

THIS ISSUE - Benny says farewell after three decades, shortlisted with national builders, let us know what you would like organised, who has been noticed whilst learning? what are accounts staff doing on site? and where are you in the gossiping league?

# link

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the monthly Higgins Group news update

## In his 30th year

Mr Derek Higgins saw the potential in Benny King many years ago when he personally selected his application after noticing that his previous job had been with Charles J Fisk - a company that he knew, and the company that Benny joined after finishing grammar school. This first job gave him the opportunity to work in all areas of a construction business and he gained valuable experience in planning, contracts management, surveying, estimating and accounts.

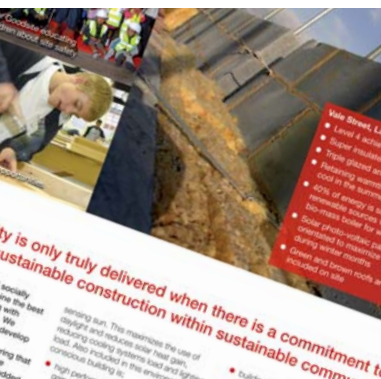
Over the last 30 years Benny has gained the reputation as a trusted, loyal, fair and committed leader of Higgins Construction. When he retires at the end of this month he will leave a successful, solid foundation for the



organisation to continue to face future challenges and grow.

**Continued inside...**

## Shortlisted for Sustainable Award



Britain's homes are responsible for a huge proportion of the UK's carbon dioxide emissions and this

## Get involved with HISS

Is there something that you would like to see organised for the staff?  
Is there an activity that you would like to try and would be fun to do as a team?

We would welcome any ideas and suggestions of future events that HISS can arrange.

We only need your ideas, we will

is why all new homes will have to meet tough new zero carbon standards by 2016.

The Sustainable Housing Awards celebrates the projects and organisations at the vanguard of housing sustainability best practice and we are extremely proud to have been announced as a short list contender for the 'Sustainable Social Housing Contractor of the Year Award'. What is also rewarding is that we are shortlisted in a category where all the other companies are national housebuilders. We will let you know how we do...

do the research and make arrangements just email Laura on [laura.williams@higginsconstruction.co.uk](mailto:laura.williams@higginsconstruction.co.uk) and we will see what we can do!

# Higgins

# Benny King



Building Quality Awards

“I would like to thank everyone that I have worked with over the years, especially the Higgins family, Directors and of course staff. I feel incredibly lucky to have worked for such a successful business that creates many opportunities for those who have the desire to achieve. I have absolute confidence that Steve is the right person to succeed me and take the business forward with the original values established by Mr Derek Higgins. I would also personally like to thank Steve for the respect that he has shown me in the transition period and wish him and the Higgins Group every success.”

Benny joined the Higgins team in 1980 as a Contracts Manager. With a fantastic team working with him there were many successes over the years, but the position of MD wasn't a goal that he set. It was through his hard work, common sense and being totally true to the values that his parents had instilled in him that he became recognised for being an excellent leader, businessman and a proficient manager who always went 'the extra mile' with both his colleagues and business ventures.

and guidance that Mr Derek Higgins gave him throughout his career along with the loyal support and belief from his late wife Jean - as he says 'behind every successful man there is a strong woman'

**'when our Head Office opened at One Langston it confirmed the Higgins brand and legacy and established the Group at the forefront of the industry'**

One piece of advice Benny hasn't forgotten from Mr Derek Higgins was "never be afraid to employ people better than you' Benny truly believes that it was the quality of the people around him that has been testament to his success and that of the business.

**"People are proud to work for the Higgins Group, this is evidenced by the number of long service members of staff throughout the company - it is a credit to the ethos and values that have been established"**

Over the years there have been many difficult business challenges and some hard decisions to be made. The professional approach and good judge of character Benny personifies has ensured that the outcome of these decisions was always for the benefit of the company.

The true support of the Higgins Group was once again shown when sadly Benny lost his wife to cancer. The family values of Mr Derek Higgins and the Directors came to the forefront with his words of support 'do what you can when you can - family always comes first'. This caring nature of the organisation cemented a deep strength of loyalty and commitment that is still apparent today.



Project of the year

**"Mr Derek Higgins was an exceptional man. Whoever he had contact with he left a lasting impression. His clear view of business was inspirational and his disciplines and values are still embedded throughout the organisation."**

The key influences in his life that have enabled Benny to achieve his fulfilling career were, his mother, with advice that 'a firm hand shake and clean shoes' is key to first impressions, the utmost respect and admiration he held for his father who always treated everyone equally and the huge support



East Thames charity golf day

**"I am pleased to have been involved at the start of the next generation flagship project, Alberta House, a 20 storey chic development in London's Docklands, which will further develop Higgins reputation as a innovative company".**

school sports days with the grandchildren and new ventures to Australia and New Zealand planned with Gina - we are sure he will wonder how he ever had time for work!

Focussing on the future there are many more valuable memories that Benny wants to enjoy with his friends and family. He will always be thankful for the unrivalled support and friendship that he has received whilst carrying out a job that he truly enjoyed and believed in.



Arthur Cook retirement

Benny now starts a new chapter of his life with; his new wife, Gina, son, daughter, their partners and his 4 grandchildren. A family holiday is already booked in the Caribbean to celebrate his retirement and with a holiday home in Dorset, an escape in Scotland, golf,



Project of the year

## LONG SERVICE

**Michael Rolfe** celebrates his 10 year service with Higgins this month and we would like to pass on many congratulations and thanks for his dedicated service and hard work.

## STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Many congratulations are sent to **Kelly Walton** who has just been announced 'Student of the Year'.

Kelly is in her 2nd year studying AAT at Hertford Regional College and was presented with her Award by the Mayor of Broxbourne. This is a huge reflection of Kelly's hard work, commitment and personality - well done Kelly.



## SITE VISITS FOR THE ACCOUNTS TEAM...

Sometimes it is difficult to consider the challenges that other areas of the business work with. So to try and understand ways of how processes between two disciplines could be improved the surveyors have been 'chaperoning' members of the accounts team to Higgins Construction projects.

The day was a great success as this has given an insight into appreciating the basics of working on site, and managing projects under site



conditions, and through this improvements can be planned and implemented for the benefit of everyone.

## THANK YOU

**Sam James and Laura Williams recently visited Commercial Road, Forest Gate and The Old Hospital sites to see what staff thought of 'link'. We are really pleased to hear that this staff communication is read regularly and is definitely seen as a 'link' between the office and site staff.**

If there is anything that you feel you would like to see included, or would like to give feedback on, please email Laura on [laura.williams@higginsconstruction.co.uk](mailto:laura.williams@higginsconstruction.co.uk)

**"We would like to thank all the staff who made the visits safe, informative and enjoyable"**

Sam James

## A MINUTE WITH... JO HILSON POSTROOM ADMINISTRATOR

**Career highlight?** Payday!!!

**Worst moment of career?**

Being made redundant

**Professional inspiration?** My Dad and aim to retire in my forties like he did

**Development you would have liked to have been involved with?**

Walt Disney World in Florida

**Best advice?** Live for the moment don't dwell on the past

**Favourite film?** Sex and the City

**Favourite book?** The Time Traveler's Wife - Audrey Niffenegger

**Favourite Building?**

Lakeside Shopping Centre

**Favourite Song/Album?**

Mr Brightside, The Killers

**First Song/Album ever bought?**

Everybody knows this already - Sonia, I was only 7!!

**Favourite Restaurant?** Loch Fyne

**One luxury you will keep despite the credit crunch?** My cat Dusty!



## UPDATE ON THE GOSSIPING LEAGUE

If you wish to email your future tender gossips please send to the following email address [tendergossip@higginsconstruction.co.uk](mailto:tendergossip@higginsconstruction.co.uk)

Department	Target	Tot
Pre Con Cost Mgmt	30	22
Pre-Con Design Mgmt	64	92
CSR	12	18
Contracts Mgmt	32	16

Department	Target	Tot
Surveying	40	26
Procurement	16	8
Site Mgmt	36	4
Support	4	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>186</b>

If you would like a copy of 'link' in large print, Braille, on CD or in your language, please contact Laura Williams, [laura.williams@higginsconstruction.co.uk](mailto:laura.williams@higginsconstruction.co.uk)