



NASC and CISRS shared a stand at the Health & Safety North event in Bolton

## Health & Safety event a success

The NASC and CISRS exhibited at the Health & Safety North event held at the Bolton Arena – attracting over 130 serious enquiries on scaffolding safety, standards and training to its stand, which featured a free-standing five metre tower, built by members 3D Scaffolding of Manchester.

The show also gave the NASC another opportunity to showcase the TG20:13 tube and fitting technical guidance, while representatives of the Construction Industry Scaffolders Record Scheme (CISRS) were able to provide the latest information on SITS and COTS scaffolding training courses, along with information on changes to part one, part two and advanced scaffolding courses following the launch of TG20:13 earlier this year.

## A new look for a new year

The NASC has launched its 2015 yearbook with 94 pages of news about the confederation and its 250 plus members, including project news reports showcasing some of the best UK scaffolding contracts over the last 12 months.

NASC managing director, Robin James, reports on achievements in 2014 for association and the membership, as the industry begins to recover from the recession, noting a wide pick-up and acceptance of TG20:13 good practice guidance for tube and fitting scaffolding by the industry. NASC president, Kevin Ward, also reports on his new apprentices challenge in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust, which has raised £25,300 from the creation of 230 apprentices, in its first of two years. James said: "It's a great step forward for the confederation's yearbook. The bold new look and design are eye-catching and means the information contained within is easier to navigate and digest. Once again, the NASC yearbook testifies to the unique skill set and versatility of NASC contracting members across the UK. I would urge all who work in the scaffolding sector - and indeed the wider construction industry - to pay careful attention to its contents."

An e-reader version of the NASC 2015 yearbook is freely available to view on the NASC Website.



NASC's new-look yearbook for 2015.



Houses of Parliament

## NASC lobbies UK minister



Nick Boles

NASC members Chris Sedgeman and Lynn Way of Chris Sedgeman Scaffolding visited Westminster earlier this month for a meeting with the UK minister for state for skills and equalities Nick Boles, in order to discuss the availability of training in the South West and proposals for the future of apprenticeships in the UK. The meeting, which was also attended by NASC managing director Robin James and NASC director of training Dave Mosley, follows a visit in May by chancellor George Osborne to Chris

Sedgeman's scaffolding yard in Penzance following its work providing scaffolding systems for the repairs to the storm damaged mainline railway line at Dawlish.

Mosley had also written to Boles' predecessor, Matthew Hancock, on behalf of the scaffolding sector to express the confederation's "serious concern" over proposals that would see a requirement for an employer contribution of around £4,000 to be paid upfront prior to taking on an apprentice. NASC feared this would mean employers would look for alternative routes to training their workforce, rather than following the important apprenticeship route - which the NASC, CISRS and the scaffolding sector have supported since the late 1970s.

Mosley said: "This meeting was very positive, the minister listened to our concerns and gave a very strong indication that some of the proposals currently being piloted in the 'Trailblazer apprenticeship programme', which we opposed, may not be imposed once the pilot is completed. That's good news for the scaffolding industry and apprenticeships, which are the life-blood of our industry. We all left the meeting very happy with the outcome and feel that common sense has prevailed - with a softening of approach in relation to some of the previous proposals, which would have had a detrimental effect on the scaffolding industry as a whole."

Boles stated: "I do not want to introduce any measures that would dissuade companies from taking on apprentices. I appreciate the additional investment of time, money and reduction in output that taking on an apprentice entails and do not wish to add to this burden."



More than 350 scaffolding apprentices go through the CITB National Construction Colleges or private providers every year.