

# LYNCH

Your regular newsletter from  
L-Lynch Plant Hire & Haulage  
March 2019

# LEADER



Merrill Lynch with Nathan Humphrey, lead operator and foreman on the John Sisk housing project.

## Lynch to the rescue

Midlands depot pulls out all the stops to help John Sisk.

When Rushden depot manager Jack Foster, took a phone call late afternoon on Tuesday 15th January, little did he know he and his team were going to go beyond the call of duty of meeting hire demands.

The call had come from John Sisk, an international construction company and one that Lynch had no previous association with. They were having major issues at their Northstowe housing project in Longstanton, Cambridge – the project being part of an overall £50m development to build 10,000 new homes. Unfortunately, the current on-site plant hire company was experiencing financial problems and was about to pull out from the job leaving the project in jeopardy. In order to avoid any major interruptions and delays on the job, as well as secure the jobs of the current workforce,

John Sisk turned to Lynch for help.

During the following day Sales Manager Ben Holloway and Hire Desk Manager Mark Chiswell worked tirelessly to secure the order.

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Once the project was secured the first job was to ease the concerns of the fifteen operatives who were becoming increasingly worried about their future and on Friday morning Jack and Director Steve Sutch, supported by Midlands Operator Manager Jamie Bell, held one-to-one meetings with the lead operator and

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## FORS Gold

Lynch Plant Hire & Haulage is pleased to announce that it has recently been awarded the FORS Gold status by the 'Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme', the highest grade achievable for fleet operators.

The scheme sets the highest standard for all aspects of the haulage industry including safety, fuel efficiency, emissions and advancing social responsibility – values that Lynch is totally committed to employing and sustaining. They are all integral to the company's overall vision of being recognized as the best 'Operated Plant and Haulage Provider' nationwide.

Lynch is extremely proud of achieving the FORS Gold status, which we believe further demonstrates our commitment to being a better, safer and more sustainable business.

Congratulations to our compliance team, led by Stephen Bremner Head of Compliance, who added: "This is a fantastic achievement for the business and future plans are already afoot to introduce more new highly specified vehicles to our fleet, which will advance safety measures, reduce our carbon footprint, as well as decrease the likelihood of collisions with vulnerable road users."



## Lynch to the rescue

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foreman, Nathan Humphrey, as well as all the other operatives. The outcome of these meetings was that all fifteen personnel were kept on by Lynch, which was great news for all concerned.

Jack's next job was to mobilise the equipment and speak to the transport team to arrange delivery – fifteen machines, half with GPS technology – were required on site as soon as possible. Transport manager Matt Payne and coordinator Harriet Howard jumped on the task and

performed miracles as, on that Friday morning, just two working days after the call, fifteen Lynch machines were on site and ready for work.

Lynch now has a number of machines on site including heavy and midi Excavators, ADTs, Dozers, Loading Shovels, and Bowsers. Just last week, John Sisk carried out a Health, Safety and Environmental risk audit for the project which was very positive and which Lynch passed with flying colours.

John Sisk has been really pleased with how Lynch has performed so far, and they are equally as impressed with how the team stepped into the breach so quickly and professionally

with minimal disruption to the project. Thus, demonstrating once again how the Lynch team continues to meet our client's hire demands.



## Lynch support Balfour Beatty innovation day



Lynch exhibit at the Balfour Beatty innovation day.

In January, Lynch were joined by supply chain partner Opti-Cal Survey Equipment and Leica Geosystems who collaboratively exhibited a GPS services avoidance system installed on a Kubota 5T Excavator. The day held in Yorkshire was successfully attended by over 100 Balfour Beatty

employees from across the UK. In addition, one of Lynch's 8-wheel tipper was also at the event for demonstration purposes. The vehicle is fitted with a services detector, which acts as another aid to the driver to ensure the tipper is used in the correct safe environment.

## Lynch machines in action...



Our new Volvo ECR355E, zero tail swing 35T excavator working on the A14 project. Picture taken by operator/foreman Chris Kent.

## Lynch adds to its accreditations

Valuable Acclaim Accreditation recognition and safety scheme secured.

Paul Lynch, HSQE Consultant, has secured Constructionline Gold accreditation, as well as Safety Schemes in Procurement Certificate.

This means that Lynch now has anSSIP member health and safety scheme accreditation, meaning the company is fit to supply any buyer that has this as a requirement to work with them, including many major contractors registered with Constructionline.



**Acclaim**  
Accreditation

# Back to School

Lynch & Kier collaborate to give back to local community.

Community is at the heart of what we do, and it's never more prevalent than when a 'Smart Motorway Project' is undertaken. Both the Kier Group and Lynch know works can affect local schools and residents so we work hard to establish positive links and relationships to educate communities on the work we're doing. Part of this process means trying to leave some kind of legacy on our departure, so we were delighted when teachers at St Peter

and St Paul Junior School in Chaldon approached us to help clear some of the land to create a sensory environment for the pupils where they could plant some vegetables to grow for the spring. It was a request we couldn't refuse, so on Saturday 5th January, Lynch's Director, Steve Sutch, arranged for a group of Lynch operatives to clear the land, enabling an area for pupils to make into their own Garden of Eden!



*Lynch operatives get ready to clear the land.*

St Peter and St Paul Junior school were really pleased with the result — as were we! It was great to see such a positive reaction from the pupil's when they realised they had a beautiful new outside area to plant vegetables and flowers, to encourage bees and other insects to visit. We're looking forward to visiting again in the very near future to lay down some matting in the area to help prevent any weeds growing back.

This is a great example of collaborative working and giving back to the communities we serve. We'd like to say a huge thank you to all the team at Lynch and Kier for their hard work in making this happen.



Before



After



*Image supplied by Mark Coyles.*



*Image supplied by Darren Hardy.*

## And the winner is...

The results are in from our 2018 Photo Competition.

Congratulations to Mark Coyles for his stunning photograph of a Komatsu PC138 taken on the M4 near Reading, at 7am in mid-December. Believe it or not, no filters were used — the sky was really like this!

Commendation to our runners-up Darren Hardy and Nick Burman for

their striking and well composed images photographed on location.

Thank you to all who entered. Lynch are always delighted to see your shots and often feature the best ones in the 'machines in action' series in this newsletter!



*Image supplied by Nick Burman.*

# Over twenty years an Operator with Lynch

Peter O' Boyle is one of the longest serving operators at Lynch, having worked for with us for the last 20 years. It was therefore only right that we caught up with Peter to find out exactly what has kept him in our business for over two decades.

Prior to joining Lynch in 1998 Peter was a site manager working for W. Long & Co where he was responsible for the welfare of 200 men on site. Back in those days he oversaw the construction of some pretty major projects, including the Harlequin Centre in Watford. After leaving on good terms, Peter pursued other supervisory roles until he decided to go back to following his first love — driving excavators! He therefore jumped at the opportunity to join Lynch as an operator and fondly remembers the first machine he operated as if it were yesterday, namely a JCB 3CX 180 Excavator, which at that time was one of the top machines available in the construction industry.



During his time at Lynch Peter has witnessed many technological advances to the machines — many of these features, he hastens to add, introduced via feedback from operators like himself. When asked

about training he was quick to point out that as an operator, once you have a good understanding of the basics of the machine, new technology can be picked up quickly. Essentially a lot of it is common sense and, while all training is beneficial, as long as the operator is willing to soak up the information the technology should make life as an operator much easier. At the same time Peter was keen to stress the positive changes with regards to the constant safety measures being introduced collectively to the machine's specification by both Lynch and the manufacturer. Peter believes this can only be a good for the operator and fellow site workers. In addition he is pleased to see the Lynch 'Thumbs Up' safety initiative being adopted on many of the sites he has recently been working on .

When asked why he has been such a loyal team player he replied: "There's a simple answer to that... Lynch is a great company to work for — they just let me get on with my job. They're also an honest company and never try to cut corners. There are some cowboy companies out there but at Lynch the welfare and safety of staff always comes first". He added: "The management has always been good to me and always find the time to strike up a conversation with me whenever our paths cross. They



Peter O' Boyle is congratulated by director Merrill Lynch.

**“ Lynch is a great company to work for — they just let me get on with my job. They're also an honest company and never try to cut corners. ”**

genuinely make you feel part of one big family and, at this stage in my life, I can't really see myself working for anyone else — that's assuming that Lynch still wants me!"

Away from the day job Peter likes to spend time with his family, especially his two grandchildren. He also enjoys DIY, as well as taking time out to socialise with friends over a few beers — 'only a few' he was keen to add! He also likes his sport and is an avid follower of both Man Utd. and Real Madrid in which he describes Cristiano Ronaldo as the best footballer in the world.

The Lynch management has rewarded Peter for his dedicated service over the past twenty years with a £200 voucher and looks forward to working with him for many years to come.

## Plant and safety innovation

Innovation in Plant & Safety Seminar at Birmingham.

In the last week of January, Director Rob Lynch and HS2 project manager James Barden were invited to speak to HS2, Fusion JV and their sub-contract supply chain about innovation in plant and safety.

With Fusion actively seeking innovations that make their sites

safer and better for the environment both Rob and James were able to share their valuable knowledge on the subject with an attentive audience.

Rob and James reported that the event was a great success engendering greater discussion about innovation in plant and safety.



# Recognition for Gary's long haul!

Gary Clarke joined Lynch, then a small, family-run business based in Wembley back in 1996 - 2003, and then rejoined in February 2006. He has been with the team right from the early days and is now based at our head office in Hemel.



Gary rejoined as Service Manager in 2006 working at the Fourth Way site where he provided support and invaluable knowledge to the service team, ensuring all machine issues were dealt with quickly and efficiently. Gary's expanse of product knowledge continues to be invaluable and is still called upon daily even in his current role as Southern Transport Manager.

From 2006 to November 2015 Gary progressed through the company, stepping up when required to take on many different roles. With a wealth of transferable skills he applied his knowledge to roles on the Plant Hire Desk, Service and Haulage. He also worked closely with the directors of the company helping to purchase and

secure deals for the most innovative machines available in the market at the time.

In November 2015 Gary accepted the role of Southern Transport Manager masterminding a vast fleet of hiab and low loader lorries. The day-to-day running of vehicles going in and out of London requires a huge amount of organisation, from obtaining movement orders from the Metropolitan Police, to ensuring that the fleet is running safely and adhering to legal requirements. The knowledge and problem-solving abilities that Gary brings to his current role are second to none.

Gary has been rewarded for his loyalty with a £250 Red Letter Day voucher and the directors and management team at Lynch would like to express their thanks to him for his long service.



## 'Time to Talk' mental health



Too often, people who experience a mental health problem are also expected to take the lead on talking about mental health in the wider sense. Mind, one of the UK's leading mental health charities is trying to change this and encourage everyone to talk about mental health with their **#TimetoTalk**, which took place on Thursday 7th February.

Lynch recognised this important day by encouraging employees to talk more about mental health. So on that Thursday morning three morning sessions were arranged with refreshments at three of our locations. These sessions were led by Emery Roosburg at Hemel, Steven Sutch at Stanmore and Andy Burrows at our Northampton depot. Attendance was optional and those staff that did wish to participate were offered the

opportunity to come together to talk about their experiences in a supportive environment. Emery, Steven and Andy all reported back that the attendees found the discussion helpful in breaking down some of the barriers associated with mental health and confirmed further initiatives like these are planned for the future.

Mental health problems affect one in four of us, yet many still find the subject too daunting to talk about. For people suffering with mental health problems, not being able to talk about

it can be one of the worst parts of the illness. By getting people talking about mental health, Lynch hopes we can break down stereotypes, improve relationships, aid recovery and take the stigma out of something that affects us all.

Mental Health is an important subject to all at Lynch and one that the management team is committed to raising awareness about and ensuring the conversation around the issue continues to be highlighted, especially within and throughout the construction industry.

For more information visit: [www.time-to-change.org.uk](http://www.time-to-change.org.uk)



Images from our 'Time to talk' sessions held at Hemel, Rushden (top left) and Stanmore (top right).



## AAT qualification for Daisy Wicks

Congratulations to Daisy Wicks, who recently qualified as an Accounting Technician (AAT). In addition to taking on more responsibilities as Lynch' assistant management accountant, she has worked very hard over the last four years to pass 17 difficult exams. Her subjects ranged from Business and Personal Tax to Management accounting: Decision & Control. Daisy passed most of her exams with

distinction and we're especially proud of the 93% she achieved for Financial Statements of Limited Companies.

## He's the greatest dancer!!

Congratulations to fitter Charlie Pablos based in our Southern Depot. Charlie has won the award for Best Dancer after his impressive floor work at the Lynch Christmas Party in December 2018. We all look forward to seeing Charlies' new routine at next years event!



## He's the greatest dancer, as well!

Jason Cracknell, Business Development Manager — Waste & Resource Management Services. Jason also received an award for his impressive dance moves at the 2018 Christmas Party!



## Praise for Chris Healey

Currently working for CVB Joint Venture on Tideway East, Deptford, Chris has been praised for his hard work and commitment on site. Joe Brackley, CVB Deptford, praised him for his conduct and work ethic. Chris has also recently trained for a slinger ticket in order to support site needs. Congrats Chris, keep up the good work!.



## Well done to John

John McCormack, Hemel Hempstead Low Loader driver, has completed a total of 25 plant moves for Kier on the M23. Ian Ferguson on site on the M23 for Kiers has complemented John on his safe approach to loading and unloading of machinery and his conduct with all site personnel in general. John has continually performed to the highest standards with 'Meeting Higher' demands and continues to provide an exemplary service.



## Great attitude from Paul Otter!

Paul Otter (right) has performed to an exceptionally high standard on The A14. He has been praised by our customer for his work ethic and 'can do' attitude. We have rewarded his efforts with a company bonus. Well done Paul!



## Congratulations to Harry!

Congratulations to Harry Sismanidis, Plant Asset Manager Hemel Hempstead, and wife Polina. Harry and Polina welcomed baby Henry on 30/12/18, who weighed in at a tiny 2.150kg. Best wishes to the Sismanidis family from all at Lynch.



## A big welcome to a couple of our new staff members

### Matt Wilson

Matt joins the company following many years of military service.



Matt specialised in the logistics field and brings a wealth of transport knowledge. He will be on an induction programme over the coming couple of weeks, and will link into Hemel Transport department to assist in the growth in this area.

### Cliff Laurent

Cliff joined in December 2018 as a fitter based in our Midlands Depot. Cliff has an impressive work history within plant and agricultural works, making him a great asset to the team. We would like to give Cliff a very warm welcome to Lynch.



## Supporting our apprentice

Mitch Chuter has been with us since December 2015, working towards his apprenticeship (started in September 2016). He has passed all relevant sectors in his NVQ up to level 2, has just started the 3rd level of Plant Machinery Maintenance and Lynch is supporting him to this end. He is a conscientious, hard grafter and already carries out breakdown repairs on sites across the south east.



## Do you know an extra special colleague?

Do you work with or alongside a member of the Lynch team who is always going that extra mile and meeting hire demands?

Nominate them for a reward by sending their name and special quality to [merrill@l-lynch.com](mailto:merrill@l-lynch.com)