage system. We have chosen to subscribe to this service at (which used to be free) to ensure we maintain our excellent level of service to both our contracting and client community.

The Vantage POB system is used mainly for administrative purposes. When a new contractor is registered on our database we then register the contractor as working with Wellwise Group so we can view and verify certificates.

The vantage system is also used as proof of any training when there is not a certificate given. It is the individual's responsibility to update their vantage record by presenting any new certificates at the heliport when traveling.

Please ensure you keep your Vantage record up to date.

Please note any certificates you send into us are checked and verified and will show on the Vantage system.



WWG Competency Scheme

As you are aware some time ago WWG implemented an SQA approved competency scheme due to changes that have been taking place in our industry.

We advised you that in order to comply with the shift in focus towards contractor competency you would need to be actively working towards that achievement. Some of you who are enrolled on the scheme have recently received a formal notice as you have not been making the required progress. This has prompted a few concerned replies and it seems that some contractors still don't fully appreciate the situation.

Some of you are yet to enrol and are potentially missing out on £££ with clients for whom competency is mandatory.

We hope you can understand the burden placed on us to provide proof of your competence in the event you don't already have it. We have provided a mechanism for you to achieve an accredited award, being enrolled and not progressing is just not sufficient.

Summary points;

- We are required to prove your competence for all major clients
- This is an industry requirement driven by the clients, no matter how you provide your expertise you will have to undertake competency
- No Competence means we are unable to propose you for many assignments
- You must make consistent progress at not less than 5% a month
- We have to register your completion date (hence the need to make progress)
- The certificate will be yours unlike other non accredited schemes that have no value or who retain for their own records
- We have to abide by the schemes procedures and cannot bend it to suit individuals no matter what the circumstance
- Unfortunately you will be suspended if you fail to progress as agreed, this is not an open ended award

We have a dedicated team to help you via **support@wellwisegroup.com** if you have any issues or concerns you wish to discuss please take it up with the relevant service line manager.

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Girls at their Peak Challenge



Wellwise Group supported a local charity event - the Palliative Care East Centre at the James Paget Hospital, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth.

Proteus client Richard Strak of BJ was asked to help train 50 women to go to Scotland and climb Ben Nevis. Richard said "trying to stop 50 women talking on a Saturday and Sunday morning is a challenge on its own" He went on to say "all these girls say that they can multi task but none of them can stand still and be quiet for a period of time so I have no idea where they got that idea from!"

He also stated that the girls are a fantastic team and it was a pleasure to work together every weekend, and the laughs they had along the way will always stay with him.

Richard was challenged with this task by his wife Katrina, she along with 53 other girls aged between 19 – 80 took part in the Girls at their Peak challenge, climbing Ben Nevis to raise money for Palliative Care East Centre supporting Carla's Angels.

They have a target of £1.5million and in just three years they have raised £1.2m.

..... well done girls keep up the good work!



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Competency Scheme passes

The WWG Competency Scheme is progressing well with a good amount of candidates now registered. We have recently have a few candidates pass to include:-



Paul Goodwin – Surface Well Test



Kai Munnery - Nitrogen

Biscuits for our Troops

Jim Ruff, Fardux Production Manager found a novel way to support our troops in Afganistan.

Jim is ex RAF and is a member of the British Legion. The Wellwise Group like to get involved with as much as we can to help the British Legion throughout the year.

Over a pint at the Legion one Friday evening Jim's mate told him his daughter, who is a serving member of the Army, was home on leave. During conversation she mentioned the one thing the troops miss most whilst in the field is a biscuit to dunk in their tea!

So Jim and his mates at the Legion thought it would be a good idea to make sure the troops had biscuits to dunk in their tea – within one week via various donations including the WWG the British Legion had 70 parcels (each parcel contained more than one packet of 'all singing all dancing' dunkable biscuits) to send to our troops out in field.

Only a small home comfort missed by our troops but one which we are sure they enjoyed!

ISO Accreditation with DNV

Wellwise Group have enhanced their QHSE standards by meeting the requirements to become accredited by Det Norske Veritas , one of the leading accrediting agencies around.

DNV themselves are accredited by UKAS. (The United Kingdom Accreditation Service is the sole national accreditation body recognised by government to assess, against internationally agreed standards, organisations that provide certification, testing, inspection and calibration services) Accreditation by UKAS demonstrates the competence, impartiality and performance capability of these evaluators.

On the 30th April, 2010, Wellwise Group received certificates of conformity in the following standards:-

OHSAS 18001:2007
ISO 9001:2008
ISO 14001:2004

Health and Safety
Quality
Environmental



Could you save a life?

Test your first aid skills at the following website:-

www.bbc.co.uk/health/treatments/first_aid/skills_test

The above web site hosts various first aid skill tests which will test your knowledge.



A Day in the Life of a Wellwise Group Contractor...

Libyan Experience

Recently I and a few other “hardy” souls’ had the pleasure of having front row seats (free of charge) in the Libyan Desert when the recent un-rest started.

It was a one off experience that I will be able to tell in the pub for years to come and hopefully it will be the only one like it...!

We were all aware that un-rest was going to start because it was widely broadcast throughout Libya. With hindsight we should have all been on the next flight out, but hindsight is a wonderful thing.

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PNS Great Yarmouth, Nitrogen Training

On March 14th 7 contractors and Dan Pavitt from WWG attended a one day Nitrogen Awareness training course at PNS in Great Yarmouth.

Course instructor Mel Larner covered a host of safety and practical related applications both in the classroom and in the yard looking at PNS pumping equipment.

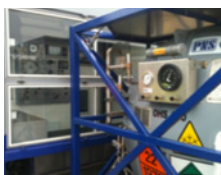
Our thanks to PNS for allowing us to participate and for the WWG contractors to be give some useful training that is just not possible on the job.

On completion each attendee received a certificate that covers several areas of Competency.

PNS Managing Director, Ian Sadler addressed the class at closing to reiterate the commitment of PNS with regards to competency and stated that WWG contractors wishing to continue to be considered for their projects would need to demonstrate not just having signed up to the WWG Competency Scheme but to be able to show continued progress.



Stacey Gamble



PNS Nitrogen Pump



Mel Larner of PNS & attendees

Don't worry - it's just a COUP!

WWG contractors were recently involved in a complex and at times dangerous evacuation from Libya following the ongoing unrest.

Based deep in the desert, and several hundred miles from help, we were faced with the problem of how best to evacuate our guys, in co-operation with our client and help from the British Government.

So – how do you start planning for such events??

Luckily, due to SKYPE technology we were able to directly contact the guys on site, and were able to update them as the situation changed – **almost by the minute at times** – they were also able to keep us up to date with events locally - sometimes with worrying news such as gunfire and raids on the camp by local militia. We were also in direct contact with our client (operation centres in Malta and Dubai) and The British Foreign Office in London and regularly passed on information as we got it.

It is incredible how many changing factors can alter the best laid plans in such a short time, ultimately leading to somewhat of a mistrust of information for the guys in the desert, as at times it can seem that many plans are proposed within a short time span and then all change again without explanation!

I think you have to remember just how many organisations, governments are making and changing plans as events unfold.

The logistics of such plans can seem very simple... **get me out of here now!!**

Realistically, it is not that simple....

Political influences, territorial boundaries, airspace



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We had been on a job when the operator shutdown operations and we were shipped back to 103 Base Camp to await a flight back to Tripoli in the next day or two. Lo & behold the flight never materialised and this continued to be the case for the next several days.

Thankfully we continued to have internet & comm's for most of the time, so this kept us occupied with "Farmville" and dealing in shares.



We looked at all possible ways and means of "escape" (if you can get to Tripoli boy's we can get you out..!) flying, truck, camel and we even found an aircraft that needed some work done if we had the bits and put one of the guys to work on it, all to no avail though.

Eventually we did make it back to Tripoli JUST and proceeded onto Istanbul courtesy of the US government.

Luckily the majority of us there have had experiences in the past and in my mind this helped everyone through the situation and we all have a sense of humour. **Neil Brown**



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restrictions and closures and danger from military action from all sides are just a few of the many complications...**this is not Hollywood**...and the cavalry isn't coming over the hill!!

There is a danger of over reaction, mirrored from a danger of under action, leaving personnel exposed and vulnerable.

Safety is the key.. and remained the focus throughout.

Having heard plans of evacuation by car, truck and bus (over the border to Egypt), flights to Tripoli, Malta and Cairo, ship evacuation via Tripoli and Benghazi, camel train??...really! and proposed possible rescue from the British Armed forces... **yes the SAS was mentioned!**.. I now have a direct number if needed!... we are on first name terms!

In the end, they boarded a flight from the desert back to Tripoli as organised by the oil service companies, **(boring – we can't sell the rights to Hollywood now!!)**only to find that 20000 other people had beaten them to the airport!

It became apparent just how many nationalities were involved in this mass exodus. We of course were focused on the British effort, with news from our client, the British Government and British media reports.

China alone had a reported 30000 workers in country... **wonder what they all do?...do they need an agent?**

Anyway, on arrival into the chaos known as Tripoli airport, our guys had the experience to take matters firmly in hand, and approached the first official looking person that they came across..it just happened to be a US Embassy representative who had set up a desk in the departure hall. Having explained their plight, they were offered a flight to Istanbul within the hour.

A beer in Istanbul has never tasted so good!

Wayne Palmby

