



CISRS
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
SCAFFOLDERS RECORD SCHEME

TIME FOR SUPERVISORS TO STEP UP

From 1st March 2016 there will be a requirement to complete a CISRS 2 Day Scaffolding Supervisor Refresher course prior to renewing your CISRS Scaffolding Supervisor Card

For further information go to:
www.cisrs.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP



NASC

There's never been a better time to join the NASC
Full Contracting Membership, Information Only Membership
Non-contracting Hire, Sales & Manufacturing Membership

www.nasc.org.uk

CITB funding for CISRS training

More than 80 scaffolders employed by NASC member companies have completed CISRS Systems Scaffold Product Training (SSPTS), thanks to £25,000 of funding from the UK's Construction Industry Training Board (CITB).



Obtained by the Access and Scaffolding Industry Training Organisation (ASITO) with the support of CISRS approved training providers NCC Scotland, Safety and Access, LTC group, Haki, Simian Skills and Layher, 10 fully funded SSPTS courses were delivered across the UK. CITB has indicated that similar funding could be available in 2016.

Diane Wood, CITB specialist account co-ordinator, said: "We are always pleased to assist ASITO and NASC members as they are very proactive when it comes to training. The use of systems scaffolding is on the rise within the industry, which in turn means the need for CISRS product training will increase. We feel the funding offered has been put to very good use."

A job for life!

CISRS recently held a Question & Answer session with John Meekings, who celebrated his 70th birthday this autumn, having spent the last 51 years as a scaffolder.

When did you start scaffolding?

"I started scaffolding in 1964 at the age of 18, a very good friend of mine got me a start for Mann's Scaffolding and Demolition. We had some great times and it was a pleasure to go to work, although the wages were not that great and in slack periods we would cut timber up for firewood and sell it door to door from a lorry."

What have been the most memorable jobs?

"I have worked at some great places - I had to put a tower and walkway to house TV cameras and a TV commentary platform for Anglia TV on the now Britannia stand at Portman Road Ipswich. I have worked at stately homes, building scaffolds in moats working from a rowing boat and in waders. I erected scaffolds on two Victorian lighthouses - including one at Dovercourt, where I had to base out one in the sea at low tide, walking the gear out and fixing before the tide came back."

And how come you are still scaffolding at 70?

"I started working for Pro Flat Group in 1997, it was April fool's day! I worked for them until I was 67, when I thought it was time to retire. Then, last year, they asked if I would



like to come back three or four days a week - they have looked after me very well, hence that is why I am still on the tools!"

How has the industry changed over the years?

"I guess you could get away with a lot more years ago, but I think it is safer now. PPE is a good thing although it took some getting used to. The wagons are also much better now, the first lorry I used had a starting handle and was called Harold! I don't miss 18ft boards and alloy beams save a lot of work - the first temporary roof I was on was built with tube and boards, polythene and roofing battens."

Do you have any advice for people starting out on a scaffolding career?

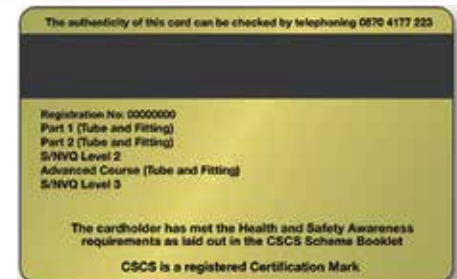
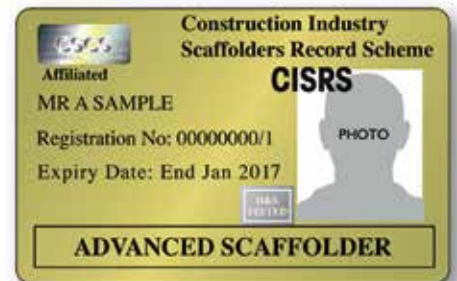
"My advice for youngsters is watch and learn and leave mobile phones in the cab! I have met some great scaffs and made some lifelong mates over the years, I think scaffolding is a very good career choice."

60+ report

As with most sectors within the construction industry, concerns over an ageing workforce prompted the CISRS to check its card scheme database to determine the number of core scheme cardholders that are aged 60 or above.

The report confirmed a total of 43,521 CISRS labourers, trainees, scaffolders and advanced scaffolders, of which around 5 percent are aged 60 or above. Amongst current scaffolder and advanced cardholders the percentages in the 60 and over category were two percent and 15 percent respectively. The report also revealed that 16 percent were working towards qualifying as scaffolders, suggesting an ageing workforce within the scaffolding industry may not be as imminent a problem as was initially feared.

Dave Mosley, CISRS scheme manager, said: "The 60+ report



The report revealed that 15 percent of Advanced scaffolders were aged 60 or over.

made for very interesting reading. It is essential that the knowledge and experience of older cardholders is passed on to those coming into the trade and based upon the findings here we look to have a good balance across the age ranges and card categories at the moment." CISRS intends to run a more detailed report across its full database in 2016.

For details about becoming an NASC member, or to find out more about the NASC



please visit: www.nasc.org.uk or email: enquiries@nasc.org.uk. For more information on CISRS please visit: www.cisrs.org.uk.