

Welcome to the **Autumn/Winter** issue.

It's approaching the end of 2010 already and the year has absolutely flown by! We've been up to lots of exciting things recently, so we thought it was time we got another newsletter together to let you know all about it. From London to Glasgow we've been busy completing many different projects with results we're really proud of. We hope you'll be just as impressed...

B.Hive Fit Out Completed for Regus and Lynne Franks

First Choice Build Group has completed the fit out of the first 'B.Hive Women's Business Club', a concept created as a collaboration between serviced office company Regus and business icon and celebrity Lynne Franks.

The flagship club in Covent Garden has been designed to create a space where women can work and network in surroundings which are designed specifically with women in mind. It is the first B.Hive club, with more women-only centres planned for Birmingham, Bristol and Manchester.

First Choice hold a long standing relationship with Regus, having

fitted out numerous projects for the company over the past few years, and this time worked closely with sustainability design specialists Grigoriou Interiors.

The club in Southampton Street features a large visitors' and members' lounge, meeting rooms and outside space.

John Blythe, Business Manager at First Choice Build Group, said:

"The B.Hive is a very exciting and unique concept and we were absolutely delighted to have the opportunity to deliver this project for Regus."



B.HIVE



> For more pics see the back page

First Choice Approved By Kent County Council

First Choice Build Group has joined Kent County Council's Select List of Approved Contractors for building work valued from £25k to £1.1 million.

The approved status allows First Choice to tender for design & build, refurbishment and new build project, as well as partitioning and suspended ceiling installations. The approved status also covers work

for Maidstone Borough Council, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Shepway Borough Council and Medway Council.

Ian Cannings, Divisional Director of Build Group, said:

"We are delighted to be approved by Kent County Council and look forward to working with them on

future schemes.

First Choice Group are also on the approved contractors list of 14 other organisations including Regus, Prudential, T Mobile, NAG, Knight Frank, FES and Doherty Baines, as well as 5 London Borough's. They are accredited with ISO 9001, 14001, CHAS, Exor and Constructionline to the value of £2.6m.



Fit Out Completed at Iconic Waterhouse Sq Building

First Choice Build Group has completed a prestigious fit out project for Prudential at their offices in Waterhouse Square, London.

The project included within the fit out new partitioning, mechanical modifications, decorations, lighting, under floor power and data cabling, works to the communications room and new installations.

The works brought back together a team which had recently worked together on another project for Yell.com in Glasgow - Warwick Avenue Group, KJ Tait Engineers and HamburyHirdSmith Design. First Choice was also able to utilise their previous experience of working at the Waterhouse Square building, having worked on the reception area earlier in the year.

Andy Mason, Project Manager at First Choice Build Group, said:

“First Choice holds a long standing relationship with Prudential and we were delighted to once again be working in this iconic and impressive building. We have delivered a successful fit out which is fitting of the location.”



First Choice Leads the Way With Ska Rating

First Choice Build Group has become one of the first contractor's to use Ska Rating, the newly launched environmental assessment tool for office fit-outs in the UK, developed by RICS.

Under the scheme First Choice Group is able to retrospectively self-assess the environmental rating of projects on an informal basis and then use this information as a benchmark for improving the environmental performance of future projects.

Keith Wells, Commercial Manager, at First Choice, said:

"First Choice Group already operated best practice in fit-out design, so it was easy to adapt

to Ska Rating, which offers our clients a significant added value service on each project we work on. This is another forward moving initiative driven by our desire to constantly adopt improvements in our business and services."

Elina Grigoriou, Sustainability Assessor at Grigoriou Interiors, and one of the Ska Rating Development Partners, said:

"The Ska Rating good practice measures will enable First Choice Group to share information and aims on best practice with design teams and the supply chain in a transparent and collaborative way. This will positively affect the whole industry."



Latest Project Wins

Milford Hospital

First Choice have been appointed by NHS Surrey to refurbish six wards at Milford Hospital in Surrey. The £1.3m project started on 8 November and will be completed in 20 weeks.

Prudential, Chelmsford

First Choice have started a refurbishment project for Prudential at their offices in Chelmsford. The 6 week project will be completed in December.

First Choice Completes The Latest Project at 88 Wood Street

First Choice have completed a fit out at 88 Wood Street for serviced office company Regus and have now started another project in the building for Collins Stewart.

First Choice Group have completed numerous projects at the prestigious office building, with work completed for National Australia Group, Jaguar Building Service, Regus and another project for Collins Stewart.

88 Wood street is a prestigious office

development which lies in the heart of the City of London. The Richard Rogers building has won many awards over the years, including The American Institute of Architects London/UK Chapter Excellence in Design Award 2002.

Tony Pond, First Choice Group Managing Director, said:

"We are delighted to have completed another project in what is a landmark building."



Glasgow Restack Completed For Yell

First Choice has successfully completed a restack fit out project for the leading international directories company Yell.

The organisation's offices in Glasgow have been condensed into four floors from the existing six, with the work being conducted over just eight weekends. As John Blythe explains, one of the big challenges was to ensure there was no disruption to the client:

"The client needed to remain in full occupation during the works and so we conducted all work at weekends in order to ensure no disruption was caused."

Hambury Hird Smith were the architects, Tates the M&E engineers and Warwick Avenue the quantity surveyor—the same team as the very successful Waterhouse Square project.

More pics from the B.Hive!



First Choice Raise £593 For Macmillan Cancer Support

First Choice Group raised £593 for Macmillan Cancer Support by holding a charity coffee morning in September.

The event, which was held at First Choice Group's headquarters in Orpington, Kent, was part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning 2010 event which at time of going to press had raised a total of £7,632,673 for the cancer charity.

Attendees were encouraged to bring their

own cakes and biscuits to sell for the charity, and they certainly went down a treat with all who attended!

The event was organised by John Blythe:

"Everyone who came had a great morning and I'm delighted with the amount of money we raised, beating last years total of £376. Thank you to everyone for giving so generously and making the event a huge success."



Get in touch

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Health & Safety Record Remains Unblemished

First choice Build Group are pleased to report that there have been no accidents during the last 12 months, continuing First Choice Group's clean health & safety record.

Ian Cannings, Divisional Director, said:

"Health and safety is very important to us and we are extremely proud of our unblemished record."

