

copper

matters

winter 2010

A Message from the Chairman



Welcome to the final Copper Matters of 2010. The search to find the best young plumber in the land reached its conclusion in October - we have a report here and on our website. Congratulations go to all those who took part, from college competitions, through the regional events, right up to the national final.

Watch out for our new advertorial in the plumbing magazines. The research done on our behalf shows that plumbing contractors still choose copper for their pipework installations.

One of our Copper Club members asked us to provide a reminder to all of you on the dangers of asbestos. Please be aware that there are Regulations regarding the handling, and disposal, of asbestos which must be adhered to. We hope that you have enjoyed receiving your copies of Copper Matters during the year and, if you have any comments or suggestions, please contact us at copperboard@copperdev.co.uk.

John Carnaby

In September 2010 John Carnaby was presented with the St Michael Medallion for 'outstanding services to the plumbing craft' by the then Master of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers, David Hamilton.

The St Michael Medallion is the highest award made by the Worshipful Company of Plumbers and it is the most recent in a list of awards made to John in recognition of his commitment to plumbing skills, education and professionalism.



In 1983 John was presented with the first Copper Development Association 'Plumber of the Year' award. He has also received a Master Plumbers Certificate, presented by the then Worshipful Company of Plumbers Master, Alan Woollaston (former CDA Director), in 2002.

John continues to support the plumbing industry as a Senior Steward for the Worshipful Company of Plumbers.

SkillPLUMB 2010

The 2010 SkillPLUMB competition reached its finale and the best young plumber in the UK has been named.

1 st	Lee Patrick	Eyre Electrical Ltd	Cambridge Regional College
2 nd	Shane Trevitt	N G Bailey	Bailey Engineering Academy
3 rd	Thomas Smith	PlumbSpark	Havering College



Lee Patrick said: "I really didn't expect to win. I could see the quality of everyone's practical layouts and I knew we were up against the best in the UK, so it was definitely going to be tough! Everyone got on really well and the team spirit was brilliant, which makes us all winners. It's an experience I'd recommend to anyone and you definitely learn a lot by competing."

The other finalists:

Robert Cox	N Woodward Plumbing & Heating Contractors	Worcester College of Technology
Chris Way	Heatway Plumbing & Heating	Coleg Llandrillo
Alexander Lombart	R J Cook	North Herts College
Gerard McShane	Gerard Kelly	South West College
Alan Henderson	Christie Heating & Plumbing	Moray College Technology Centre
Elfyn Tandy	Wyn Thomas Heating Ltd	Coleg Sir Gar
Chelsey White	William Davis	Stephenson College

Unfortunately Ben Boncza, employed by P Duncliffe Plumbing & Heating Ltd and trained at Sussex Downs College, who had won a place at the Final, was in the end unable to take part.

The final was held over 2 days at the M&E Show at Olympia in London and it was evident from the start that all the young plumbers were well equipped to tackle the pipework task. This was borne out when it came to the judging. The quality of the copper work was excellent and only a few points separated the competitors at the top of the leader board.



Congratulations go to all of the finalists, their employers and trainers. The UK Copper Board, in addition to providing sponsorship for the SkillPLUMB competition, awarded three press fitting tool kits to the training providers of the top 3 plumbers – Cambridge Regional College, Bailey Engineering Academy and Havering College. The kits, worth over £1,000 each, include the press tool and a series of jaws from 15mm up to 35mm and battery packs. These offer a fantastic opportunity for the colleges to demonstrate copper press fitting technology and give their students some valuable, hands-on experience.

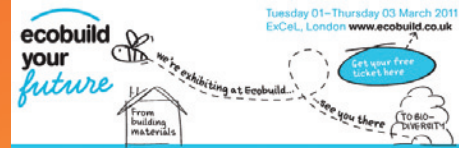


Winners of press fitting tool kits

Copper press fittings, along with the copper push-fit fittings, offer flame-free jointing choices to installers for those projects where soldering and brazing are not permitted. The flame-free techniques are clean, fast and reliable and are ideal for modern construction techniques and stringent site regulations.

Asbestos presents a very real danger to your health

Ecobuild 2011



Asbestos has been used for thousands of years due to its fire-resistant properties. Although the substance has been widely used in the construction industry, it is most common in buildings built or refurbished between 1950 and 1980.

There are Regulations relating to working with, and disposal of, asbestos. The Regulations require mandatory training for anyone liable to be exposed to asbestos fibres at work (including their supervisors), and anyone carrying out work on asbestos insulation, asbestos coating or asbestos insulating board needs to hold a licence issued by the HSE, unless they meet one of the exemptions as set out in the Regulations.

Amongst the most common uses for asbestos are:

- Sprayed and loose packing of asbestos for fire breaks in ceiling voids;
- Lagging for thermal insulation of pipes and boilers;
- Insulating boards used for fire protection, thermal insulation, wall partitions and ducts;
- Asbestos cement products largely used as roofing and wall cladding;
- Millboard used for the insulation of electrical equipment;
- Flues.

If, whilst on a job, you think you have found asbestos, STOP WORK IMMEDIATELY and alert people to its presence. REMEMBER, if you don't follow the Regulations you could seriously damage your health.

See the CIPHE website www.ciphe.org.uk and the HSE website www.hse.gov.uk for Regulations and further, more detailed, advice.

PHEX shows in Manchester and Chelsea 2010

The UK Copper Board exhibited at the PHEX shows at Old Trafford (13/14 October) and Stamford Bridge (8/9 December). Both exhibitions proved very successful for the Board with plumbers and students taking advantage of the opportunity to pick up their Copper Club packs. Visitors to the stands also spent some time talking about the plumbing industry, whether they used push-fit fittings as part of their everyday installation work and why copper is still the material they prefer to work with. Time and again plumbers mentioned the 'reliability' of copper as a major reason why they continue to use it.

The UK Copper Board, along with Copper Development Association, will be at the 2011 Ecobuild event to be held at ExCeL, London between 1st and 3rd March. Ecobuild is the world's biggest and most successful event for sustainable design, construction and the built environment and the 'copper' stand will present information on the sustainability and recyclability of copper for pipework, roofing and cladding applications. In addition, the latest news on the antimicrobial copper products for healthcare facilities will be made available.

New advertorial

The UK Copper Board has issued a new advertorial which reports on the findings of some recent market research. The research has revealed what contractors look for most in a plumbing pipework material and which plumbing material ticks the most boxes. The results of the survey clearly show that copper still has the top spot in materials specification.

Contractors were asked to put a score against a number of performance criteria and then evaluate both copper and plastics.

Copper comes out on top for:

- Reliability
- Availability of products
- Durability
- Proven technology
- Heat, pressure and fire resistance
- Flow rates
- Recyclability.

Copper is the 1st choice for UK contractors

A recent survey conducted on behalf of the UK Copper Board has revealed what contractors look for most in a plumbing pipework material and which plumbing material ticks the most boxes. The results of the survey clearly show that copper still has the top spot in materials specification.

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Reliability – The contractors considered that reliability was the most important attribute for a plumbing material. 80% of copper fittings manufacturers produce a 10-year track record of more than 100 years. Copper is seen to be the most reliable plumbing pipework material.

Availability of products – In the context of where ease of availability of products and again copper outscored plastics. Copper tube and fittings are manufactured to European Standards, ensuring a range of standardised sizes. This means that tube and fittings from a number of different manufacturers can be used in a single system. Merchants all over the UK will stock at least one manufacturer's copper tube and copper fittings.

Proven technology – The joining techniques available for copper – soldering, compression, push-fit and press – are all well established in the industry and the vast majority of the contractors will have been taught the 'copper way' of joining.

Heat, pressure and fire resistance – The strength of copper even when used as a thin-walled tube, enables it to withstand high pressures and the melting point of 1083°C means that it is capable of operating at high temperatures. The 200-300°C in a solar thermal system presents no problem.

Flow rates and recyclability – The 80% wall of a copper tube means that for a plastic pipe of a similar OD, the flow of the copper tube is larger, and can carry more wastage.

Outside diameter	Wall thickness	Max. operating pressure
15mm	0.7mm	10bar
22mm	0.8mm	17bar
28mm	0.9mm	20bar
35mm	1.2mm	27bar

Half hard copper tube

The contractors
The survey group consisted of 100 contractors drawn from all around the UK and of various sizes, from sole-traders to large contractors employing 50+ employees.

Main use (pH-AV) use

Most important attribute

It's copper! The most common product used nowadays!
"It's copper! The main thing that's added for the client!"
Contractors know what's important in a pipework material, and they know that copper provides the quality solution.

The contractors had, for the most part, used a variety of pipework materials in their work and had worked on commercial, domestic, new-build and local authority contracts.

For more information go to www.ukcopperboard.co.uk

This clearly shows that important criteria for contractors relate to the performance of the material.

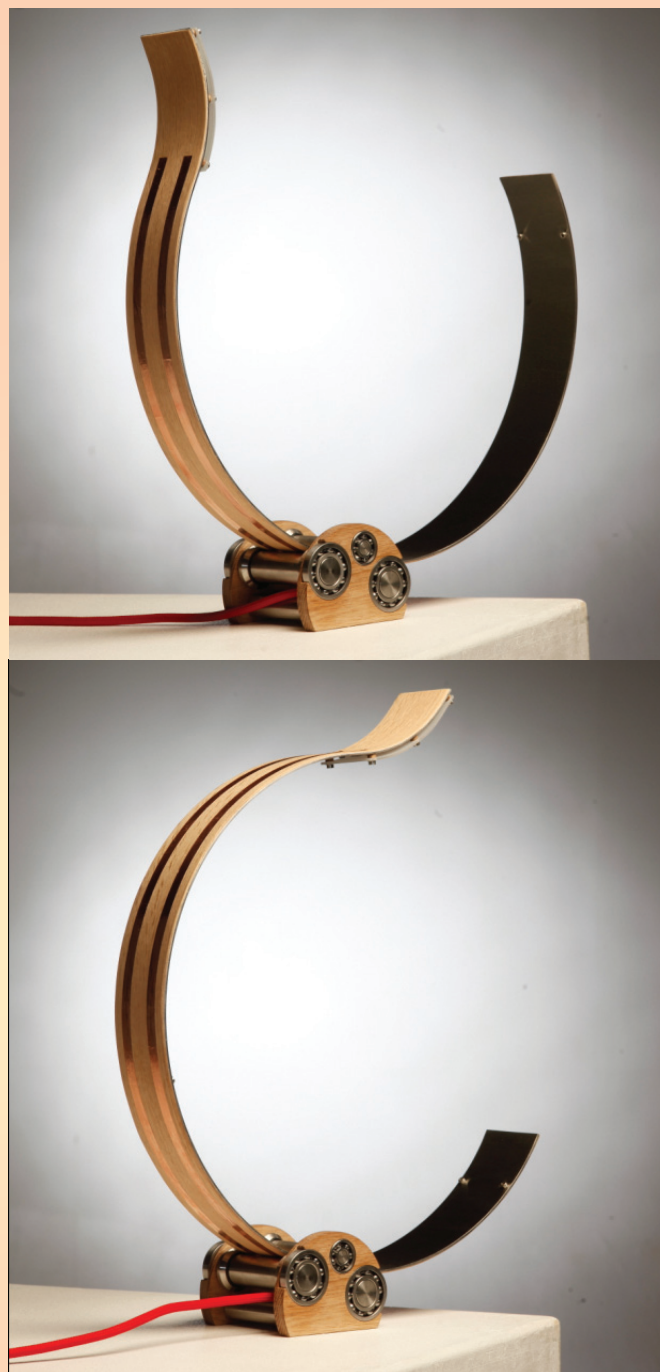


Competition time

For your chance to win a digital camera, simply answer the questions relating to the 'John Carnaby' article on the enclosed reply card and send it to us by 31st January 2011. All correct entries will be entered into the prize draw.

Q1: The motto on the St Michael Medallion is 'Justitia et pax', what is the English translation?

Q2: In which year was John the copper industry 'Plumber of the Year'?



Seeing the light

Having recently graduated from Nottingham Trent University, John Etherington is now working as part of the design team at UK-based consultancy Bigblue Product Design Ltd. His final year projects, ARC Light and Bigblue Gas Hob, have recently been exhibited at design shows, attracting interest from both trade and consumer sectors. He was recently named 'Student Lighting Designer 2010' by the UK Lighting Association for the ARC light, receiving first prize at the awards and widespread acclaim from industry professionals.

ARC is a contemporary LED table light combining minimal aesthetics with simple functionality. The design features an arced body which allows it to be rolled into various positions giving different angles of light. Influenced by contemporary design and engineering, alongside traditional and new manufacturing techniques such as sheet metal rolling, the light has been created from a combination of stainless steel, white oak and copper. Its light source comes from 18 LEDs.

Copper is used for both its aesthetic appeal and its excellent electrical conductivity. The light operates on a low, 9 volt supply and the two copper strips around the outside of the arc conduct the power from the base to the 18 LEDs at its upper lip. The design meets the requirements of the current electrical Regulations and is safe to use. Two sprung ball bearings in the lights base roll against the copper strips allowing for a consistent connection, therefore allowing the light to maintain its illuminated state during rotation.

Winner

The correct answer to the question we posed in the Autumn issue of Copper Matters, which related to the article on good reasons to choose copper, was:

Q1: How recyclable is copper? A1: Copper is 100% recyclable.
Q2: Is anything added to the copper to make copper tube? A2: Nothing is added to make copper tube.

The winner of the Autumn Copper Matters competition is Adrian Hollis from Yaxham, Norfolk, who wins a digital camera.

Thanks to everyone who sent in a competition entry.

Contact the UKCB: For further details on any information included in this newsletter please contact the Copper Board at copperboard@copperdev.co.uk or visit www.ukcopperboard.co.uk



There's always more to learn

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