

# ***M. V. KELLY LIMITED***

## **The Dig Issue** SUMMER 2020 **Business Update**

It's been an exceptionally challenging period for us all since late March and we imagine everyone has had a very difficult few months coping with the consequences of lockdown. Many of you will know people who have suffered from COVID (or worse) and we would ask you all to continue to follow government advise during the softening of the lockdown arrangements.

During the shut down we were working hard at reducing our Plant fleet to revise our company set up to a slightly reduced level. We addressed our cost base in every aspect of the company and its supply chain also shared this burden of reduction. To that end we also acted very fairly to all our subcontractors and suppliers by offering loans, paying early and generally supporting their individual needs. We were able to do this due to our reinvestment in the company throughout the good times.

As the market settles we continue to review this cost base and monitor the potential volatility of the market caused by the ending of the furlough scheme and the financial backlash caused by the vast government financial stimulus. We appreciate your loyalty and support and wish to re-enforce that MV Kelly will be around through the back of this recession.

The housing sectors return to work has been stronger than we initially forecast; however the medium term outlook is mixed. We remain flexible for whatever the market brings and we continue to work hard to maintain our vast order book . We have managed to secure £40m of new work since our return to work and we expect to announce more new work soon (£450m currently in tender/ negotiation).

Being the best from a quality and safety perspective is something that will stand us in very good stead to continue to be many clients contractor of choice.

Please help us push forward as the number one groundworker in the UK and thanks again for your loyalty and support to our company during these exceptional times.

**Paul Whelan - Company Director**



### **New Stafford Offices**

Pictured here are Jack Hill, Chris Villers & Greg McLaney in front of our new Stafford Offices. Managing Director Chris will be leading this team (which also includes Phil Cox, Adam Hartley, Lee Evans, Darren Phillips, Chris Till, Billy Aldhouse, Dan Parker and Nathan Lloyd) and concentrating on securing new work in the Shropshire, Greater Manchester, Cheshire and Staffordshire areas.

# Site Operations

## NHBC Pride in the Job Awards 2020

NHBC Pride in the Job is the most highly regarded competition in our industry and it is the one all site managers aspire to win.

It celebrates their excellent standards on site and the safety and quality of construction they are managing.

In 2020 MVK were involved with 18nr sites across all regions where the Pride in the Job accolade was received.

Congratulations to our clients Managers and the MVK site teams involved.

We constantly challenge ourselves with becoming safer, more efficient and driving hard for increased standards on our product.

Every MVK operative has the individual personal responsibility for the delivery of safe and quality work (there is never an exception to this).

The goal of our company has always been to deliver the best work in the safest way.

We can only do this through a solid and reliable workforce maintaining and improving these values.

We will always continue to back ourselves and support our workforce and furnish site with the very best kit, products and office support to facilitate this goal.

We are only ever as good as our last job so some key things to remember that we see on these award winning sites:

- Plan your work and work to the plan. Never deviate from planned operations, RAMS or SSoW.
- Set ups (welfare, compounds, containers and refuelling stations). Each site should be working from a well-planned and maintained setup.
- Security; containers and tanks locked at all times, kentledge fronting container doors at end of shift and orderly close down for parking of plant (together, strategic, removal of all immobilisers and boxing in of smaller units).
- Quality Assurance and Control. **Do the job once; right the first time.** Never accept sub-standard work from your colleague or a subcontractor working on your behalf.
- Plant operations and movements. All plant application and movement are always considered and planned. Only trained and competent operators are authorised to use our plant and every operator adheres to the green beacon and bucket changing area policy. Ensure communication is good and understood.
- Clearly delineate and protect your work area.
- Presentation and good housekeeping at all times are essential with strict observance to storage and plant compounds.
- Good communication to your client, build inspectors and internal departments.

Overleaf is a selection of images from some recent award winning sites and the MVK best practice standards we expect to see on our jobs.

Thanks as always for your hard work with ensuring and insisting on only the best quality:

**Brian Kelly—Company Director**

# Site Operations Cont.



## Sourcing PPE during Covid 19 Crisis

We were quick to act on this in mid to late March as rumours of potential lock downs and shortages started to circulate.

During the first month of lock down we felt in a strong enough position to donate critical supplies including dust masks to NHS and key front line services.

Since this period we have been sourcing products from a broader supply base and have allocated through the offices centrally (rather than direct to site). A big thanks to the Contracts Managers, along with the H&S teams for managing the stock of key items like masks and hand sanitiser and distributing as necessary to site personnel.

During this time the market has eased up a little so supply will improve in the immediate future, and we have weathered the initial storm.

We are of course continuing to place orders and hope to retain a small back stock whilst making sure all operatives receive what they need.

**Jordan Bourne—Procurement Co-ordinator**

# SHE News

**Covid-19**—We are seeing more and more people returning to site as work picks up. There has been some good collaboration between MV Kelly and the clients in setting up sites to enable us all to get back to work safely in these challenging conditions. Please continue to follow the Covid-19 site guidelines, remember regularly washing your hands for 20-30 seconds is still the best line of defence.

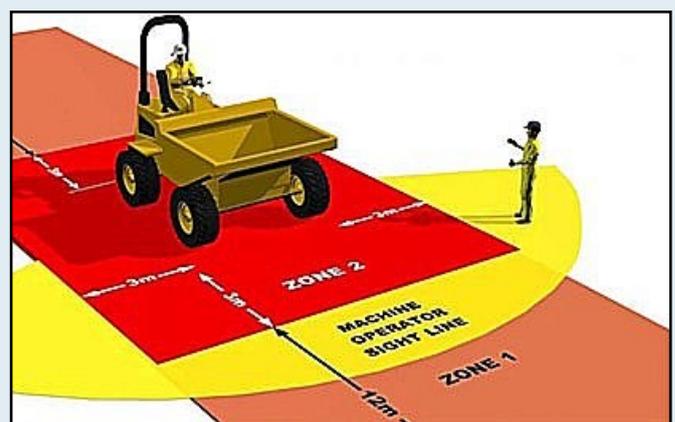
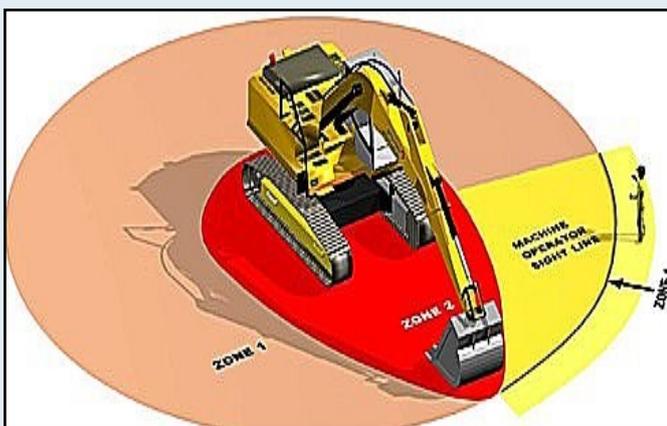
**Plant Operator Medicals** — In the Spring ‘Dig issue’ we informed you that after successful medicals with plant operators over 60 we would be continuing the medicals for all plant operators irrespective of their age. Due to the Covid-19 outbreak this has been put back until further notice. We will update everyone as soon as clear guidance on how to proceed becomes available.

**Dust** — Dampening down haul routes etc is always an issue during the summer months, good dust controls are essential. Please remember the local environment you work in.

**Training**— From July Tamworth Training will be delivering courses on site including the following: Abrasive Wheels, Slinger/Signaller, Manual Handling, Traffic Management, Banksman, Overhead Cables, CAT & Genny. They will be contacting Supervisors directly to arrange the courses. If, however you require any of these courses immediately please contact the SHE Admin team who will organise a suitable date with the training company for you. All test centres are now open for training courses such as Confined spaces, NRSWA, SSSTS etc. The SHE Admin team will liaise with sites on bookings going forward.

## Plant Safety Zones Reminder

<b>Zone 1</b>	<b>Always signal the plant operator and receive a positive response ‘thumbs up’ before entering Zone 1. Always approach from the side that is within the machine operator’s site line.</b>
<b>Zone 2</b>	<b>Plant operators are to ensure that safety levers are activated / buckets lowered / machines switched off before people enter Zone 2. Those entering Zone 2 must wait until the machine has been isolated. When working with Excavators there will be occasions when operatives have to enter Zone 2. Only the person(s) who need access to the machine bucket or lifting point areas, may enter a restricted area. These person(s) entering must be: • Experienced in working alongside excavators. • Fully briefed on working within a restricted red zone. • Made aware of the specific risks involved in working in close proximity. Confirmation of excavator immobilisation must be in place before entry.</b>



# Plant News

## Plant & Maintenance and Condition

We currently have our team of fitters trying to catch up with the backlog of work that they could not complete while sites were closed, whilst also trying to cover new incoming jobs.

A sample review of those incoming jobs revealed that almost half are avoidable to some degree (broken/missing beacons, seatbelts knotted or damaged, broken mirrors, pins missing, general damage repairs, keys broken in ignition barrels). Mostly small menial jobs but rendering the machines unusable in many cases and meaning we have to send a qualified fitter all the way there to resolve.

In addition to this, we still see lots of plant (particularly smaller kit such as Excavators below 5t, dumpers, mixers etc) that are not maintained properly - if at all in some cases.

We are increasing site visits from next week and we hope to be able to help operatives with maintenance requirements so that we can reduce the number of un-necessary call outs and resulting downtime, but in the meantime please contact the Plant department if you are unsure on grease point locations/ coolant and oils requirements etc

## Lockdowns

Thank you to everyone who is really making an effort with the lockdown procedure. As we know, theft is a massive loss to us annually and we expect to see it increase as the darker nights draw in.

We are definitely seeing an improvement in this and so it is vital that we keep it up. Sadly we have had a few instances recently of avoidable theft, and in areas you would not expect so it is really important that we all work to the same standard (no matter how safe we think the site is).

To recap:

1. All small tools (saws/ wackers/ lasers/ CATs) to be buried in underground storage box or correctly constructed ring and machine parked on top. Alternatively they can be taken home (not left in containers).
2. All dumpers REVERSED into excavator and arm of excavator securely into the skip.
3. Any rollers/ compressors/ bowsers etc trapped between the excavators and dumpers parked in the above configuration.

It is a small change that makes an enormous difference, so thanks again for your co-operation.

## Lifting Equipment – Chains and shackle wear

Please ensure that any chains, shackle wear and slings are checked as below prior to use.

1. Visual inspection – make sure that the chain links/ hooks/ shackles/ swivels etc are free of damage and not stretched
2. Identification Tag – Do not use if this is not present
3. Certification – Is the certification in date? (this can be checked with our Plant Department using the ID no. on the tag mentioned above)

If the equipment does not meet all 3 criteria above then it must NOT be used.

# Plant News Cont.

## Company Vans & Drivers

Please ensure that vehicles issued to you are kept in good condition (inside and out) in addition to the weekly check for tyres/ fluid levels etc.

Some vans returned to us at the start of the recent lockdown period were essentially being used as mobile skips and full of dirt and rubbish.

We will review these when on site carrying out maintenance visits from next week.

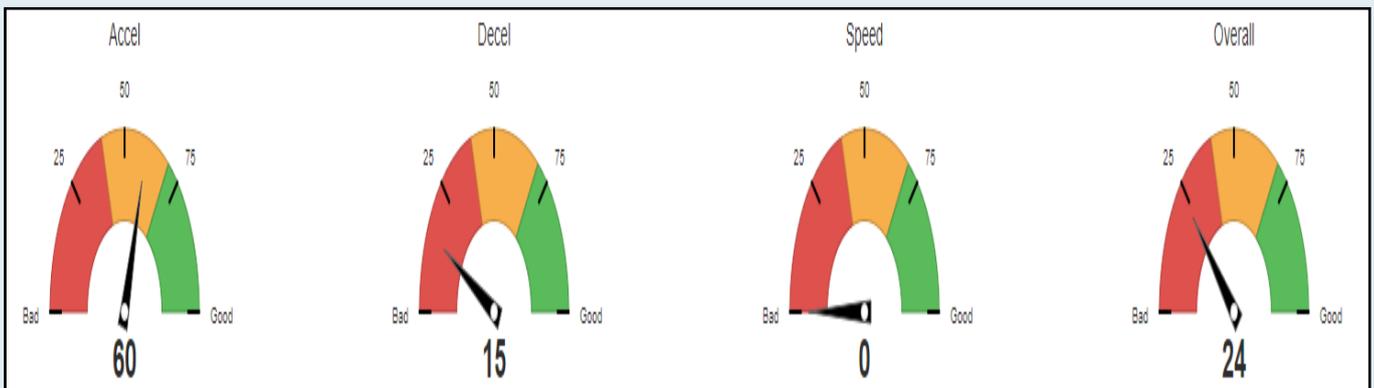
Additionally, please be reminded that only drivers that have completed our driver application forms and licence mandates are authorised to drive our vehicles

## Driver Behaviour

As some of you will know, we monitor driving behaviour using our new tracking system and will take steps toward removing vehicles in some cases.

I wanted to briefly explain the way that this is monitored and the report that it produces, so that we can all understand what the system looks at and how you could improve.

A monthly report is produced for all vehicles that categorises them from green to red and breaks that score down as shown below:



In the case of this particular vehicle, they have scored zero out of a possible 100 for speeding and just 15 out of 100 for deceleration (harsh braking), and thus an overall score of just 24 from a possible 100.

In addition to the above, we also provide exact time and location of every speeding event (allowing for a sensible margin).

Given that well over half of our vehicle accidents are caused by our drivers hitting a third party in the rear, the mixture shown above of driving too fast and braking too sharply is a recipe for disaster.

We want all of our drivers to arrive at work and back at home, safely and we have a duty of care as a professional business to both our operatives and the public.

Please – observe the speed limits (NOTE – national speed limit roads are 50mph on single carriageway and 60mph on dual carriageway in a van), keep your distance and drive safely.

**Doug Curran—Asset & Fleet Manager**

# News

## Remote Working during Covid 19 Crisis

For the first month or so only two people worked from our Tyseley office in order to collect post etc. and send to the relevant people/ departments. All other staff had to be helped to work remotely. Our IT team had prepared for this (as well as other contingencies) by migrating users to laptops and installing VPN technology to allow the massive increase in traffic to the server from remote workers. Therefore we were quickly able to get over 150 people working from home and keep all departments ticking over. Many staff took their office computers etc home and set them up there whilst others were supplied with laptops. Contingency planning also allowed for our IT team (Richard, Bob, Oli, Rhianna & Phil) to help and troubleshoot those working from home from their own living rooms!

Few of us are aware of the planning the IT team have to make for eventualities which may never happen but we must still be prepared for. Certainly in the circumstances we have recently experienced they have shown how successfully their preparations have been and that the unseen work they often do has been massively worthwhile.

During this time planning was made for staff to return to a safe and clean environment according to government guidelines. Work stations were moved with social distancing taken into account and correct hand sanitising stations etc installed. This work was also completed by Richard Lennon and the IT team.



## Solihull Office Update

The refurbishment works of our new Head Office in Shirley continue to progress well. Over the next 6 weeks we will start to see the final phases of the fit out, this office will be modern, bright and befitting of a modern Head Office workspace, including staff breakout areas, meeting rooms and electric vehicle charging points.

### **Richard Lennon—Head of IT**



# Staff Feature

## SHE Adviser Nathan Lloyd

After many years of playing in goal for Wolverhampton Sporting FC in the West Mids Regional League Nathan retired and took up refereeing.

Starting in park football to gain experience he applied to the Staffordshire FA region for promotion.

In the proceeding four years Nathan has progressed to level 5 in the national league system (Midland Football League, preliminary FA cup rounds, women's FA cup games and UEFA international development games).

**'After having a good season last year and high marks on my observations or my promotion I have been selected for the National FA's CORE list. I'm now one of 26 referees at my level in the country on this list. we meet on a monthly basis at St George's park for development days. The FA also assign me a coach who is normally a current professional referee or an ex professional referee to work with me through the season. Through this group I work directly with the national FA from Wembley.**

**Now I'm a national CORE referee in addition to my league this season I will be refereeing - premier league under19 games and under19 international games.'**

Very impressive stuff especially having to fit all of this around his MVK workload!



Nathan pictured furthest left of the officials as assistant referee in UEFA development match. Denmark U16s vs USA U16s at St Georges Park, Burton



Congratulations to Charlotte Rattlidge and Jamie on the birth of their baby boy Kian on 21st April weighing 7lb; Martin Cox and Lily on the birth of their baby boy Freddie on 20th July weighing 6.9lbs; and finally to Gareth Loadman and Vic on the birth of their baby girl Macy weighing 7.1lbs