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Here is our spring edition of IBB Builder. This month we focus on the tiling works. We recommend the article about tiling works in bathrooms. The step by step guidance from surface preparation, tile cutting to the defect-free tiles installation. The increasing more popular large format tiles are the designers favourite in modern interiors. When it comes to the laying large format tiles, these are the real test for even the most professional tiler. In this issue you will find the advice on how to work with such tiles and what adhesive to choose. The cover story this month tells you about the innovative tile levelling system. It is the must-have for every professional tiler. Check out how you can speed up your work and what deals you get in IBB Builders Merchants depots on Marten's level system. This month only we give you 40 percent off the innovative solutions like tile levelling system and gel adhesive for your tiling needs.

The Building Regulations sections cover the procurement essential for BIM 2 projects- the Employers Informations Requirements (EIR). It is obligatory not only for the governmentfunded project but also during commercial or residential tenders. Check out what you need to know about EIR.

This issue features the newest breakthrough in the world of hand tools- the first ever e-screwdriver. It provides precise and reliable support but also significantly reduces the time of work. Let us know if you would like e-screwdrivers to get into stock in IBB Builders Merchants depots.

April is the month when often any outdoor works restart. Check out the article on smarter roofing systems. The dry fix roofing will significantly reduce the roofing works. There is an insight into the features of dry fix roofing and Building Regulations requirements.

The important news for you this month relates to the new tax year that will begin on 6th April. Check out if you will benefit from one day more of paid holidays this year. It is also time for CIS returns. Moreover, from this month CITB introduces new grants scheme. Check out how to register for a levy or if your business is already registered how to sign up for an online

FROM EDITOR

account. While from April 2019, the digitalisation of taxation systems will begin. Here you will find information on what changes are coming and how to prepare your business. There is

no rush, it is still a year to go:)

This issue is packed with all essential updates for the construction industry. For instance, the important news on fraudulent certificates used for CSCS Labourer card applications. Also, every plumber should be aware that Boiler Plus 2018 regulations comes into effect this month. Our reminder will tell you all you need to know about rules on boilers installations that will affect your works from 6th April.

IBB Builder supports construction related campaigns. This month we encourage female run construction businesses. The shortage skills gap can be plugged with new female entrants. If you are a woman, who runs the building company let us know about your experiences. Get in touch on editor@ibb.uk, and we will publish your story to promote gender equality in the construction sector.

In my final words here I would like to congratulate IBB Polonia London on their progress to the semi-finals of English Volleyball Championships. Match dates are announced on 21st and 22nd April. I will repeat myself- join us in supporting volleyball, come to the matches or watch online. Help to build the volleyball club brand in England. There are excellent advertisement opportunities on offer. If you are interested in football, check what's up at IBB Polonia London FC in our sponsor section.

Magdalena Rosół







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LOW PRICES







CONSTRUCTION NEWS CONSTRUCTION NEWS

## **Chancellor's Spring Statement**

The Chancellor's statement on unfair payment practices that impact small businesses across the UK hopefully will be the turning point in the way the industry tackle late payments. The new consultation was announced in chancellor's Spring Statement.

Philip Hammond, Chancellor of the Exchequer, delivered his first Spring Statement to the House of Commons on March 13, 2018. Brian Berry Chief Executive of the FMB commented that: "The Chancellor's announcement of a consultation to tackle the scourge of late payment today should mark a turning point on this issue. We should use this opportunity to bring about a spring clean of payment practices which negatively impact on small business. Construction giant Carillion's collapse at the start of the year brought to light once again the need to eliminate poor payment practises that plague the construction sector particularly.

Indeed, one London based small building firm was once paid more than 270 days late by a construction giant. Now is the time to move away

from these unsustainable business models which threaten the existence of many firms and their supply chains. This announcement today should be followed by a fundamental rethink ending in the permanent abolition of late payment terms and the exploitative use of retention payments."

Berry concluded: "At first glance the Spring Statement has brought some other positive announcements for the UK's small construction firms. The announcement of a doubling of funding to the Lloyd's Housing Growth Partnership and an additional £80 million funding to support SME firms looking to engage an apprentice is welcome news. With Brexit looming large on the horizon and the construction industry facing a chronic skills crisis, it's of the utmost importance that more skilled workers begin to join the sector. An additional £50 million to support T level training ing 300,000 housing units per year, supporting will further aid this aim

Moreover, on skills Hammond pledged £500 million for the rolling out of T-levels and another £50 million to ensure T-level work placements. In addition, the Government will also make £80 million available for those SMEs "engaging an apprentice". While, on housing and planning, the chancellor announced the Government's pledge to make £44 billion available to bring housing supply to 300,000 units per year by the mid-2020s, as

well as £1.7 billion to build 26,000 new affordable homes in London

The House Builders Association (HBA) - the house building division of the National Federation of Builders (NFB) - believes that the Government has identified the key ingredients to tackling the housing crisis, but not the implementation strategy to put them into effect. In other words, the Government has provided significant financial support towards tackling late payment, skills shortages and housing supply, but not a common thread aimed at solving the housing crisis. The chancellor's statement to bring annual house building to 300,000 units by the mid-2020s also denotes a lack of urgency.

Richard Beresford, chief executive of the NFB. said: "If the chancellor is serious about reachapprenticeships and diversifying educational achievement through T-levels, then he will need SME housebuilders and constructors. SMEs not only train and retain two thirds of construction apprentices but they are our predominant private sector and rural employer. Government must deliver bolder planning reform, fairer procurement and a better understanding of the entire development process if it has any hope of making a success of today's announcements."



## Fraudulent certificate claims

Recently, the British Safety Council (BSC) announced there is a rise in the number of fraudulent certificates that are used to apply for the CSCS Labourer cards.

The CSCS Labourer cards were introduced in 2014 as the certification of workers qualifications. To apply for CSCS Labourer card it was required to present the certification for QFC Level 1 (SCQF Level 4) Award in Health and Safety in Construction Environment, Due to rise in fraudulent certificates. BSC have decided to stop verifying or replacing older versions of their certificates which were used to apply for the CSCS Labourer card.

- Certificate number ONLINE e.g. 1234567L1CE ONLINE
- Certificate number PAPER e.g. 1234567L1CE PAPER

In the past the fraudsters mainly produced fake cards or were cheating during the examination system- as highlighted by the BBC Newsnight. In recent cases the certification used to obtain the cards were fake. Please check your certification details as this a UK construction site. may impact your ability to apply for replacement CSCS card. More on the decision of BSC can be to share intelligence and work with the authorities obtained via telephone on 02035108355.

Angeleen Hill Scheme Manager at CSCS said "As we restrict the capacity of these fraudsters to operate they are turning to other means in which to

Specifically certificates with the following numbers: obtain a card. Recently we have noted an increase in the production of high quality fake certificates. which if not properly checked would lead to a legitimate CSCS card." CSCS takes the issue of fraudulent activity extremely seriously and it is essential that steps are taken to prevent it. People obtaining qualifications fraudulently are not qualified to do their job and cannot demonstrate the required level of health and safety needed to operate safely on

> Angeleen Hill continued "CSCS will continue when the evidence suggests criminal activity is taking place. CSCS remains confident that the vast majority of cards issued are a result of obtaining a qualification legitimately." (Source: CSCS)





female tradespeople. This new research shows that feeling more positive about hiring a female trades- Of those Londoners who felt more positive - 23% relate better to other women: well over one third of Londoners would feel more - 16% think it would be a novelty and a welcome about hiring a female builder, the reasons positive about hiring a female builder or tradesperwere as follows: change to hire a female builder. son to complete a task in their home, as opposed to - 61% think female tradespeople might be more Despite feeling more positive about hiring a male builder or tradesperson. By way of comparirespectful of their home: a female tradesperson, 33% fewer Lonson, just nine per cent of Londoners would feel less - 50% would like to support more women workdoners would encourage their daughter to positive about hiring a female tradesperson. There ing in non-traditional job roles; pursue a career in construction than their are many reasons for this attitude with nearly two - 42% think female tradespeople might be more thirds of people maintaining that females might be Over half (53%) of the general public in more respectful of their home and over a third sav-

According to the new research by the Federation of Master Builders (FMB) more than a third of London's home owners would rather hire a female builder as opposed to a male builder.

FMB researched opinions on female builders and key findings are that:

 More than one third (38%) of home owners in London would feel more positive about hiring a female builder or tradesperson to complete a task in their home, as opposed to a male builder or tradesperson;

- 39% might feel more at ease with a female tradesperson:
- 34% think female tradespeople might be
- 33% think women often have better attention to detail than men:
  - 26% prefer the company of women;
- London are 'gender blind' when choosing their builder or tradesperson and wouldn't care whether they were a man or a wom-

Commenting on the research, Barry Mortimer, Director of FMB London, said: "There's a huge demand among home owners in London for more ing they might feel more at ease with a woman. Given that today is International Women's Day 2018, we want to encourage young women to seriously consider embarking upon a career in construction."

Mortimer concluded: "Unfortunately we are still battling wholly outdated attitudes surrounding women working as tradespeople. Despite people

person, a third fewer people would show support for their daughter pursuing a career in construction compared to their sons. We're facing an acute skills crisis in the construction industry, with record high skills shortages reported by small construction firms in the final three months of 2017. Encouraging more women into construction would therefore not only help meet the pent up demand for more women working as tradespeople in the capital, it would also help close the skills gap. Just two percent of the UK's tradespeople are women and in this day and age, that's shockingly low."

Joanna Palinski who runs JP Project Management, said: "I receive a very positive reaction from clients as a female running a construction firm. Many of our clients have said that, as a woman, I ac-

tually have better attention to detail and my firm is very solutions focused. I would wholly recommend if they are interested, other women should consider starting a career in construction, it is a challenging but very rewarding sector. To women who are keen to start a career in construction, I would suggest getting as much training as you can. There is a gap in the market and people are keen to have more female construction workers."

Demand for small-scale building work and home improvements is increasing despite continuing uncertainty over the impact of Brexit on the UK's economy. However, there are problems in meeting this demand and finding builders. Women workers can help to plug the gap in skills shortages. If you're a female construction worker let your clients know how being a female builder benefits them.

## Extra day of holidays in tax year

#### Check if you or your employees are eligible to have an extra day of holidays

Good Friday takes place on 30 March, while Easter Monday on 2 April. The timing of Easter in 2018 entitles some workers to have an extra day off. All depends on the wording of contracts. Employers may breach their workers' annual leave rights unless they allow an extra day off. This affect employers that operate an annual leave year that runs from 1st April to 31 March and that set out holiday entitlement in contract as "20 days' holidays plus bank holidays".

Under working time rules, employees are entitled to a minimum of 5.6 weeks' annual leave, which is 28 days' leave per year for employees

working a five-day week. The 28 days can include bank holidays, usually there is eight bank holidays per year.

In 2018, Good Friday is on 30 March and Easter Monday is on 2 April. The following year, Good Friday is on 19 April 2019, while Easter Monday is on 22 April 2019. For a holiday year running 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, employees would appear to lose out. This is because there is no Good Friday bank holiday within a holiday year running from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, meaning that they will be entitled under their contract to just 27 days' leave.

Giving employees who work a five-day week fewer than 28 days' annual leave is a breach of the Working Time Regulations 1998, regardless of the number of bank holidays in a particular holiday year. Moreover, the failure to honour a contractual clause providing for "20 days' holiday plus bank holidays" would also result in an employer being in breach of contract.

Employers in this position must top up employees' holiday entitlement for the leave year running 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, to ensure that employees retain their 28-day statutory entitlement.







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Recent edition of Ecobuild 2018 was welcomed with thousands of visitors. Industry professionals met in London ExCel to explore the latest innovations in the built environment. The future direction of this highly popular event was announced by new owners Futurebuild Events who declared its intentions to give the event back to the industry and to reaffirm its commitment to innovation and sustainability.

Futurebuild 2019 is scheduled for 05-07 March 2019 in ExCel London. Futurebuild 2019 will continue to be the industry platform for the fresh thinking, new innovations and leading partnerships and exhibitors that made ecobuild so well-respected for over 14

years. However, under the new banner, it will have even more focus, impetus and purpose.

Martin Hurn, managing director of Futurebuild Event Ltd, explains: "From the very start we set out with a bold vision to take an entirely new approach for the event, as well as how we worked alongside our audiences across the built environment. "Futurebuild 2019 represents everything we set out to achieve. It will be an event for the industry, by the industry, and 100% committed to championing innovation and sustainability for the future of the built environment. After all, unless the future is sustainable, and unless we think beyond the status quo, we won't have a future at all."

Central to Futurebuild 2019 will be a new, dedicated 'ecobuild' conference. The ecobuild arena will see industry experts, academics, community leaders and politicians come together to debate and explore cutting-edge thinking around the most critical social and environmental issues. A series of curated exhibits will immediately surround the arena, acting as a discussion point for key sustainability topics.

Hurn continues: "Over the years, the "ecobuild" name has become synonymous with the event's industry-leading conference programme. So ecobuild will be an ideas forum which acts as a centre point of the event and which is dedicated to shaping the agenda and making recommendations across all aspects of sustainability."

Positioning ecobuild at the heart of Futurebuild will allow the conference and neighbouring show-cases to firmly focus on sustainability and help drive real change in this field. It will also give the rest of Futurebuild the flexibility to focus on wider construction issues as defined by industry feedback and input, including the skills gap, digital adoption and procurement.

This will take place through six 'Futurebuild Hubs', which will bring industry together to flesh out the big thinking and facilitate practical delivery. Each dedicated to a crucial aspect of the built environment, the Hubs will host cutting-edge exhibitors and deliver comprehensive content and educational programmes, including evidence-

based seminars, onsite products, and in-practice demonstrations.

The Hubs are:

- Buildings: Covering all aspects of building
   including new build, retrofit and refurbishment. The place to explore and debate building technology, procurement, legislation, facilities management and maintenance.
- Energy: Bringing together all areas of the sector, including emerging new approaches, such as district energy, autonomous buildings and renewables
- Offsite: Showcasing an championing the latest thinking and innovations – including all aspects of design and delivery – in this growing area of interest for the construction industry
- Materials: Combining the latest innovations, research and understanding in mainstream materials, including concrete, timber, steel and masonry, as well as emerging new materials

- Urban Infrastructure: A space dedicated to all aspects of the city, apart from the buildings themselves. Discuss and discover all things around infrastructure, water, urban greening, the public realm, well-being inclusivity and anti-terrorism
- Interiors: Dedicated to all aspects of domestic and commercial interiors. Championing 'design with purpose' and placing a focus on crucial design elements such as colour, sound and materials

Industry reaction to the plans has been unequivocally positive, with numerous key strategic partners and exhibitors immediately signing up to be part of the event. Steven Cross, Director of Commercial Development for RIBA Services, said: "We are looking forward to seeing Futurebuild 2019 develop based on the success of this year's ecobuild. This year's, conference programme and seminar streams have been excellent, with great content that has truly put the event at the forefront of knowledge sharing. They have also been extremely well attended and certainly brought a lot of our members to the event. "Collaboration has been key – we've had a really good relationship with the Futurebuild Events team this year and hopefully that will continue into next year and grow further still. Given the success of the seminar and conference programmes at ecobuild 2018, we hope to be an integral part of that element of the event next year too. We'd also like to see more of our members speaking at Futurebuild 2019 – providing advice and guidance, as well as sharing their experiences with fellow members. The more we can disseminate knowledge and content the better."

Andreas Simmer, UK Managing Director, Internorm International, said: "We have had another very successful year at ecobuild 2018 and have taken a number of good leads away from the event. We are also proud to have been an event sponsor. "As the leading glazing company at the event, we are in a prime position to attract customers to the stand. We have always found ecobuild to be the best b2b event in terms of the calibre of people that attend, with large numbers of the types of architect and design professionals that we want to do business and build relationships with.

"The plans for Futurebuild 2019 are very exciting. We rebooked straight away and are looking forward to being part of it and continuing to showcase our products and innovations with like-minded professionals." Kathryn Legg, Marketing Services Manager at Marley, commented: "We had two stands at this year's Ecobuild - one for the plumbing and drainage side of the business and one to officially launch our new SIPs modular system. Nobody knew about the new Marley Modular Systems brand before today but we've still been inundated with enquiries, and even had designs through from people who had been on the stand on the first day. "This is definitely the busiest event we've exhibited at and we love the different districts. We're looking forward to developing the brand even further and coming back to showcase its journey next year!"

Concluding, managing director of Futurebuild Event Ltd said: "Our experience in developing the 2018 event has demonstrated the value of partnerships and working in close collaboration. We're hugely excited to be able to announce our plans for Futurebuild 2019, however, it is still early stages and we are keen to work as closely as possible with representatives from across the built environment to ensure it truly is the most stimulating, memorable and 'must-attend' event possible."

For more information about FutureBuild get in touch here info@futurebuild.co.uk

SkillBuildisthelargestmulti-tradecompetition in the UK for construction trainees and apprentices. Registrations for the 2018 competition will close at 5pm, Saturday 7 April. SkillBuild covers occupations like bricklaying, carpentry, furniture and cabinet making, joinery, painting and decorating, plastering, plastering and drywall systems, roof slating and tiling, stonemasonry, wall and floor tiling.

Applicants can enter as either a New Entrant or at Advanced Level depending on the experience. Registration will close at 5pm on Saturday 7 April. The regional qualifiers will take place during summer months. SkillBuild is run by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB). Competitors will be assessed on each level of competition and tested on their technical abilities, time management, character and commitment. The winner will be announced the best in their trade. More information about SkillBuild 2018 you will find www.citb.co.uk

## CIOB

#### **ACADEMY**

If you are looking to up skill check the CIOB Academy that launched the series of courses both in free and paid options. From BIM Management, CDM Regulations, Construction Law basics, health and safety and many others. CIOB Academy provides access to knowledge database, gives the opportunity of networking and connects learners with funding, mentors etc. CIOB Academy is the new CPD platform were you can access webinars, videos, articles and data required for your professional development. Resource categories include design management, project management, BIM, Estimating, Surveying, Site Management and many more. Qualifications, skills and knowledge will give you the better position in the market. For more details visit www.ciobacademy.org

# Register for CIS Refunds

The tax year end is approaching and with it deadlines for tax returns. Subcontractors across the UK within the construction industry are due tax refund from Construction Industry Scheme (CIS). To claim a tax refund, it is essential to register with the CIS scheme as soon as possible. The CIS Scheme registration is necessary if contractors plan to hire subcontractors. How much is deducted by a contractor depends on whether a sub-contractor is registered with the scheme or not.

Unregistered subcontractors will have their payments reduced by 30%, while deductions for registered contractors are at 20%. The reduction means the tax might be overpaid and refunds are often due. To apply for CIS tax refund it is necessary to prove all expenses and all tax deducted under CIS. Expenses that can be offset against tax include for instance accountancy fees, use of home as an office, use of a garage, insurance, cost of tools and materials, cost of plant hire, general business costs,

subsistence and accommodation, paper, postage and office costs.

When a contractor is registered with the Construction Industry Scheme (CIS), he is still responsible for paying the correct tax and National Insurance for the business, even if deductions have been made by contractors throughout the year. Every month contractors give a monthly statement of payments and deductions. At the end of the tax year, contractors are required to send their Self Assessment tax return.

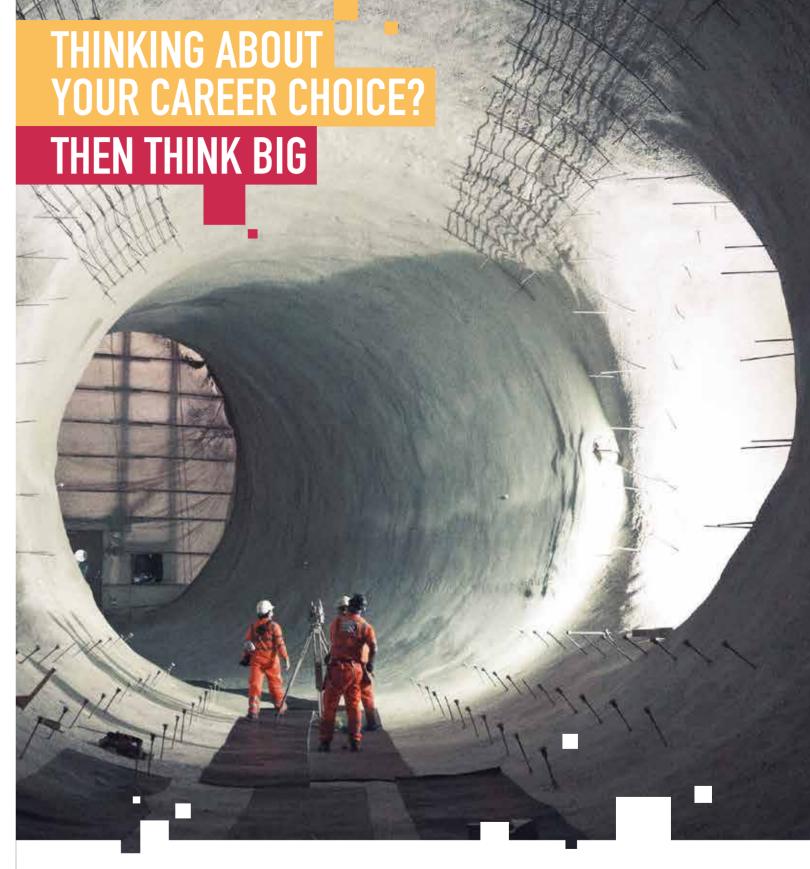
HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will calculate the tax and National Insurance bill and take off any deductions made by contractors. If contractor still owes tax after this, there is time by 31 January following the end of the tax year to clear the balance. If a tax refund is due, HMRC will pay the money back.

Companies can use a CIS132 form from www. gov.uk, to set off any tax suffered against any tax due, assisting in cash flow and shortening the amount of time in waiting for the CIS refund.

Also, a contractor must give a subcontractor a deduction statement within 14 days of the end of the tax month if the contractor has stopped tax

HMRC will pay back any deductions your company hasn't been able to claim back from its PAYE bill during the tax year.





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# Making Tax Digital - it's time to prepare!

Making Tax Digital (MTD) for business is the programme that will transform tax system by 2020. Taxation will be more effective, more efficient and simpler for taxpayers.

The fundamental changes to the tax system are planned by the Government between tax years 2018/2019 and 2020/21. This means the implementation of digital record keeping and quarterly updating by businesses, the self-employed and landlords for Income Tax Self-Assessment (ITSA), Value Added Tax (VAT) and Corporation Tax (CT). The Making Tax Digital system will be launched in April 2019 for businesses to meet their VAT obligations. This will apply to businesses with turnover above the VAT threshold (currently £85,000). It will be voluntary for businesses with turnover below the VAT threshold. Businesses will also be able opt in for other taxes, benefitting from a streamlined, digital experience.

Making Tax Digital will provide a more modern, digital service which will help businesses get their tax right. The digitalisation of the tax system will help to reduce the tax gap and the cost, uncertainty and worry that businesses face when HMRC is forced to intervene to put things right.

For Income Tax, businesses (including selfemployed and landlords) will be able to keep records of their income and expenditure digitally, and send summary updates quarterly to HMRC from their software (or app) from April 2018 if they choose to do so.

From April 2019, VAT registered businesses (including self-employed and landlords) with turnover above the VAT registration threshold (currently £85,000) will have to:

- keep their records digitally (for VAT purposes only)
- provide their VAT return information to HMRC through Making Tax Digital compatible software

Making Tax Digital will provide the modern digital service that helps to get the tax right the first time. Keeping records digitally will result in more timely and accurate record-keeping, helping to prevent errors associated with manual processes. Quarterly updates direct from records will help prevent errors that can happen when businesses undertake manual calculations or transcribe information from one format into another.

Key benefits include:

- always knowing where you stand when it comes to tax
- · having access to tax information online

in a single place

- being able to work online collaboratively with an agent
- being able to plan and budget more effectively

The productivity, cost and efficiency benefits for businesses in moving to digital from manual or paper based recoding systems are well recognised, but not costed here, and Making Tax Digital will help drive the adoption of digital tools amongst UK business.

Making Tax Digital will require the specific software that will allow to keep records in a digital form, create VAT returns in a digital form, provide HMRC with data on a regular basis. The use of spreadsheets will be allowed under the condition of API seamless flow of data.

Digital finance managing will become mandatory. Businesses will be issued with the digital tax accounts. The compulsory usage of technology will be required by HMRC either in form of HMRC app or online accounting software. Accountants will take a role of tax advisors as the digital systems will all the calculations. Businesses will loose their privacy as their finances will be more transparent for HMRC. All this will apply from next year. Take your time and get your business ready for MTD.

(Source: GOV.uk)

# New Grants Scheme from April 2018

From this month **Construction Industry** Training Board (CITB) is simplifying the Grans Scheme to provide greater support to help industry with skills gaps and shortages. Employers can claim grants if they are registered with CITB and send a Levy Return by 31 December each year. Small employers that don't need to pay the levy can still claim grants. Grants are for training and qualifications completed in this grant scheme year (1 August 2017 to 31 March 2018).

Citb grant scheme covers: apprenticeships grants, short duration course achievements grants,

plant training grants, long-period qualifications grants, short period qualification grants and construction work experience grants.

From April 2018 to apply for a grant you will need the online CITB account. CITB online consists of two services:

- Levy Online where you can submit Levy Returns and view those from previous years.
- 2. Grant Online which allows to
- Authorise grant claims. Paper GC1/1 forms will no longer be sent.
- View grant statements to see the balance
- Request grant reports in a .zip format.

To register for online account you will have to sign in using the details given during the CITB registration. Once registered your business is obliged to do the Levy Return. Under the Industrial Training Act 1982 all employers in the construction industry must complete an annual Levy Return to establish whether levy should be paid and if yes

how much. Depending on the wage bill it can take over a year from the registration until you can start to claim grants.

To calculate the levy it is necessary to give details of total payments to employers through PAYE and/or total CIS tax deductions from subcontractors and/or total next paid CIS subcontractors. Current levy rates are The rates are: 0.5% on PAYE and 1.25% on CIS subcontractors who you deduct CIS tax from. There is the small business levy exemption if the total wage bill does not exceed £80,000. If the total wage bill is between £80,000 and £399,999 the small business levy reduction of 50 per cent on levy due applies.

The deadline for grants application is 30 June after the end of the grant scheme year. Grants varies and so the application methods. Construction Training Directory is the source of information on grants available. To find out more about the particular grants visit https://www.citb.co.uk/grant/new-grants-scheme-2018/

(Source: CITB)





From 6th April 2018
the new legislation on
heating manufacture and
installation in the UK is
changing. The Department
for Business, Energy and
Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
has introduced amendments
called Boiler Plus.

From this month installers and manufacturers will have to ensure:

- Gas boiler performance: space heating efficiency of the new boiler no less than ErP 92%
- Time and temperature control required for all gas and oil boiler installations
- Combi boiler installations must also include one of the following: Weather compensation, Load compensation, Flue Gas Heat Recovery, Smart controls.

Boiler Plus introduce the higher energy efficiency of heating systems as the minimum performance standard for domestic gas boilers in England will be set at 92% ErP. This will allow to reduce carbon emissions in line with the EU targets by 2020 and replace an inefficient boilers. Boiler Plus is the part of the Government's Clean Growth Strategy which aims to combat climate change and cut energy costs.

Installers who fail to install boilers in line with new Building Regulations will be prosecuted by Building Control due to law breach. The Gas Safe Register can also refer safety concerns to Health and Safety (HSE). Homeowners could also face prosecution and fines of up to £5k.

Boiler Plus covers also the subject of a fuel gas heat recovery (FGHR) to improve energy efficiency of the boiler by recycling the heat from the flue gases by using that heat to preheat domestic hot water.

Modern boilers can work out the temperature of heating accordingly in line with the temperature outside measured by sensors. It is called the weather compensation. Another feature is load compensation that adjust the flow temperature based on what is needed to reduce fuel consumption.

Greg Clark, Business and Energy Secretary, said: "This Government has put clean growth at the heart of its Industrial Strategy to increase productivity, boost people's earning power and ensure Britain continues to lead the world in efforts to tackle climate change. "For the first time in a generation, the British government is leading the way on taking decisions on new nuclear, rolling out smart meters and investing in low carbon innovation. The world is moving from being powered by polluting fossil fuels to clean energy. It's as big a change as the move from the age of steam to the age of oil and Britain is showing the way."

Other measures introduced by the Government to lower carbon emissions are:

- Investment of around £3.6 billion to upgrade around a million homes through the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) including extended support for home energy efficiency improvements from 2022 to 2028
- Upgrading all fuel poor homes to Energy Performance Certificate Band C by 2030 with as many homes as possible to be Energy Performance Certificate Band C by 2035
- Improve the energy performance standards of privately rented homes to Energy Performance Band C by 2030.





What are Employer's Information Requirements (EIR)?

**Building Information** Modelling (BIM) at level 2 is mandated by the Government on the publicly funded projects from 2016. BIM is changing the way projects are planned, designed, analysed and constructed or maintained. More often working under BIM 2 is required for private clients on both commercial and residential projects. BIM improves the way in which projects are procured. To take part in tenders for such projects, architects, engineers, contractors and suppliers to the sector need to up-skill as soon as possible.

BIM is the project based on 3D modelling and real-life components. The collaboration of all parties involved in the project allows for its efficient delivery. The British Standards Institution has released PAS1192-2:2013, which is essential for the implementation of BIM to Level 2. BIM 2 documents consist of employer's information requirements (EIR), BIM Execution Plan (BEP) and BIM Protocol. All these should be supplied by all parties involved in the project in the agreed format. In the UK the minimum standard is COBie (construction

operations building information exchange format/BS1192-4:2014).

The employer's information requirements (EIR) is the part of full BIM process. In BIM appropriate information is shared and managed between parties involved in the project throughout its delivery. EIR is the pre-tender document specifying the information required by the employer from the whole supplier chain. It is necessary for the development of the project and the management of the completed building. It enables suppliers to produce a BIM Execution Plan (BEP).

Employer's Information Requirements (EIR) is a crucial document for all parties working to the level-2 BIM process. It is a part of the more comprehensive tender document set for the procurement of the Design Team and the Constructor. Relevant extracts from the EIR are included in procurement documents for the appointment of each supplier directly by the employer including advisors, consultants, contractors etc. All suppliers respond to the EIR with a pre-contract BIM execution plan from which their proposed approach, capability and capacity can be evaluated.

The exact format of the EIR depends on the complexity of the project and the experience and requirements of the employer. For larger contractors, it might be the very detailed list of requirements, rules and supplier's proposals to meet the criteria.

Employer's information requirements may inude:

 Standard methods and procedures on what information is required and how to provide it.

- Information-related roles and responsibilities
- An information delivery plan or release schedule

Usually, EIR is divided into three parts - Technical, Management and Commercial. Technical part covers requirements on the data format and file types, the definition at each stage and details of the software platforms. Management part will detail high-level roles and responsibilities, standards, health and safety, compliance plan, data security, works schedule, collaboration process etc.

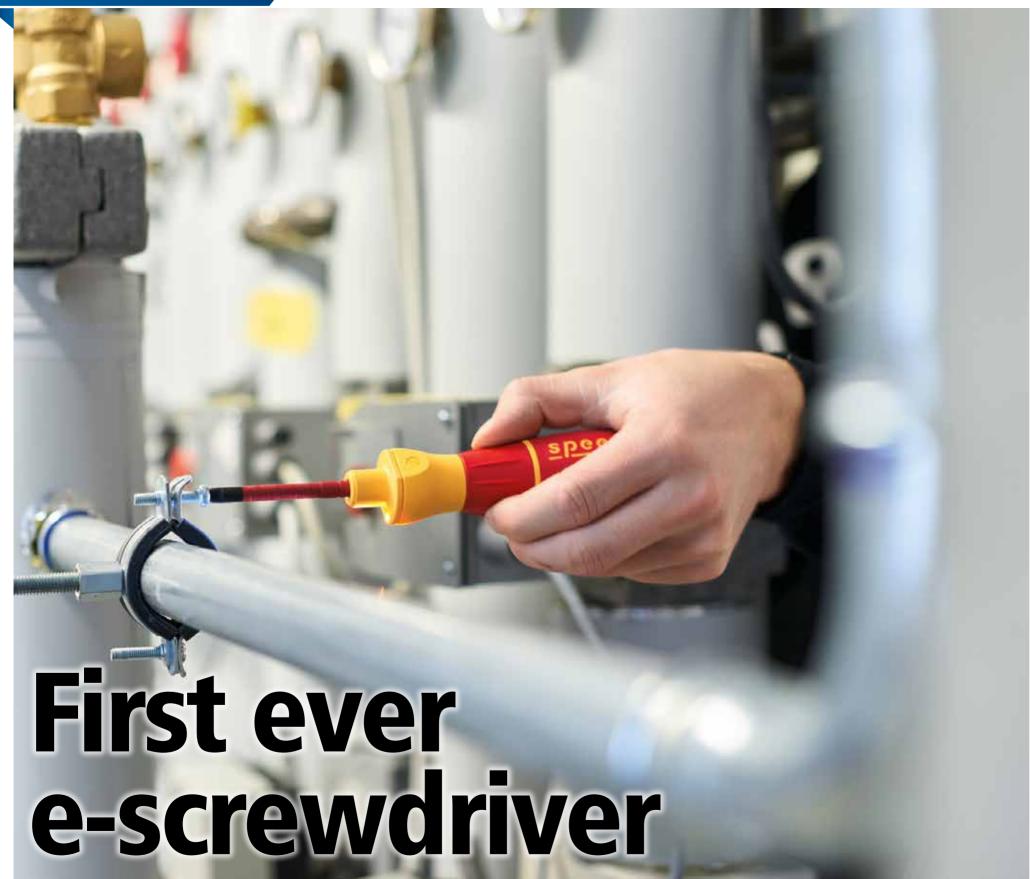
Commercial part may include details on the client's strategic purpose, the defined BIM/projects deliverables and BIM competence assessment for tender applicants to demonstrate their ability to deliver the requirements of the EIR.

For more efficient project delivery clients need to be better informed but also need to clearly state their requirements. While contractors and architects need to be skilled to respond to these requirements and to deliver a project based on BIM process.

The NBS BIM Toolkit can be used to generate the content of EIR that defines specific information requirements for the project stages. It is available here https://toolkit.thenbs.com. This is the free-to-use tool that provides step-by-step help to define, manage and validate responsibility for information development and delivery at each stage of the asset lifecycle. Government from 2016 has mandated Level-2 BIM. As part of the support to the industry in achieving 'Level-2 BIM', the Government funded the BIM Toolkit through Innovate UK.



BUILDERS EDUCATION BUILDERS EDUCATION



#### Wiha makes a breakthrough in the field of hand tools and introduces the world's first Wiha screwdriver with electric drive.

The electric motor placed in the tool allows the screw to be screwed in with a torque of max. 0.4 Nm, and then it's manual tightening - already with full sensitivity, similar to using a traditional screwdriver. The tool is complemented by an innovative, electric ratchet. The unique, 3-stage screwing process using the SpeedE® tool enables much faster, more efficient and better-controlled work - entirely safe for the material and the professional.

The new Wiha screwdriver, equipped with electric drive, is an absolute revolution in the field of speed and comfort. The innovative "speed" function significantly shortens the screw-in time and reduces the force used during connecting with a screw. Thanks to this, users who use speedE® achieve the goal at least twice as fast compared to the manual screwing method and noticeably improve the efficiency and comfort of everyday work. What's more, they save their strength and protect their health.

In addition to the integrated material protection function at a torque of max. 0.4 Nm, it is possible to manually adjust the screwing with full sensing in the range of up to 8 Nm or tightening to the stop. In combination with the Wiha VDE bits, speedE® can also be used as a fully-fledged, safe screwdriver for working with live parts.

The specially developed, electric mechanism for precise force transmission, in combination with torque control, provides reliable support especially when performing screwing operations requiring high accuracy. The electric ratchet function, which eliminates the need for continuous holding, has a significant impact on the efficiency and comfort of work. Also, integrated LED light precisely illuminates the workstation.

A single battery charge of the speedE® screwdriver allows up to 800 screw connections to be made, allowing users to use the Wiha electric screwdriver for many days without recharging. Standard rechargeable batteries, integrated with the handle, avoid the high costs of purchasing a separate power source, which further highlights the advantages of using the speedE® screwdriver.

Both the size and weight of the tool are comparable to traditional screwdrivers. Thanks to this, the world's first Wiha electric screwdriver, in a compact and lightweight version, is the ideal mobile helper for various industries. In addition to the functionalities mentioned above, the users of the speedE® screwdriver get maximum flexibility - the tool is compatible with the receivers of the Wiha slimBit series. All Wiha slimBit bits with VDE certificate have been individually tested and approved for 1000 V AC work.

Ronny Lindskog, head of the Wiha distribution and marketing department, explains: "As a pioneer of its genre, the SpeedE® screwdriver is another milestone in the development of screwdriving tools - not just at Wiha. The range of applications and the potential of this invention from the point of view of users, retailers and the entire industry is enormous. We are proud to say that speedE® is a class in itself. "

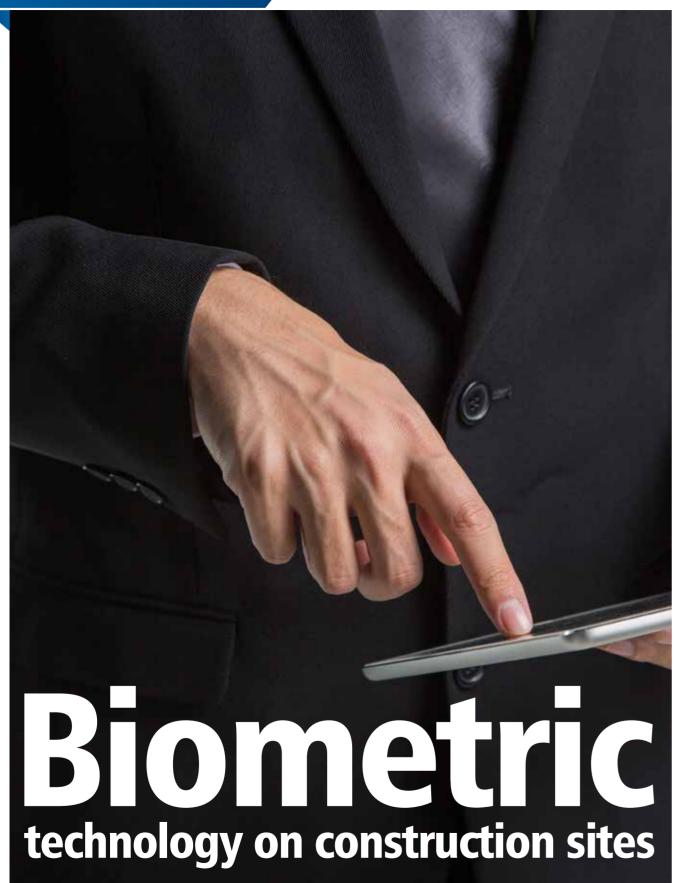
The Wiha speedE® screwdriver can be purchased at specialist retail outlets in three different variants - depending on the requirements and difficulty of the work. In addition to the electric screwdriver, the set includes two batteries, a portable charger adapted to them, a solid Sortimo L-BOXX box for transporting, and - depending on the variant - a suitable choice of slimBit bits and an easyTorque torque adapter.

Lindskog sums up: "The speedE® screwdriver combines the highest standards of quality, reliability, design, ergonomics and functionality. Many practical applications, an intensive development phase and a series of user tests have led us to a breakthrough that we are very proud of. The speedE® screwdriver can now conquer the world. He is ready for it... ".

More info www.wiha.com



BUILDERS EDUCATION BUILDERS EDUCATION



The digitalisation of the construction sector is progressing on various fields. The biometric technology and data capturing are replacing paper timesheets on larger construction sites. The manual checks on workers attendance, manual recording in timesheets and checks for expense claims is usually kept in paper form. The manual data input is time-consuming and inefficient.

The secure solution is the biometric identity. It allows the time and attendance data to be collected efficiently, free of mistake. Biometric identity solutions eliminate fraud as data is captured at the point of site entry and exit using biometric identification to help contractors record, manage and report on individuals coming to and from their sites. It allows for real-time analysis and production of reports. The worker's efficiency can be assessed quickly that to the computerised data records, available in real time. The opportunities offered by biometric time and attendance systems for construction projects are vast. It allows to eliminate errors on timesheets, reduce wage queries and monitor the number of operatives on sites on a daily basis.

Donseed's biometric identity, time and attendance solution integrates leading biometric hardware and advanced cloud-based technology and can be used to identify and minimise exposure to health

and safety risks. Once the data is captured onsite using biometric identification, it can be accessed at any time in the cloud. Donseed is trusted onsite by main contractors and specialist sub-contractors including Careys Civil Engineering, Severfield, Costain, Keltbray, Strata Homes, Blu-3 and many other leading construction companies.

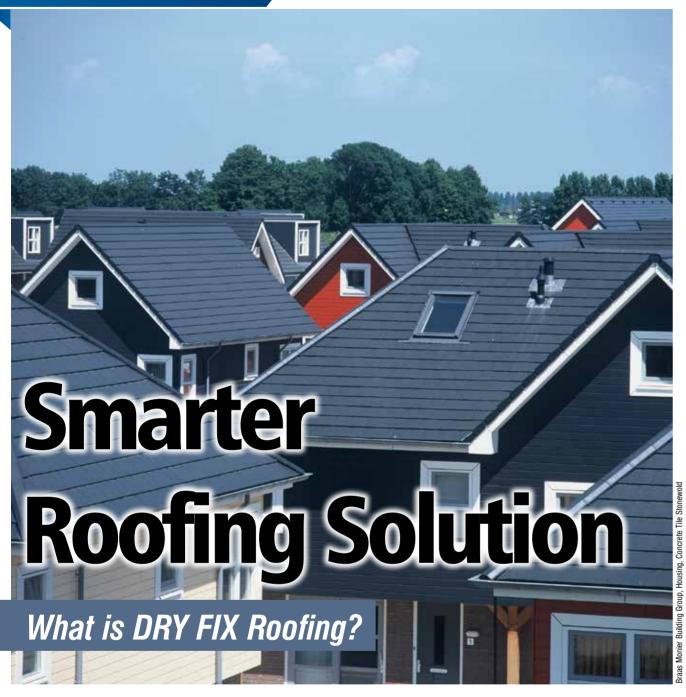
Mitchellson Formwork & Civil Engineering Ltd explain why they replaced paper timesheets with a biometric solution. "Donseed has a range of potential benefits for our business," said Liam Donoher, Company Accountant at Mitchellson. He added: "The system enables us to resolve a lot of wage queries quickly and easily as it gives us a huge amount of information; we know who is onsite and when. The financial savings are hard to calculate but I would be confident in saying that we save in excess of one hundred thousand pounds per annum by using Donseed." "It also has a nice health and safety tool. We keep individual records for each of our employees and subcontractors on the system,

which has helped our health and safety teams considerably. Where accidents have occurred onsite, the team has been able to quickly gain access to up-to-date employee details, Next of Kin contacts and other key information."

Mitchellson have found that informing clients that they use Donseed can help support bids for new projects. Kev Dendy, Marketing and Strategy Director at Donseed, said: "We often find that by using Donseed our customers have an edge in a tender process as it demonstrates to clients and main contractors that they operate efficiently, are compliant with their obligations and are a progressive business they want to work with. It's great that Mitchellson have been on board for so many years and fantastic to hear that they are still benefiting from the system in ways that weren't foreseen at the implementation stage." For more information you can contact Donseed, visit donseed.com

(Source: Donseed)





The roof is not only the ideally designed and finished house covering but mostly the complicated structure that requires various materials and technologies. All these have to be entirely compatible, so homeowners have a guarantee on a sound structure, weather tightness and adequate ventilation.

The dry fix accessories and fittings are recently becoming more popular than traditional roofing technologies. Dry Fix is the alternative to mortar bedding. Dry Fix elements are mechanically fixed for faster and more reliable installation method in comparison with traditional mortar fixing. Dry Fix Roofing is also maintenance free and elements like dry fix ridge, hip or verge provides excellent ventilation. The dry fix roofing is the weathertight system.

The Roof Tile Association has welcomed the latest dry fix standard, BS 8612: Dry-fixed Ridge, Hip and Verge Systems for Slating and Tiling that came

into effect at the end of January 2018 and sets out the minimum performance requirements for dry-fix roofing products, ensuring they are fit-for-purpose and of the highest quality. The new standard BS 8612 specifies the performance requirements and methods of test for dry-fixed ridge and hip systems connected to timber ridge/hip battens, ridge boards or hip rafters, and for dry-fixed verge systems, which are installed with ridge, hip and verge components used with slates and tiles.

The standard introduces new tests to determine the mechanical resistance to wind load and informs

how to determine the suitability of the system for the particular project depending on the design wind exposure of the site and building. The standard also introduces a new test that evaluates the ability of dry verge products to shed water off the verge without staining the gable wall, which is an issue, particularly with rendered walls. For ridge-roll products, new tests now check the ability of the rolls to fit to the profile of roof tiles without breaking or splitting. Other tests look at durability in exposure to UV light as well as the freeze-thaw and heat/humidity ageing for ridge-roll products.

So if you are looking to specify or install a dry fix system check to ensure it complies to BS 8612 and it will offer restored confidence that dry fix can continue to be a reliable, high-quality solution to providing weather tightness and durability in pitched roofs.

The tradition mortar based system has few disadvantages over the dry fix like for instance, the time consuming and labour intensive installation, expensive maintenance, more prone to failure.

Moreover, mortar or clay roofing is now being replaced by dry fix systems. Often roof repairs include broken ridge tiles or dislodge or fallen off completely. This is the reason why even for wet fix systems the rig and hip tiles should have been mechanically fixed down as an additional safety measure.

#### Interlocking dry fix verge system

It allows the system to be fitted without mortar, efficiently and cleanly also during adverse weather conditions. This system is fixed with nails into the roof structure. Verge systems are compatible with a wide range of roof coverings. Usually, units are manufactured from PVC material or polypropylene and suit both new build roofs and refurbishments. All elements are supplied with specially designated fixing screws. The individual verge units cap the end of each course of tiles to provide an unobtrusive, weatherproof cover while preserving the 'stepped' appearance of the roof tiles. The ridge end caps offer neat finish to the end of roll-out dry fix ridge system. There are also eaves closer units available,

which are the foundation of the system onto which the first verge unit is attached. The closure units can be nailed into a mounted verge timber or end of the fascia. Another element is the fixing clip that provides a mounting point for the first verge unit at the eaves and along the length verge. It is used as the additional fixing points along the length verge. There are also literal verge units to allow for continuous verge system. Verge union units and end closers are used for a neat finish.

The NHBC advices contractors on following the manufacturer's fixing instructions to ensure the dry fix systems and tiles are compatible. The NHBC recommends that the dry verge system should either:

- Be positioned off the wall (e.g. tile batten overhang)
- Have an integral design feature (e.g. nibs) that keeps the verge unit away from the wall.
- Have an integral design feature (e.g. drainage channels) that diverts water away from the wall.





In this article, we will explain why it is worth to use a tile levelling system for your tiling project. The most crucial factor in tiling is to get the finished floor correctly levelled. For both safety and precision, it is recommended to use the tile levelling system. A handy kit comes with all you need, but if you decide to choose only particular spacers, clips, pliers or wedges all can be bought separately. It might be the investment for the one-off project depending on the size of the area to tile, but for the professional tiler it is a must have set. Tile levelling system ensures all tiling is right from the start and uneven floors are no longer a problem.

Marten is a Polish company that manufacture the accessories for ceramic tiles. The high quality of their products makes Marten the leader on the market of fasteners for the construction industry for both commercial and residential projects. Marten is one of the largest manufacturers of fasteners and tiling accessories in Europe. Ceramic tiles constitute one of the most popular methods of finishing walls and floors. Typically used in bathrooms and kitchens

and increasingly popular in other rooms. Thanks to Marten's products, it is possible to correctly and efficiently layout tiles.

The good quality tiling accessories ensure fast and easy assembly of tiles on both walls and floors. The levelling system consists of various accessories what significantly reduce the time of tiling, provides perfect joints and links due to the variety of sizes available. All items can be bought separately depend-

ing on the needs what allows for universal application options.

Achieving a perfectly tiled floor is not a problem if there is a good quality system for floor levelling. This is the revolution in the tiling industry. These systems consist of the spacer that locks in below the tile and the wedge that slides into the top securing tiles underneath. This system improves the quality of tilework and reduces the time of application. It interlocks tiles and prevents them from moving. The finished floor is lippage-free as the system adjust the height of the tiles and holds their edges during the adhesive's curing process. The removal is easy thanks to specially designed break off points. This system is ideal for all tiles format and styles including large-format rectified porcelain, thin porcelain tile, marble and stone.

Tile crosses allow for precise joints and links between tiles. Tile crosses varied and a tiler depending on the needs can choose: standard tile crosses, tile crosses with grip, tile crosses type, tile wedges. Very handy plastic japan spatulas are useful tools for adhesive or grout application. In the offer there are PCV trowel with four kinds of teeth, PCV trowel with two types of teeth, Trapezoidal plastic spatulas. For creating tiled openings, there are tile holders with magnets available which are the functional solutions due to high adhesiveness to steel components.

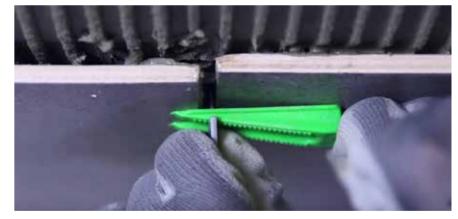
Spinning clips are one of the newest innovations when it comes to laying level tiles, and these are the alternative to the wedge and pin system used. The spinning clip is placed at each corner of an individual tile to keep tiles levelled. These have to be used with an impact driver or drill. They require no force input, and there's no chance of uneven grouting when they're removed.

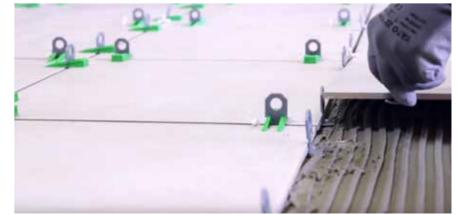
#### Step by step instructions on using the tile levelling system

- A general rule for using the levelling system is to have enough wedges and pins for the area to tile. Using four pieces per tile is necessary. Spinning clips allows for using just one spin per tile. Usually smaller systems are better for smaller sizes of tiles while larger systems are for large tiles.
- Using wedges system requires placing the clips along each edge of the tile. For smaller system on larger tile, it is necessary to insert them along the edges while larger systems can be used in the middle of the tiles. However, larger systems might require additional tools.
- 3. When the clip is surrounded, the wedge has to be slid underneath the open portion of the clip. Then pilers will keep all that together. Another step is to apply grout leaving the wedges in place for the required time. The last step requires to take out the wedges and kick out the top portions. These should break beneath the grout if it is sufficiently dried. These ensure the correctly levelled floor with virtually no hint of using a levelling system.
- 4. In case of using spinners it is necessary to place the tile as usual and the spinners at each corner. In the next step spin them down with a drill or impact driver and the correct sized bit. The flat underpinning and the spinning "shield" will allow getting a quick and level fit with the pull of a trigger. After the grout has dried out, remove the top of the spindle with a drill or by hand. These are quick and easy to use. The general advice is not to over-tight to avoid breaking the tile.



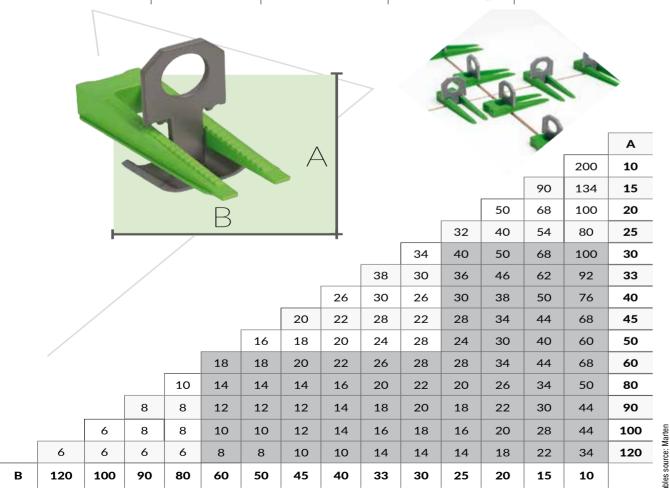






#### **TILE LEVEL SYSTEM - USAGE QUANTITIES**

Art. No	h‡ 🦳	(2)		
M-MLS-001-B	4-8 mm	50 + 50 🙎	-	15
M-MLS-002-B	4-8 mm	100	-	15
M-MLS-001	7-15 mm	50 + 50 🙎	-	15
M-MLS-002	7-15 mm	100 🙎	-	15
M-MLS-003	all	100	-	15
M-MLS-001-W-B	4-8 mm	-	100 + 300 🖁	48
M-MLS-002-W-B	4-8 mm	-	400	48
M-MLS-001-W	7-15 mm	-	100 + 300 🖁	48
M-MLS-002-W	7-15 mm	-	400 🙎	48





CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGIES CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGIES



#### Planning the area for tiling

The necessary step before getting to the tiling is to plan the optimal tiles layout on a given surface. To achieve the harmony it is best to lay tiles symmetrically. To get evenly tiled walls, it is required to plan a vertical line that runs in the middle of the surface. This line indicates where to start tiling. Elements cut on both sides should be larger than half the width of the tile.

In the case of walls, corners, posts etc. it is always recommended to start tiling with the entire tile, leaving any possible tiles cuts at internal angles. If the two vertical surfaces are in different heights, it is advised to layout whole tiles first at the bottom of the wall and finish also with the whole tile.

After marking the height, we start from the top with the entire tile - the cut tile will be in the lowest row. In places for a radiator, we divide the wall surface so that the cut tile is in the middle. Eventually, the elements are cut to the same width and placed on both sides of the wall.

For floor tiling, we also use the axis - it should run parallel to the longer wall. From the designated line we start laying with a joint or from the inside of the entire tile. In the passages leading to adjacent rooms, the arrangement of tiles on the floor should



take into account the regular course of joints. It is recommended to lay cut tiles under the door opening.

#### Preparing the tiles

Once the layout for tiles has been done, we can proceed with cutting required tiles according to dimensions needed. The tile cutter has to be adjust to the desired size, and then tile can be cut by lightly

pressing it and marking the edge of the cut. The cut elements should always be at least half the size of the tile. We lay the tile along the marked line and press the lever or use pliers to break the material. The side cut has to be measured and marked, and then cut with an angle grinder. Possible holes, eg for valve connections, are cut out with a grinder with a round diamond pad.

In the case of very hard ceramic tiles, one should give up the cutter, mark the cutting line and then, carefully tapping the other side of the tile with the hammer along the designated line, remove the unnecessary fragment. Sharp edges should be sanded with a diamond pad or grinder.

#### Laying tiles on the wall

It is necessary to choose the appropriate tiles adhesive. To do so we need to take into account factors like the type of tile - its format, colour, degree of deformability, as well as the conditions on the site and the investor's expectations. Likewise, environmental issues such as low emissions of volatile substances may also be a significant criterion. Contractors needs products that offer not only quality but also the fast application. There are various types of adhesives available on the market. We highly recommend the gel adhesive technology offered by Atlas Geoflex products. It allows the tiles to be fixed either on thin or thick layer of adhesive but also it can level the uneven surfaces. This significantly reduces the duration of tiling works. More about gel adhesive technology can be found in IBB Builder March 2018 edition https://view.publitas.com/ ibb-builders-merchants/ibbbuilder mar 2018/

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It is recommended to follow the manufacturer's advice on the adhesive usage, but the general rule is to mix mechanically the adhesive with the clean water until a homogeneous, lump-free consistency is obtained. Then leave for 3-5 minutes and mix again.

The finishing strip is set at the required height as the top edge of the tiled wall. The smooth side of the trowel, pressing strongly against the substrate, we apply a thin layer of adhesive contact, and then we make a comb layer with a trowel. We put the tile on the newly spreaded comb layer, move slightly diagonally and return to the final position. The next tile is applied to the edge of the previous one, we press and move, we return to the final position. In this way, we eliminate the accumulation of adhesive in the joint.

#### Laying tiles on the floor

Specialists recommend applying the adhesive layer with comb trowel - both on the tile and on the floor surface. Apply adhesive to the tile, place it at the required area and press gently. In the corners, insert the tiles under the wall tiles. Check if tiles are levelled with a spirit level, and remove any excess

of adhesive regularly. In order to obtain an even surface when laying the mosaic, tiles should be pressed with a rubber pack, keeping in mind the required angles in the shower corner.



Designers' creativity in arranging bathrooms and wet rooms is wide thanks to the broad range of tiles and sanitary units available on the market. One of the noticeable trends in recent years are freestanding bath tubes, while in smaller rooms, spacesaving solutions are gaining popularity. In order to integrate a bath tube in the walls covered with tiles it is necessary to build the construction on which tiles can be placed. It can be made of cellular concrete blocks, alternatively you can easily use timber joists and boards. Cut the boards to the required size and fix them together with screws or nails.

Depending on the absorbency of the boards used, a suitable primer should be used before we proceed with tiling. In the next step apply the adhesive both at the tile as well as to the board surface and at the tangent edges of the boards. Place the tile and control its position with a spirit level, remove excess adhesive with a trowel or sponge. When tiles are glued properly it is time for grouting.



CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGIES CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGIES



Classy large format tiles are one of the most popular trends for interior decoration. Large format tiles varied in size (over 600mm) than the most standard wall and floor tiles, which are 300 mm x 300 mm. By using large format tiles, sizes such as 24"x 24" and larger, your home or office will be instantly transformed into a spacious and stylish environment.

Tiling large format tiles are a real test for skilled or even for the most experienced tilers. The specific approach to installing large format tiles has to be applied due to their size, proportionally small grout widths, or physical properties. Laying large format tiles requires particular precision and diligence on

the part of the contractor. There are stricter rules on substrate preparation, and higher accuracy is needed than for standard ceramic tiles.

The particular requirements for large format tiles start at the substrate preparation stage. In the first step ensure a perfectly flat surface. According to

British Standards BS 5385, the wall or floor must be perfectly level, with no defects. Otherwise, the imperfect surface will result in insufficient adhesion of the adhesive and - as a consequence - uneven floor, cracking of the tiles, particularly in areas exposed to heavy loads during everyday use. The substrate should have no cracks, should be well cured and clean. The uneven floor is called lippage.

It is necessary to correctly install the waterproofing layer, which will ensure the trouble-free floor for many years, and in the event of flooding, minimise its consequences and prevent unnecessary costs. Waterproofing ensures there will be no development of damp in wet rooms. Moreover, for large format tiles, it is recommended to use the highly flexible adhesive. Here, we can advise Geoflex gel adhesives. The adhesive intended for this type of tiles has to feature the increased adhesion and high deformation capacity. Such parameters will prevent any cracking.

With larger format tiles it is advised not to use the floating or buttering adhesive application method but the double-buttering technique. Any adhesive should be applied to the substrate and combed with a notched trowel. Moreover, a thin layer of adhesive should be spread over the back of the tile with the trowel's flat side. This method of adhesive application not only provides full adhesion

but minimises the risk of cracking during everyday use due to even distribution of load stresses.

The jointless joining of tiles is becoming more common as it gives the effect of a smooth surface. It can be found in a minimalist, modern interiors. In the case of large format tiles, the grout lines have to be at least of 3mm to allow the floor to expand and contract without cracking. Grout lines are particularly important for larger tiles as they reduce the rigidity of tiling. The floor will "work" due to a change in temperatures caused for example by underfloor heating what is called the thermal expansion. Moreover, the hygrometric shrinkage can occur. To avoid cracking it is also recommended to use the flexible grout for finishing larger format tiles. Also, the distribution joints must be created every 25m2 for interiors.

The cutting of large format tiles is a challenge for every tiler - both due to the length of the tile, which can reach up to 3 meters, and a small thickness ranging between 3mm to 12mm. There are tile cutters designated for large-size tiles. These must feature more substantial cutting and breaking forces, and more significant strength. Also, due to the considerable disproportion between the thicknesses of tiles, such tiles cutters should have the highly precise blade to avoid unwanted cracking of tiles or other mechanical damage. Depending on the needs we can choose electric or manual tile cutters

Handling the large format tiles requires lots of care. It is advised to carry and install them with runners and frames with suction cups to limit any twisting or bending. The large format tiles can be precisely cut with a handheld cutter. The key is to find a cutter with guides long enough to ensure a reliable and stable cut.



#### AVAL GEOFLEX ULTRA £16.45 net\*

\*price for registered custom

The blade has to run from the very edge, preferably with a single, determined and smooth motion. Then using the tile snips, squeeze the tile at both ends of the incision, beginning with the careful and precise breaking of the material. It is recommended to place the cutter at the edge or on the joist. Then the force of gravity and the force of breaking will cause a rapid and precise cracking of the tile precisely on the designated line.







## IBB Polonia London

#### make it through to the semi-finals of English Volleyball Championship.

The final match of the regular season took place with second placed IBB Polonia London taking on bottom of the table London Lvnx. Both teams had different objectives for the match: IBB Polonia needed three points to ensure a home advantage in the semi finals of the play offs: Lynx were playing for pride and a final goodbye to the Super 8 division.

In their previous match, a loss had resulted in to leave the top division with a memorable perfortheir demotion to the National Division 1 next seato be simple; a guick 3 set match and then a celebraconclusion by any means.

"Playing Lynx, you have to expect the unexpected. Our games are always emotional against them. lent serving and attacking from Dziwierek. Shortly

mance. It was also a Chance for their main players son, but they were determined to sign off with a to show what they are capable of: I'm certain Marcin bang. It seemed as though, the outcome was going Konpa and Sonny Chaney won't find it a problem with finding a new club after their performance tion! Volleyball, however is a strange world governed against us, be it in England or Europe. Chaney by its own laws: the spectators in the sports hall and played already two seasons in Belgium and the sitting in front of their TV screens witnessed a tight 23-year-old England International really has great four set match. In the end it was IBB Polonia London personal attributes: he is tall; well-coordinated and in who emerged the victors, but it was not a foregone great shape" said Chris Hykiel IBB Polonia London Director of Volleyball.

The first set began well for the hosts, with excel-They had nothing to lose, and they really wanted afterwards, Lamb: the Lynx setter showed where the majority of his balls would be placed: in the direction of Chaney. With this duo working solidly, the and took the set by a margin of 4 points.

The second set was similar to the first, but harder at the latter stages and pushed through this seemed to spur Polonia back into action, with couraging his charges very vocally. They sprung

as though Lynx had been mortally wounded by the by one point and we needed to win strongly to-IBB Polonia London warriors.

These thoughts did not exist in the minds of the London Lynx players; they wanted to show a good fight. The set went point for point, with libero marcel Sivak. both teams fighting tooth and nail. Sometimes timated the Lynx defence, who controlled the ball score became 25-25, and then suddenly neither team looked strong enough to take it: there were took the set and the match 29-27 and 3-1.

We didn't play well, because we didn't train with the difference that it was Lynx who worked well. All week we seemed to be lacking rhythm. We have an excellent team atmosphere, but before a sleepy looking Polonia. It was one set all, and this match, we lost focus a little. We played on Sunday, which took us out of our normal routine. certain that the game was a one off: after a tough into action and won the third set 25-14. It seemed start to the season, we were ahead of Sheffield Sheffield and Wessex guarter final.

day to keep our second place. Now we wait for the victors between positions 3 and 6 in the Super 8 league table. We will play one of those teams in that they would not leave the division without the semi-finals" said the experienced IBB Polonia

"The difference on the court was the setter Polonia looked to win a point cheaply, but underes- Bartosz Kisielewicz. For the whole match, his contribution allowed strong attacking against a single and pounded it back at Polonia with interest. The blocker. I'm sure this was the main difference between the two teams. I love the positive emotions shown on court by Bartosz. That's the reason why points being shared between both teams. During the a series of serving errors and hitting mistakes from I nominated him as MVP today" said Yaro Kowalcthird phase of the set, IBB Polonia regained control both sides of the net. In the end Polonia London zyk representative of Top Renovations that proudly displayed their giant court sticker during the game.

The Easter break is around the corner for the Londoners, a chance to relax with loved ones and enjoy a little time off the court. 14th April in Kettering will be the next encounter against Team Northumbria in the Cup Final. The title has been won a large margin opening up between the two teams. I'm not pleased at all with my own contribution to and retained over the last two years by IBB Polonia In the time outs Coach Graban could be seen enthe 21/22 April in London against the winners of



IBR

## BUSINESS'OF SPORT

### **Building a volleyball club brand in England**

IBB Polonia London
Volleyball Club are building
their commerciality as they
chase their ultimate dream
of being a professional club.
Here Volleyball England's
Michael Hallam finds out
more about IBB Polonia's
incredible journey.

"I want to be a professional club within 5 years." Bartek Luszcz's vision for IBB Polonia London is bold. "At the latest," says Bartek, the chairman of the club, to underline just how serious he is. "I want to have 20 professional players and team members on the books."

With no professional volleyball league in England, the idea might seem farfetched but anyone who has kept a keen eye on the club will know IBB Polonia are pushing hard to take club volleyball to the next level in this country. From agreeing namingrights of the team and securing television deals, the club continues to build its commerciality that they hope will give the springboard for Polonia to reach new levels on the court too.

In the Volleyball England's 'Business of Sport' series, the National Governing Body have been exploring the commerciality of Volleyball. In their latest piece, we delve into how IBB Polonia have become England's most commercially astute club and are at the forefront of taking English volleyball to new heights. For Bartek, the journey started over

ive years ago.

"I first got involved with the club in 2012 when Polonia were in the English Cup Final," explains Bartek. "I was working as a camera man for Polsat TV at the time and was assigned to the game. I walked in and was amazed that the club had been in existence for 39 years, I'd lived in London for eight years and I'd never heard of it. There were thousands of Polish people living in London, yet the club had no fans and no money. I immediately had thoughts about making it into something bigger."

Bartek sent an email proposal to the club about getting involved and was soon invited to come on board. His first priority was to address the club's lack of profile.

"We didn't go out asking for money," says Bar-

tek. "We worked on building our image and communications. When we took over, our social media was at 300 likes and now it's almost 8,000. Sponsors want to reach a large following so we first had to create an image of the club before approaching a sponsor."

It didn't take the club long to land that first sponsorship deal, helped by the club's on court success.

"The first deal we secured was for the 2013 League Final," reveals Bartek. "It had taken a year but we had worked hard to make it happen. The sponsor was for the kit we wore in the final and we won the title. The next year we attracted another company and we've built it up step-by-step. The early commercial deals were for small amounts of compared to what we can attract now."

It sounds easy but the reality is that the Bartek and people behind the scenes at the club have

worked hard to develop this commerciality. One of the keys to their success is giving their sponsors value.

"You have to look after your sponsors," says Bartek. "Take them on your journey and keep them up to date with what you're doing. We have a newsletter email that we send out. When approaching sponsors, don't talk about today's needs. Sell them the big picture, sell them the big dream. Don't just feel you're getting money from a sponsor, get them on board with your project and they will want to renew the next year.

"Sponsors will expect publicity too. We give them coverage in the venue, on the kit in reports, on the website, and on our social media. We post on Facebook directly about the sponsor or use creative ideas to communicate sponsors' messages to our fans and beyond" The pinnacle of the commercial deals saw the club secure a naming-right sponsors for the team with builders' merchants IBB. "It was coincidence that many of our fans shopped at IBB," says Bartek. "We spoke to them and they happened to be interested in sponsoring us."

The new-found levels of coverage and commercialisation are all part of the campaign working towards turning the club professional – a campaign Polonia have named: Volleyball 2.0

"Volleyball 2.0 is about building the sports events and commercialisation," explains Bartek. "We want to improve the level of events we put on. When we played in European Competition in the Challenge Cup, we had 1,200 people buying tickets to watch – it was a sell-out at Crystal Palace. There is clearly an appetite for higher level of events and this brings a new presence for sponsors too."



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## The run of wins continues

As we reach the tail end of the Super 8 season. IBB Polonia London is becoming a force of nature. On the 3rd of March, the next three points were added to the league table. Local rivals Richmond Docklands were the next team to be brushed aside at the home venue. The match was over on four sets 3:1 (18:25: 25:18: 26:24: 25:23).

"The match was very demanding as the visitors sets the bar high, with high risk serving: they were determined to make life as difficult as possible for us. I'm sure it was a great game to watch for the fans and I'm confident that our approach to the game was good to see despite illness and injury to a large portion of the squad. Most importantly, despite the deficit in numbers, the players were able

to work together and take all three points. The substitutes contributed immensely to our win which is a good sign for the future." - said IBB Polonia London Head Coach, Piotr Graban.

A key player for the home team was Vitor de Oliveira, winner of the Top Renovations MVP award.

"I was delighted with the way that Vitor, middle blocker for IBB Polonia, played on Saturday. He entered the fight in the second stand made an immediate impact. His great serving and attack as well as very solid blocking really helped the team. At key moments, he took it upon himself to bring the team together with his inspired play and motivated the entire squad. Thanks to this the emotions in the stands reached fever pitch." - said Jaroslav Yaro Kowalczyk, the representative of Top Renovations

Despite the "Beast from the East" the faithful fans were drawn to Brentford like moths to a light. The drums were deafening and the atmosphere electric. The Official Fan Club danced by the court wearing their official club shirts and cheers the winning

team on to the very end. IBB Polonia London started retailing personalised match shirts via the internet shop. All fans can now buy their very own shirt with their name on the back. This season the shirts bear the logo of "Niepodległa", because the 100 years of independence is commemorated in 2018.

In the meantime the team from West London can now focus on training as there is a break until 25th March before they play the next Super 8 league match. The match will be in the one venue against London Lynx. The start of the match is planned for a 4pm start. Tickets are available online.

"Now we have a two week break from matches and we will focus on technical issues that need tweaking. We play the last match of the regular season in a couple of weeks and then we focus our efforts towards the play offs and National Cup. We are the current Champions and will not give up these titles easily. We are positive that we can count on our fantastic fans from England and Poland live beside our court and also online and at their television sets." - concluded Graban.



IBR SPONSOR IBB POLONIA LONDON VC activity **EVENTS** 

The growth of IBB Polonia's fanbase, which has helped them secure more commercial deals, has been remarkable. As well as more social media followers, the team's matches are well attended with 268 people on average going to watch each match in London in 2016/17 season - by far the biggest crowd for any volleyball club in England.

The club encourage supporters to come along and back the club by making each game more of a fan experience. Seating is put out for spectators, there is merchandise available and each match is played in a professional setting with LED advertising boards around the court which has a taraflex floor laid for every game.

growing either. This year saw Polonia agree a landmark deal to have their games shown on Polsat - a Polish TV channel, known for the world class coverage of volleyball - and streamed online by UniLad. That is testament to how well received this coverage

has been was that a recent match was moved to a later start time for television - common in leading sports but a revelation for volleyball.

The club has achieved so much in its development that the dream of becoming a professional team now actually looks possible. Bartek says this could be replicated by other clubs in England with the right approach and team in place.

IBB Polonia London have already achieved much more than many people would have believed was possible - on and off the court. Their foray into Europe last season was a historic moment on the court as Polonia became the first English team to compete in the CEV Challenge Cup and recorded a famous victories over FINO Kapsosvar and Draisma Apeldoorn. Domestically, they also were crowned as champions side are well placed to make an assault on the Super

"A club should start by working to prove you can of England last two seasons. This season has been do something, before approaching sponsors," he recmore challenging but after a tough start, the London ommends. "Build your website and social media, being mindful of the image you create. There is always someone who enjoys commercial side of things or who has The ultimate dream lingers large though and the marketing experience, get these people into the club to vision is to become England's first professional club. It's not just in the stands where the crowds are help. Don't rely on the players to do these things, in-"We need to have a turnover of £1m a year to be stead it is important to grow the non-playing workforce. a pro club - we're nowhere near that at the moment "Then look at other clubs and sports and see but through better events, more spectators and comwhat is working for them and see if it will work for peting regularly in European competition, we can get there," says Bartek. "It's been an amazing and we're you. Don't be afraid to try things. Get people involved and you'll be amazed at what you can achieve." still on that journey.'





# Sponsorship & Advertising Offer

The marketing and ticketing goals of the IBB Polonia VC club primarily consist of rising funds for: improving the professionalism of the team, improvement of match fixtures & coverage of television broadcast costs.

TICKET-DONATION FOR THE MATCH	
Normal	£10.00
Discounted	£5.00
Children under 16 / seniors over 60	FREE
VIP (Sponsors and invited guests)	FREE

MATCH ADVERTISING OFFER WITH TV BROADCASTING	
Electronic banner during live matches - 1 spot * 2 minutes	£500.00
Sticker next to the pitch	£1 000.00
Roll-up 2*1m	£800.00
Own banner on the stand (one piece) held by theadvertiser	£1 000.00
Individual photo with the team after the match	£500.00
Ball with player signatures	£200.00
T-shirt with player signatures	£300.00
Club mascot during the match with the advertiser's logo	£1 500.00

	OT ER TOR SPONSORS	
	Main Sponsor Gold - Large logo on the shirt, front and back (price per year)	£30 000.00
	Sponsor Silver - Medium logo on the shirt, front and back (price per year)	£20 000.00
	Sponsor Bronze - Small logo on the shirt or shorts	£10 000.00
	Sponsor of an event/match - live and broadcast on Facebook, Polsat, Unilad and later available on YouTube and IBBTV	£6 000.00
	Electronic banner for live matches - respectively: 4 spots x 2 minutes (Sponsor Gold and Match Sponsor), 3 spots x 2 minutes (Silver), 2 spots x 2 minutes (Bronze)	included in package*
	In addition to the Sponsors' offer: article, photos, company profile in IBB Builder and at www.IBBPolonia.vc	included in package*
	The right to distribute Sponsor's merchandise during the match	included in package*
	Club shirt with player signatures	included in package*
	Volleyball balls with player signatures	included in package*
	Crystal trophy with thanks for support after the season	included in package*
	Gold, Silver and Bronze Sponsor Logo on season tickets and on printed, distributed team materials	included in package*

#### NOTE TO THE SHAREHOLDERS. "PLANNED SALE PRICE" The holder of shares in IBB Polonia acquires:

- 1 0.5% discount on marketing services listed below for 1 share and up to 50% maximum; planned sales price per share for 2017 100 GBP; 2018 150 GBP; 2019 200 GBP
- 2 The right to a ticket donation at a reduced price reduced of 5 GBP or VIP
- 3 50% discount on team merchandise

\* gold, silver, bronze and match sponsor (during the sponsored match) only

For more details visit www.polonia.vc



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