

Barcellos Holdings Limited

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NEWSLETTER

Summer 2011 Edition

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Introduction

Welcome to the Summer 2011 Barcellos Holdings Newsletter.

Firstly I would like to thank all of our customers for their patience during the transfer of business to Barcellos Holdings Ltd. It has certainly been a busy few months for us. Not only did we move to new , modern premises, but we also successfully installed three large systems. How's that for multi-tasking! I won't say too much about the move here, as I know Mark is addressing this in his article.

On the laundry side, Nick and Paul have an exciting web based project on the go, and I am sure one or the other will give you more details on this in their own article, which will definitely be a must read.

A little bird (aka John) tells me that the new PSA Mechanical & Electrical Schedules 2011 will be released shortly. John & myself will then be busy transferring the changes into the computerised Global Schedule of Rates System.

Finally, I hope you find our Summer 2011 Newsletter of interest. If you have any questions regarding any of the articles, please email the author.

Happy reading !

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Exciting Web Development

So here we are again, another newsletter has rolled round, and we are already past the half way stage of the year!

So what's been happening since the last time we spoke?

Well, we have been working with quite a few of you in the last few months to help make the software work even better for you and your companies.

I am very excited about the development work we are doing with Zip Textiles, as this will take us into a whole new area of possibilities. We are in the programming stage of some Web Development work that will initially give the customer the ability to enter the soiled list via an online web page. This will then get processed and produce the standard Pack Print, Delivery Note and Bag Labels that the system already produces. Once this has been released and bedded down we hope to take the development much further to hopefully give the customer a virtual online account, allowing such things as Invoice Information, Reports etc; that they can access online. We hope this development work will be available from Autumn 2011. Please feel free to ask for any further information or give me your thoughts and ideas which I will be quite happy to talk to you about during my site visits, which I am in the process of arranging.

We have also been shown some exciting new developments on the 'Chip' front. Manufacturers are now claiming that you will be able to push through a cage full of work that has been 'Tagged', and the readers will be able to read all the tags that are in the cage. Although you may think that you have heard this all before, it finally looks like they have the reliability right, so they may not be that far away from this all being available. This could take tracking to a whole new level, they have the technology and, if they can get the pricing right, then the sky is the limit! Watch this space for further updates on the progress of this one.

As I have mentioned above, you should all be getting or maybe have already received an email to arrange a site visit, from which you will be able to have a look at what's new and whether or not any of our new developments can be of use to you and your company. If you like what you see we will be able to quote and arrange a simple upgrade of the software. I would also be very interested in ways and ideas that you think would help the system work even better for you and your company. You may think that it's something that no one else would use so I don't think Barcellos would do it, but we would take any request on board and see how we can make your ideas work. At the end of the day it's your input and idea's that continues to push us forward and keeps the software at the cutting edge of the laundry industry.

So what's been going on from a personal point of view? Well I am still waiting for this recording breaking hot summer that was forecast earlier on in the year. Not sure when it's meant to be arriving, or if it's been postponed as they heard that I had dug out my shorts and was thinking of getting my legs out (not for the faint hearted), however if anyone does come across it would they please drop me an email and let me know.

So what with Andy Murray (the Scott) crashing out of Wimbledon and the English (South African and Irish) cricketers struggling it looks like a long hard summer ahead of us, but at least it's not too long now before the new season kicks off. My beloved West Brom have an easy 6 points in the bag from our opening fixtures which see us entertain Champions Man United on Saturday 13th August (subject to Sky not wanting to move the fixture for a change), from there we travel to Runners-up Chelsea on August 20th! Not too sure who comes up with these fixtures, but I think they must like us a lot!

Looking further ahead, has anyone managed to grab any tickets for the Olympics next year, other than tickets to watch Judo, Synchronised Swimming or Women's football? Not that any of these sports are lesser in quality than any other sport, just that I have yet to come across anyone who has actually got tickets to see any of the major Track and Field events that the Olympics are all about.

Anyway, talking of looking ahead, just think only around another 23 weeks or so till Christmas! Come on Santa!

Paul Moss

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M&E 2011

The PSA Mechanical and Electrical Schedules in hardcopy were delayed because of printing problems, but have recently been released. Our copies should be arriving very soon. From then on Debbie and myself will be hard at work preparing the databases, happy days. Let us hope that there are not too many new items to type in.

We have been generating a bespoke Job Sheet for a new user, there will then be two versions of Job Sheet that we have generated. If any of you have a requirement for the system to generate a Job Sheet for an Order/Job using existing data, then please give us a ring, the quotation should not be very high.

Barcellos Holdings Ltd

DETAILS OF WORK

Client: Leicester City Council		A/C No: AS001	
Phoned In By: D W Brown	Date: 09/06/11	Time: 11:39	Priority: B
Client Job No: CV123/46		Start Date: 10/06/11	Completion By: 11/06/11
Site Address: South West Building		Site Contact: Alan Harris	Site Contact Tel No:0116 255 6722
Contractors No: LCC0173		Project Manager: Brian Turner	
Job Issued To: Joe Grewcock		Reactive: y	Priced: y
		ECO: y	
Description of Works			
Badly leaking toilet			
Visited address on 10/6/11 and there was no one to let the operative in.			
Returned on 11/6/11 and the cistern was broken, hence the leak. Replaced cistern, also a leaking tap.			

We still have quite a number of companies purchasing the Psa data from us in Excel format. I always feel that we have failed when this happens, as I do not see where Excel can possibly compete with a system written for MTCs, be it ours or anyone else's. But many people are very comfortable with Excel and I guess that is why they make that decision. I would dearly like the opportunity to try to convince them otherwise.

Increasingly users are exporting Orders to Excel and then either emailing them to the Client or their representative or using the data internally. The other option for the emailing of Orders is to send them to a pdf file and attaching it to an email. The only problem with Excel is that versions of it can react differently with our program, involving us searching the net to see if there is an easy fix. There usually is, but finding it takes a lot of time. This is often coupled with testing it in the office on the relevant version. Good old Microsoft (not).

Several months ago there were innumerable enquiries from companies who were tendering for MTCs abroad, Gibraltar, Cyprus, Afghanistan. Obviously the MOD were having them all retendered. From recent enquiries it appears that none have yet been let.

A new user needs the Nsr Access Audit schedule as well as others. This is the first time that we have supplied it.

Recent additions to the system;

You are now able to alter the printer font by clicking on Printer on the main menu and then Select Printer Options. Be careful with the option selected as many (or most) will not fit on the page. Also, the printer currently selected can be changed, obviously useful on a network.

You can alter the screen resolution by clicking on System Configuration, then Enter/Amend System Variables (Program Defaults/Actions - Part 1). At the bottom is Alter Screen Resolution, this can be changed to any valid setting on the pc. Thereafter, whenever the system is entered, the new screen resolution will be used and upon exiting the original setting will be reverted to. On the downside, when Global Schedule of Rates is running, any other program will appear with that screen resolution, but will appear with the original screen resolution when Global Schedule of Rates is exited.

On Print and Display Order details there is an additional option to allow both Brief and Long Descriptions to be listed, previously only one could be selected.

In the Quantity Used per Schedule Code report, a new option has been added. Beneath the Commence Processing Orders button is the Process Totals per Order button. This enables a report to be generated showing for each order, the total value of Building items, total M&E, Dayworks, etc. It can be displayed, printed or exported to Excel.

With the M&E schedules on PSA there are A and B rates. On Enter Order Details, if an A rate is entered and no associated B rate then a warning message is given. The system can be set so that this message does not appear. Click on System Configuration, Enter/Amend System Variables (Program Defaults/Actions - Part 1), midway down the left-hand side is the message 'Mechanical + Electrical, do not show warning message if no associated 'B' rate entered', tick if the warning message is not required.

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Moving Times! Moving Times!

Moving Us

I cannot believe that I am now into my 22nd year with the company. Looking back I have seen many changes in the company, customers, staff and the software. Now, over the last 2 months I have seen two quite major changes.

Firstly; we have had a company restructure in that Barcellos Limited transferred its business to its parent company Barcellos Holdings Ltd, in the day to day support of all our customers. We consider this to be a very positive action which went very smoothly. As it is the same team who are now working for Barcellos Holdings Limited you will not really see any change in the day to day running of things.

Secondly; I have a new view from my window as we also have now moved to modern serviced offices a couple of miles from our old location. The physical move was done over a 4 week period and we were proud in the fact that customer support was not compromised. We have been here just over a month now and are all settled in. We still have training facilities at the new location, so if you are in need of some training, on a new module or just a refresher on an existing one, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



As well as the new address we had to change our telephone and fax numbers which was a shame as I had just got the old ones off by heart. Debbie did send out letters but if you have not seen them then here is a quick reminder.

Telephone: 0116 248 9596

Fax: 0116 251 0979

Please call for our new bank details.

Our website and email addresses have remained the same.

Moving Software

As well as moving, the software products are moving forward as well, with a new web interface for linen due out by the end of August. So watch this space or call for further details.

TIS have not been sitting back either as there has been yet another block of enhancements added to the G3000 V6.0 range of software. Please give me a call and I can forward you a list of the enhancements that are relevant to your system.

Moving In

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new customers that have joined us over the last six months. I do hope that we will have a long and fruitful business relationship. We look forward to your new ideas and are poised ready to start programming in the changes.

Moving Along

To all our existing customers may I thank you for your continued custom and support. I know during the continued current financial climate we have all felt the pinch but we hope that we are doing our best to provide services at affordable prices.

Moving! Moving! Moving!

Due to all this moving I have not done much of my hobby DIY at home. I did however enjoy the challenge of project managing the move to the new site. I installed all the cat 5 cabling and telephone wiring. The furniture was all disassembled, packed into vehicles and then re-assembled at the new site. My experience with flat pack furniture did help in this area... although I do have several screws left over!

Well as it is only 5 months and 14 days until Christmas I had better get on with my present list and also some ideas for the winter newsletter.

mark@barcellos.co.uk

Managing Director
Barcellos Holdings Limited

Think Green

July... midsummer has passed and the nights are already drawing in. This must mean only one thing - Santa will be here soon (only if you're good though)!! Another unsettled "summer" of weather makes you wonder just how good the extended warmth and sun was back in early April.

As you know, we've moved premises and also now fully trade under the already established Barcellos Holdings Limited banner. Same staff, same high level of IT service*. We have a number of new customers on board covering both the software and hardware aspects of our business, so welcome to all who may be reading this edition of the newsletter.

I'll continue to push thoughts regarding data backups and the Pervasive backup agent application. To anyone new please refer to previous newsletters via our web site. Alternatively contact me and I'll be happy to email you a PDF copy.

Another area of great customer interest is on-site wireless barcode scanning. Alongside the portable off/on-site Casio device we are also able to offer an alternative wireless solution capable to hosting up to sixteen hand held scanners per host base station. It has a rechargeable battery and is even able to store scanned data whilst out of its 30 meter (approx) roaming range. This system is being happily and seamlessly operated on a number of customer premises.

In terms of other hardware please note my article title. No not just the change of Barcellos colour scheme, but energy/power consumption! Most manufacturers package their new products detailing their low carbon footprint during manufacture and also low power consumption during use. In my case this was brought to light when my electricity providers supplied me with a fancy little energy monitor. I have two PC's at home – one of around 5/6 years old and the other was built this year. The energy use statistics that the energy monitor displays is noticeably higher when the older PC is powered on. I tend to leave my newest machine in sleep mode when not in use. According to the energy monitor power use hardly increases at all when this PC is fully on! So maybe it really is time to consider just how much energy your older IT hardware is consuming? After all it's not just the environment you need to worry about – it's your pocket too!

Please feel free to contact me regarding any hardware or networking requirements you may have.

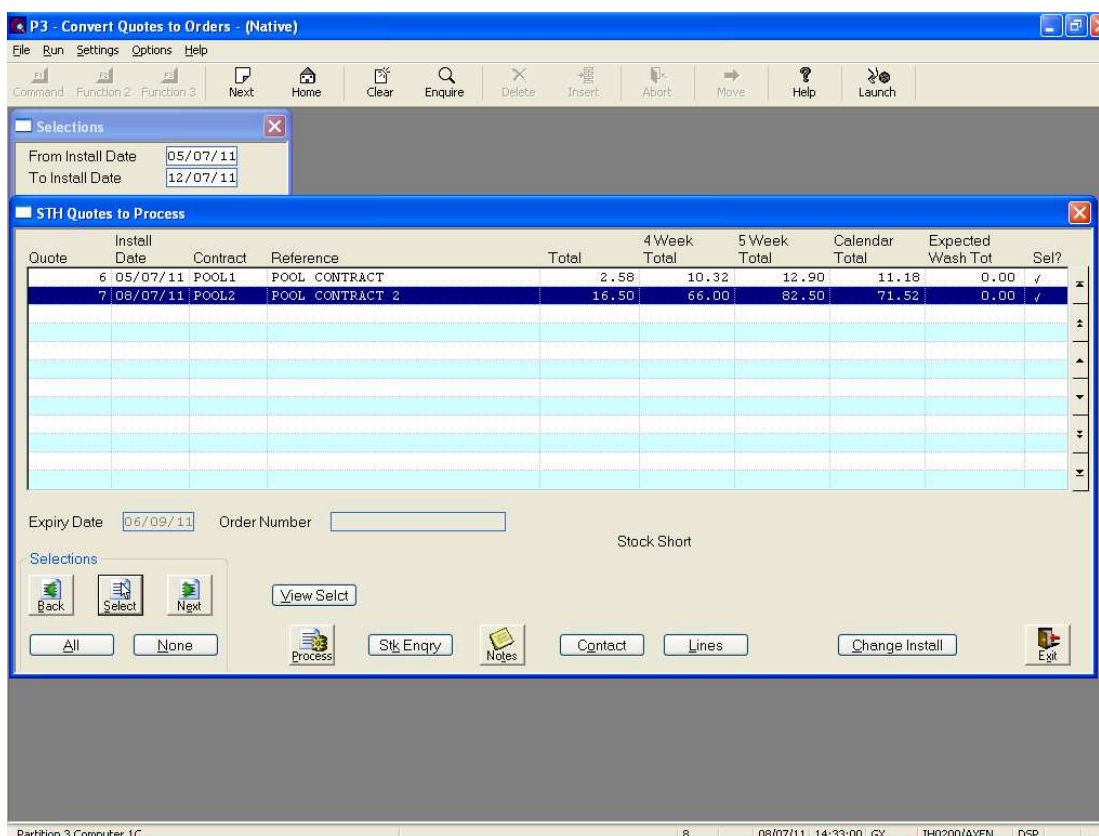
(* – This statement is made based on customer feedback/satisfaction!)

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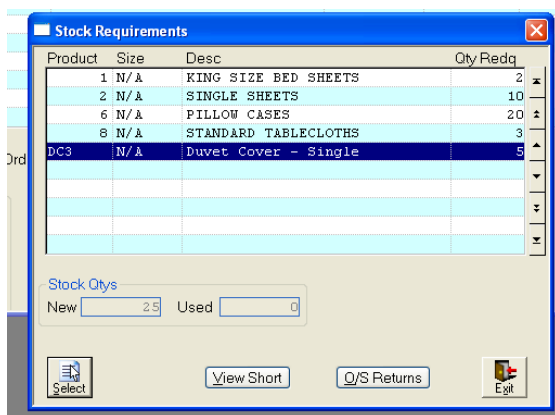
It's all about Linen

Well as promised in the last article, the short term hire module for pool linen is now nearing completion. It is currently under going vigorous testing out on site.

Here's a screen shot of the conversion to orders routine, to wet your appetite.

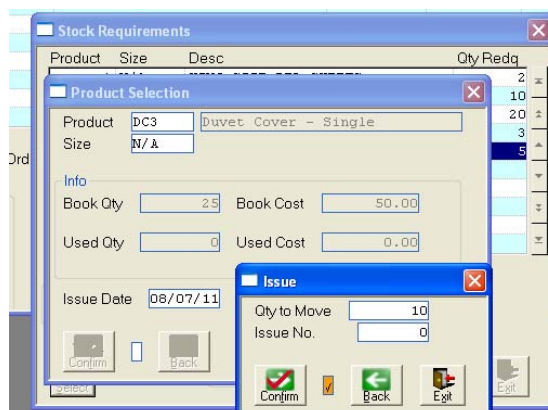


The above screen shows all short term hire quotes that are due for conversion between 05/07/11 and 12/07/11. You are able to select individual quotes to convert, and can see any quotes where you are currently short on stock. The stock enquiry will give a complete list of all stock required for the selected quotes and enable you to transfer stock to fulfil orders.

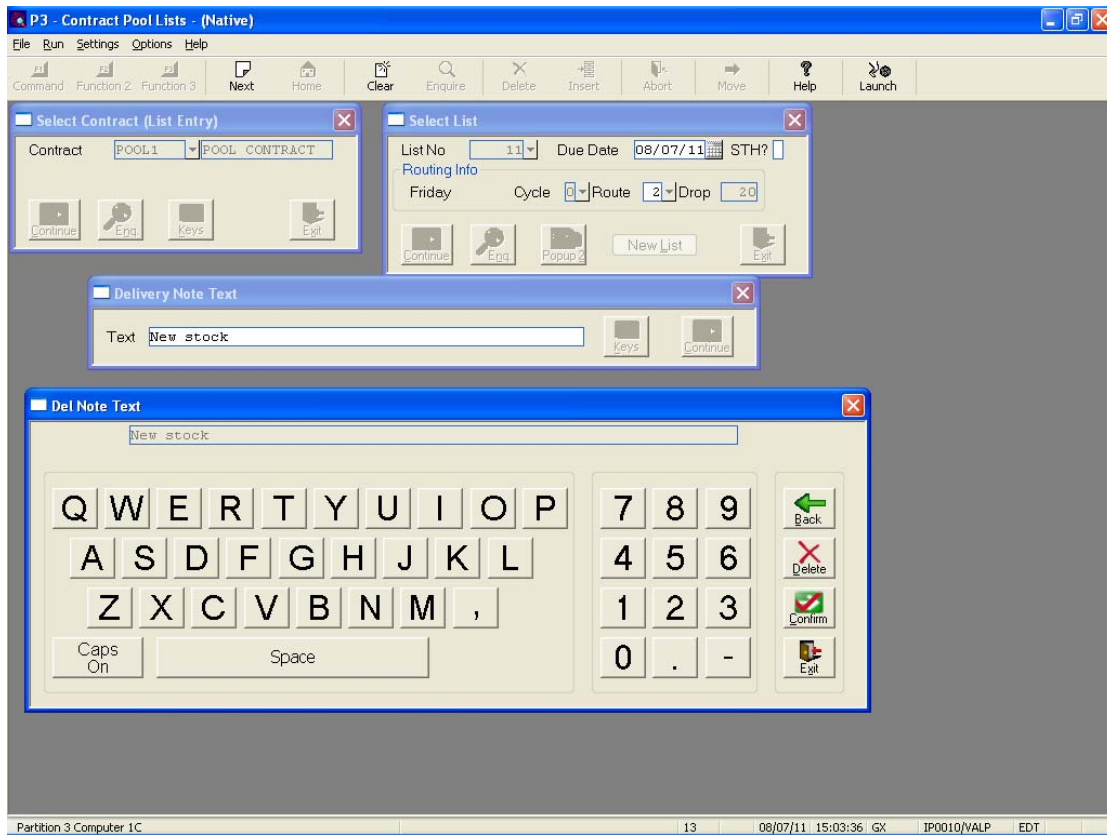


You are able to move the balances to ensure sufficient stock.

Stock screen showing 'short' duvet covers.



We have also been busy on the pool list entry routine converting it for touch screens.



Pool Linen customers can also be billed on fixed rental now as well as usage. Just tick the fixed rental option in the pool details window!

Things have been quite on the Workwear development front, but from a module that already does most things, I guess there's not much to change!

Have a great summer everyone, and I look forward to sharing at Christmas what we have been up to over the autumn period.

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Olympics Quiz

Olympics Quiz

The London Olympics are just around the corner, so here's a fun quiz to get you in the mood. Good Luck!

1. In Beijing how many days did the Olympics last?
2. Team GB won 47 medals in the Beijing Olympics; a) How many gold b) How many silver? c) How many bronze ("I didn't say it was going to be easy!")
3. In Beijing Olympics how many events were there?
4. How many times has London hosted the Olympics including London 2012?
5. How many gold medals have Iceland won in the summer or winter games?
6. What are the colours of the Olympic rings? (1 point for each correct colour)
7. If David Beckham had a choice of any Olympic event which one would he have chosen?
8. How many helpers were involved in the Beijing Olympic to the nearest 20,000?
9. Three flags were used at the closing ceremony at the Beijing Olympics, what were they?
10. How many world records were broken at the Beijing Olympics?
11. What is the name of the two London 2012 Olympic mascots called?
12. Which flag was lowered at the end of the Olympic Games in Beijing?
13. The interlock rings were first introduced 18 months after the armistice was signed? How many interlock rings are there?
a) 5 b) 6 c) 3
14. All 12 Float drivers who carried the Team GB Olympic medalists around London during the London victory parade were fined. Why?
15. The British Paralympics athletes won how many medals in Beijing and where did they finish in their table?
16. a) The Olympic motto: 'Citius Altius Fortius' – What does this mean?
b) The Paralympics motto is?
17. What part of London will the majority of the London 2012 Olympic games be held?
a) North b) South c) East d) West
18. Jamaican born Englishman Linford Christie was the oldest person to win gold in the 100m at any games. How old was he when he won gold in the 100m in Barcelona?
a) 28 b) 30 c) 32 d) 34

Answers to Quiz

Answers to Quiz

27 is the maximum number of points for this quiz

Score above 20 = Gold medal performance

Score 10 to 19 = Silver medal performance

Score below 10 = Bronze medal performance

One point for each correct answer apart from

Answer 6 = 5 Points Answer 9 = 3 Points Answers 11, 15 & 16 = 2 Points

1. 16 Days
2. Gold = 19 Silver = 13 Bronze = 15
3. 298 Events
4. 3 Times – 1908, 1948 & 2012
5. None
6. Blue, Black, Red, Yellow & Green
7. 1500m Middle Distance Running
8. Estimated at one million
9. Olympic Flag, Greek Flag & China Flag
10. 38 World Records
11. Wenlock & Mandeville
12. Olympic Flag
13. 5 Olympic Rings
14. The lorries failed to each pay the congestion charge
15. 102 Medals, Finished 2nd overall
16. a) Faster Higher Stronger b) Spirit in Motion
17. East London
18. 32 Years Old

