

Best News

August 2002

Annual party - another successful evening

In the last edition of Best News I reminded us all about our annual party. At that time it seemed very quiet on the fund-raising front and Neil had visions of me presenting a few quid to BRMB on the night, and suggesting they spend it wisely!

As usual, with The Best Connection Team, there was no need to worry. Many different money making schemes were being hatched and implemented, and by the end of the evening, a huge £10,000 cheque was handed to Tammy Gooding, our guest from BRMB.

I would like to thank everyone who came to the party for making it such a success and to all those who dreamt up ways of raising some "Cash for Kids". Also, a very big 'thank you' must be extended to all those clients of The Best Connection who donated prizes, time and jobs to the cause. THANKS!

Time passes more quickly each year. Whilst writing we are already eight months into the year and things are going well. Since March we have moved into new premises in Leeds and acquired 'keys' for Northampton, Basingstoke and Portsmouth.

Negotiations are well advanced for premises in Derby and Nuneaton (kind of midlands) along with new premises for Warrington and Lancaster (top leftish!). Plans are in progress for new offices in Poole (sunny south coast) and Sunderland or Washington (frozen north!).



L to R: Neil Yorke, Andrew Sweeney, Michael Cooper and Martin Recci pictured at The Best Connection's annual party

We have just started to re-brand all of the existing offices with the new logo and hopefully will complete this during the current financial year. I hope I'm not speaking too soon but our Web Site is nearing completion and we hope it will go live during the end of August/early September, giving us lots of information about the Company and allowing on-line registration for both clients and temporary workers.

We delayed this issue of Best News to enable us to cover the Party and will be publishing the next one in October. Please contact Me, Neil, Martin, Mike or Jan Blann with any "interesting snippets" or just for an update.

Andrew Sweeney
Chief Executive Officer



Personality profile: **Derek Eelloo**

Derek Eelloo is a man who likes to get things done. Since joining The Best Connection as divisional manager in April 2001, Derek has had the formidable task of opening the new office in Stockport, which he achieved in under a year. His five-strong team gave up their squatters' rights at the Manchester office and took up permanent residence at the new branch in February 2002.

Derek commented: "Getting the branch ready for business has involved finding new business and new temps in the Stockport and Macclesfield areas. I always like to work at pace and I'm sure that my colleagues will praise my clear desk and tidiness!"

Since its opening, the branch has become an almost instant success with a constant flow of clients visiting to discuss servicing their businesses. In November last year Derek took on the additional responsibility for the Bradford branch and now shares his time between the two offices. Though he confesses that he still struggles with the geographical margin differentials, Derek is very pleased with the finished product.

"Both Stockport and Bradford branches have now been refurbished and finished with the new signage completed in April – both look fantastic and very eye-catching."



Born in Paisley, Scotland, Derek possesses an unusual surname that apparently derives from Estonia and is not to be confused with a warm, north of the border greeting! In a previous existence, Derek cut his commercial teeth for 16 years working for NatWest Bank (so watch out - they're pretty sharp!), undertaking money-market projects in Manchester, Birmingham and London.

Derek has been married to his wife Judith for seven years and has a twenty-two-month-old daughter called Hannah who has made insomniacs out of her parents (goes with the territory unfortunately!). When not driving The Best Connection business forward (and catching up with his sleep), Derek is a keen sportsman and indulges in the occasional round of golf (6 handicap), pounding the tarmac - but only gently - and watching his favourite soccer team at Old Trafford where he is a season ticket holder.

Digital Tachographs

As with most technological devices, digitisation is the name of the game. For those in the transport industry, this now extends to the loved and sometimes loathed tachograph! Following a two-year introductory period, new vehicles must now, by law, have a digital tachograph fitted to record vital information.

There is, however, a welcome sigh of relief from current vehicle owners since retrospective fitting is not mandatory. The exception is that if an existing tachograph is damaged or needs major repair, it will have to be replaced with a new digital model.

Kenyan Driving Licences

Although no dates have been set, it has been announced by the DVLA that Kenyan driving licences will be no longer considered as equivalent to their British counterpart.



The Return of the Magnificent Seven

In the last edition we reported on the seven representatives who were brought together from various branches and tasked with looking at ways of increasing the retention rate of drivers and enticing more applicants to the fold.

Mike Cooper heads the magnificent seven

One of the first steps along the way to achieving this was to review existing internal processes. This has led to the revamping of The Best Connection's drivers' division documentation. As a result, a new application form for drivers has been introduced which is proving easier to use and the driver's application card and booking card are currently being revised and will be implemented soon.

We will let you know of further developments when they occur.

Party Time!

Here's a selection of photos Hello! Magazine didn't get hold of!



Andrew Sweeney presents the cheque for £10,000 to BRMB's Tammy Gooding



Best People



Ashford Branch



Keith Allingham (centre) pictured with the Ashford team

Back in August last year, The Best Connection set up a new operation at Ashford, Heathrow. Since then, the Church Road team has established itself as a force to be reckoned with in supplying quality staff to the local business community. Spearheaded by the industrious Keith Allingham, the team has focused its activities on developing a good rapport with the many distribution and service companies operating in and around Heathrow Airport.

In just 10 months, the industrial desk has climbed the ranks to achieve thirty-first position out of 63 plans in the country and aims to improve on this by increasing the number of plans over the summer period. The industrial desk is run by Gavin Fuidge, senior consultant, who brings to the team over four years' recruitment experience, supported by David Garland, trainee consultant, who joined The Best Connection from TNT.

The HGV driving plan has also seen encouraging growth over the past 10 months with many of the drivers who first

registered at the branch opening still working with The Best Connection today. Lisa Richardson, who has three years' experience in the recruitment industry has recently joined the team as driving consultant while Donna Barclay has responsibility for all branch administration, assisting her colleagues with many aspects of their work to help the smooth running of the business.

To drum up further business, the branch has invested time developing relationships with local job centres and flies The Best Connection flag at local job fairs.

Kidderminster

The Kidderminster branch was launched in December 2000 after The Best Connection Group acquired a small local recruitment agency called Carridan Consultants.

As Carridan Consultants was mainly involved in permanent recruitment and had only scratched the surface of the temporary industrial market, it was an ideal opportunity for The Best Connection to obtain a centrally located office in Kidderminster town to explore further possibilities for expansion.

In addition to the office, consultants, Adrian Bennett, Mandy Cooke and Jason Link, together with administrator, Teresa Winnett, came as part of the package and they have proved to be the driving force behind the branch's success - despite the very big hurdle of no public transport to or from the major trading estates within this rural location!

In February 2001 Steve Cooke was appointed under the direction of Martin Recci to help implement The Best Connection's procedures within the branch. Both have commented on how rewarding it has been to see the development of all the staff over such a short period of time.

Following the yearly appraisals both Mandy Cooke and Adrian Bennett were promoted to senior consultants with Adrian moving to the Worcester branch to help with its expansion. After forming two industrial plans in January 2002 Mandy Cooke - Industrial 1, renewed her working partnership with consultant James Randle who had just returned from working in Dubai but previously had worked with Mandy at Carridan Consultants, to use an old cliché 'better the devil you know'!

Consultant Jason Link and recent recruit Phil Mold run the second industrial plan and both plans are ably assisted by the ever hard working branch administrators, Teresa Winnett (full-time) and Stacey Dalton who currently helps out two days per week.

The Kidderminster branch has a good sense of fun and this came to the fore when Phil Mold joined. As Phil had been brought up in an area around Liverpool it

was decided that on his first day everybody within the branch would sport a black fuzzy moustache as epitomised in the Harry Enfield show.

Everybody concerned will still remember Phil's face when he arrived in reception and was greeted by Teresa wearing a black moustache. After keeping a straight face, this soon disappeared when upon opening the door to the main office, four faces turned to greet him - all wearing fuzzy black moustaches! Phil is still with us today and said that he never felt as at home as on that first day.



Steve Cooke (2nd from left, back row) and the Kidderminster team

Where to find us



Location	Tel Number	Fax Number
Ashford	01784 256555	01784 257111
Basingstoke	01256 325111	01256 325666
Birmingham	0121 628 8000	0121 628 8004
Bolton	01204 394400	01204 394455
Bradford	01274 747500	01274 747555
Burton	01283 545000	01283 545075
Chesterfield	01246 209222	01246 206333
Coventry	024 76 228040	024 76 228042
Crawley	01293 515000	01293 516333
Dudley	01384 230003	01384 239691
Halesowen	0121 504 3000	0121 504 3009
Hull	01482 610 160	01482 610 686
Kidderminster	01562 66555	01562 825695
Leeds	0113 243 1033	0113 243 0951
Leicester	0116 251 2363	0116 251 2364
Liverpool	0151 236 0111	0151 236 0999
Manchester	0161 237 9333	0161 237 9444
Newcastle	0191 230 2007	0191 230 2008
Northampton	01604 629888	01604 627444
Nottingham	0115 958 5880	0115 958 5884
Portsmouth	0239 286 4411	0239 286 4422
Preston	01772 201777	01772 201888
Redditch	01527 591141	01527 591142
Scunthorpe	01724 876111	01724 876222
Southampton	023 8033 3188	023 8033 3199
Stockport	0161 968 1964	0161 968 1965
Stoke	01782 209666	01782 209777
Tamworth	01827 53333	01827 53090
Walsall	01922 639000	01922 636500
Warrington	01925 629666	01925 629777
West Bromwich	0121 553 7755	0121 553 7766
Wolverhampton	01902 773000	01902 773001
Worcester	01905 731777	01905 731888
Worthing	01903 234500	01903 224554



The e-mail address for each branch is:
the branch@thebestconnection.co.uk
e.g. **burton@thebestconnection.co.uk**
Individual mail to: **name@thebestconnection.co.uk**

STOP PRESS!

The next edition of Best News will feature:
Branch news – Tyseley Facelift
Focus on – North East
Website