

September 2011 Lunch

The weather this month was for once fairly benign allowing this month's guests the opportunity to enjoy pre-lunch drinks out on the balcony of the Babylon restaurant in Kensington whilst wistfully staring at Bill, Ben, Splosh and Pecks, their four resident flamingos. As always we had a lively group happy to share their opinions and engage in robust discussion.

Much of this month's conversation centred around which companies were no longer with us, and to consider the reasons for their demise? The general consensus being poor management with companies being insufficiently financed, thus resulting in taking the risky step of buying in work and thus delaying the inevitable collapse. This led on to the discussion about why a client would knowingly opt for a price they know to be too low, with the potential for business failure part way through the project. Whilst there is no clear answer to this, we all felt that many organisations have little understanding of how complex modern construction is, as they fail to see the significant advantages of spending that little bit more.



Jane Wagner

There are fortunately still enough enlightened patrons to keep us all gainfully employed and should one have joined us for lunch they would have been in a good position to engage almost a complete project team from the assembled cast. Jane Wagner has been at the forefront of project management for many years, particularly with Grosvenor Estates and now with her own practise.

Andrew Neary of Bond Davidson has been providing professional services to premiere clients using his extensive experience to point them in the right direction and achieve real value for money.



Andrew Neary



Mark Hudson

The architectural practise of Christopher Smallwood needs little introduction, and so Mark Hudson would be a fine choice to provide the design for our 'client'.

Having resolved the professional team, the 'client' would be hard pressed to find a more suitable contractor with an enviable reputation for quality and delivery than Walter Lilly Limited, represented by Andrew Postlethwaite.

Whilst today's lunch could not provide a representative from all the specialist trades, we could include a home automation contractor namely David Hughes, Weldon's as providers of timber floors and of course, ourselves to



Paddy Turner

design, manufacture and install the bespoke joinery. I'm sure that if a room existed that was large enough to accommodate all our previous guests, we could more than ably complete the task



David Hughes

Finally, Jasper Weldon was unable to be with us this month as he is off on an extended break to the far-flung corners of the world, so it gave us a chance to chat to his two co-owners Paddy and Jonathan who filled his formidable shoes.