#### www.akpscotland.com

# Building Pride



ISSUE 12 | September 2020

# Moving Forward

### Our new Managing Director brings us up to speed

I'm both delighted and excited to have been afforded this opportunity by lan to lead a company with a strong ethos surrounding project delivery, quality, health & safety and communication. I'm also pleased to share that despite the challenging times, we've had a strong start to our financial year with circa £5m of contract wins in the first quarter and an order book that will keep us on this same track for the remainder of 2020-21. The business's growth plans are not focused on simply doing more of the same but on breaking into new markets and geographies too.

We've always been pretty tight in terms of geography and the markets we've been involved in, but we're keen to expand. Historically we've been focused on central Scotland but we need to be looking a bit further afield. My experience is finding projects up and down the country and there's no reason why we can't do that and perhaps diversify into further markets. Insurance work, for example, is something we're looking at picking up, especially at the moment.

Despite the impact that Covid-19 has had on the wider economy, I expect akp to weather the recession in reasonably good shape as a result of the nature of the work we do. After the financial crash we really trimmed back and kept a firm eye on our cost base. This time around it's a little bit different because the recession has been much deeper but the hope is it will be much quicker.

It's really going to be how people's habits and behaviours change that determines how we recover. Some businesses are looking for more space to accommodate better social distancing for staff, while some are saying staff should stay at home until next year.

We've been successful in picking up work in the lockdown period and had a good order book to come back to. We're doing a couple of projects at the moment where space planning is being revised - ventilation

requirements are changing and revised desk configuration to encourage people to be a bit further apart.

From akp's own point of view the pandemic has also had a positive impact on its own work in that it has forced the company to think more strategically about the way it goes about its business.

We've spent a lot of time, effort and cash on Covid precautions across our sites - we've got to make sure that there's nothing we do that compromises safety.

Because of the rigid logistics required for getting on and off sites, it has encouraged us to be more efficient and plan ahead more."



## 2020 is our 30th Birthday ...a year we won't forget

Incorporated 23rd January 1990

Growth into Healthcare. Scottish Prison Service & MOD.

2008 £7.6m GRI New Gynaecology Unit.

2009 Moira Murdoch commenced with akp (July 2020 promoted to Director).

> 2009 £2.9m Refurbishment of St Peter's Primary School for Renfrewshire Council.

> > 2010 New Sports Pavilion for Erskine Stewart's Melville School, Edinburgh.

1996 akp's longest serving employee (apart from Founding Partner lan McEwan) Jim Bain commenced with akp as a Joiner (now Senior Project Manager).

2005 Balvenie Distillery New Visitors Centre.

2013 Circa £2.5m phased

works at The Beacon

commences.

2007 Moved from old office in Stanley Street, Glasgow to new HQ in East Kilbride.

> 2014 D & B of the Dumfries & Galloway College's New Hospitality facility.

> > 2015 HMYOI Polmont £2.3m Refurbishment.

2017 Refurbishment of Scotland's National Stadium, Hampden.

2018 National Winner of the BCO Best Fit Out of **Workplace for our Registers** of Scotland Fit Out.

2019 Dayforce Fit Out & Incremental Fit Out Shortlisted for BCO Awards.

2019 UWS Fit Out is crowned winner of a prestigious 2019 Guardian University Award which recognises the most sustainable and inspiring higher education buildings in the UK.

2020 Ranked within the Top 100 of Scotland's Best Performing SME's.





### Celebrating 30 Years in Construction

### Leadership in the akp boardroom with our new Commercial Director, Moira Murdoch

I've been working in construction for more than 30 years, the last 11 of these with akp Scotland and I'm delighted to now become a Director in this great company. It is fantastic that my personal core values of integrity and honesty align with akp Scotland's ethos.

I'm lucky to be able to work with the dedicated and committed team at akp Scotland and our loyal supply chain who are second to none. Each employee's perseverance has contributed to our previous and continued success, and, building on our solid foundations, I'm looking forward to helping the company strengthen and flourish."



## Live & Secured Projects







## **Recent Projects**





### Welcome to the team



#### STEPHEN SHARPE - OPERATIONS MANAGER

Stephen, why did you choose the Construction Industry?

"From a young age I was always fascinated with construction and loved to design and build some wild and crazy tree houses and army forts. My interest in construction led me to study technical design and craft design technology at high school and subsequently study towards a degree in Construction. During my studies I was able to complete a year work placement in construction, working alongside some fascinating characters within the industry to gain a valuable insight that reinforced my passion for wanting to pursue a career in construction."

Interest and hobbies. "Due to my love of all things relating to "Speed" I have been following Formula one from an early age. I have been fortunate enough to meet such giants of the sport as Alain Prost, Michael Schumacher and of course the legend that is Murray Walker, the voice of formula one for many years. Much to my wife's displeasure I have autographed photos and memorabilia of these and other sporting heroes of mine dotted around our house."

A saying or turn of phrase that you are well known for using? "5'Ps of Success": Proper planning prevents poor performance. Having worked at the start of my career as a project planner I am a strong believer in producing a plan that, if followed, will generate the greatest opportunity for success.

#### PAUL MCMORROW – SITE MANAGER

I've have had a passion for Construction for as long as I can remember. From a young age I was cutting logs and always building things from toys to 3 storey treehouses.

I have been working in the industry for 15 years and as well as a Site Manager I am now a Qualified Joiner / Carpenter and aiming to do my BSc Honours Degree in Construction and Commercial Management in 2021.

#### **DONALD HOWIE – TRAINEE SITE MANAGER**

I've always been interested in infrastructure and how things are made. I hated my degree (Chemistry BSc (Hons) and wanted a serious change of scenery

and construction management is surprisingly well suited to the skills I gained at University.

It's genuinely interesting, fully engaging and its really nice to be able to learn an industry from the foundations up without learned habits or taught bias. I've been very lucky to be able to work with, and learn from, such a great bunch of people, I get taken seriously at AKP and treated with respect despite obviously being young in the tooth and fresh to the industry. very important to me. I definitely

That's very important to me. I definitely feel very fortunate to be in the position I'm in.