



# **WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER?**



Name: Rob Donald
Company: Whitehorse Contractors
Position: Managing Director

How long have you been in the industry? "15 years."

#### How did you get into it?

"As a student I worked for M J Abbott between semesters, Mike Abbott became a mentor to the extent that he sponsored me through my final year at uni - I became a competent machine operative, this has served me well throughout my career as it has helped me understand what is achievable and more to the point, what isn't."

#### What others jobs have you done?

"I worked for M J Abbott until 1996 until I was recruited by White Horse Contractors. During my time with Abbott's I progressed from a Graduate Trainee to Site Manager and ultimately a Contract Manager."

#### What do you like about your current job?

"I thrive on the daily challenges of running our company. I enjoy the camaraderie of colleagues and staff. I get a buzz out of closing deals, developing business relationships. I have a real interest in the construction, management and maintenance of sportsturf facilities."

#### What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?

"Construction, Design and Management and staff competence

certification have influenced the greatest change in both site and contract management attitude over the last 15 years. I look back at practices that were accepted as the norm and consider that, despite the bureaucracy associated with CDM, the increased awareness of health and safety issues has undoubtedly made the industry a much safer environment."

## What do you like to do in your spare time?

"I've a house full of sprogs and dogs and am kept busy both vocationally and socially. My true passion is fly fishing for salmon. Standing waist deep in a cold, Scottish river, casting a fly for the most enigmatic of fish species - an antidote to the pressures of business life."

# Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

"Waist deep in a cold, fast flowing Scottish river – would be nice!"

# Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?

"This particular industry is, by its very nature, 'friendly'. Over my 15 years I have made close friendships with architects, specifiers, suppliers, subcontractors and believe it or not, competitors!"

#### What do you consider to be your lucky number?

"I have 3 happy, healthy children – I consider that to be lucky".

## Pick a number

"11."

Rob has picked Clive Nottingham, Lloyds of Letchworth