

# Fox Evans

Chartered Accountants

# News

Autumn 2007

## What's New at

**Fox Evans**  
Chartered Accountants

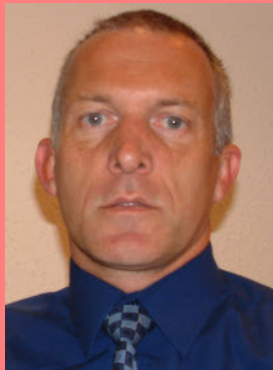
Well, where to start - it has been a busy few months at Fox Evans, with the arrival of three new members of staff... and another Fox Evans baby!

Dave McCabe is back with Fox Evans after 12 years - some long-standing clients may remember him!

There's a bit about him on page 3, and what he'll be doing now he's back. His focus will be on helping businesses who need extra financial muscle - either permanently or occasionally - but who can't afford to employ a financial director.

We also have a new face in the audit department, where Darren Owen has joined the team as audit manager. And last, but not least, Deane Randall has joined the payroll and bookkeeping team, due to rapid expansion in this area! So welcome Dave, Darren and Dean - and before you ask the answer is No: our recruitment policy doesn't specify that first names must begin with a D!

We also welcome Jo Snow's new baby Millie Mae, who was born in August. Unfortunately for us, after her maternity leave Jo is unlikely to be coming back to Fox Evans as she is hoping to emigrate to Perth in the New Year. We wish her family all the best, and we are sure our clients will miss her as much as we will. Lastly, congratulations to Graham Lindsay, who has become a fully qualified Chartered Accountant.



(Top to bottom) Dave McCabe, who returns to us after gallivanting around various other companies for 12 years Darren Owen, and Deane Randall are also helping us expand the range of services we offer.

## Sign-up to our e-news service!

So summer is over, and we hope all our clients managed to get away from the weather here and track down some sun! We've had a busy few months - as our What's New section shows!

Inside this newsletter we cover some topical issues, including the conclusion to the long-running Arctic Systems case which saw the company win against HMRC.

We've also given you some top tips to help your business go green.

Don't forget - if you want to receive monthly updates from us via email then be sure to either register on our website [www.foxevans.co.uk](http://www.foxevans.co.uk) or let Alison Hewitt know your email address and we'll add you onto our database. We can promise that your email address will not be passed on to third parties, and it will only be used to send you monthly new bulletins, tax updates, and other exciting information. We've included a copy of August's e-news inside this newsletter to whet your appetite.

### CALLING ALL COVENTRY CITY FANS

"We are top of the league . . ." With The Championship almost in the bag for Coventry and promotion secured (*Surely a bit premature -Ed.*) we remind you that we have two Premier Club tickets to give away to any fan who would like to see a home game. If there is a game you fancy seeing please give Jon Higgitt a call.

### PAYROLL EMAIL ADDRESS

Just a reminder to our clients who use our payroll service - the department has a dedicated email address - [payroll@foxevans.co.uk](mailto:payroll@foxevans.co.uk) - which distributes automatically to all payroll staff.

Please use this address rather than email an individual staff member.

## Don't forget!

We need your tax information!

If you still haven't brought in your personal tax and business records for 2006/7 please let us have these ASAP to avoid a rush prior to the filing deadline.

# Going green can save you money, as well as the world!

**D**id you know? Lighting an office overnight wastes enough energy to heat water for 1000 cups of tea! And leaving a photocopier on for the same time uses enough energy to produce over 1500 copies. Leaving a PC monitor on all night wastes enough energy to microwave six dinners!

Well, that's according to the Government, anyway. We don't know . . . but what we do recognise is that "going green" is the current hot topic of the day for businesses and at home. Small firms may worry that the cost of implementing the changes may outweigh any potential benefits, but in actual fact going green can save companies money.

Listed below are some 'top tips' to help your company reduce its environmental impact that shouldn't (as the cliché goes) cost the earth:



## Save Paper

- encourage double sided printing - most modern printers have a duplex print facility;
- implement a 'think before you print' policy especially on emails with long signatures which don't need printing out;
- re-use scrap paper for note making;

## Reduce Water Usage

- fit displacement device in toilets to reduce water used by each flush
- only put the water you need in the kettle when you boil it

Go green and help save the polar bears . . . says the Government. Fortunately going green can also save money, as well as being good practice in the Corporate and Social Responsibility (CSR) stakes.

## Save Electricity

- turn lights off when not needed
- make the most of natural light by opening blinds and ensuring window areas are kept clear
- turn off all computer monitors and printers at night and over weekends, don't leave them on standby
- unplug mobile phone chargers (or turn them off at the plug) when they are not in use

- change standard light bulbs for energy saving/energy efficient ones
- turn the heating thermostat down by 1 degree, and buy a bobble hat if you're cold. Only joking.

For more information on this subject please visit [www.carbontrust.co.uk](http://www.carbontrust.co.uk). If we all do our bit then we can all make a difference.

## HMRC fails to thaw Arctic's case

**I**t's over and The Revenue lost! The long running saga of Geoff and Diana Jones and their company, Arctic Systems Limited, is finally over, and small businesses can breathe a sigh of relief . . . for now.

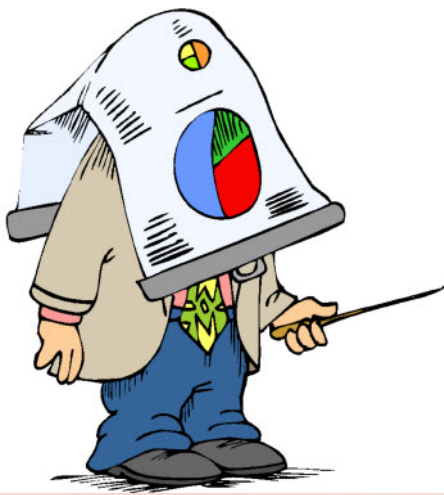
Just in case you need a reminder, the case concerned a company owned by the Jones', where dividends were paid by the company to Mrs Jones who was not a higher rate taxpayer.

HMRC said that her "income" should be shown on her husband's self assessment return and taxed as his income at a higher rate of tax. Arctic disagreed . . . and the case has been going from court to court ever since.

Finally the case went to the House of Lords where the final judgment delivered a resounding victory for Mr and Mrs Jones. The Lords unanimously agreeing that HMRC's appeal against the previous judgment should be dismissed.

If the case had gone in favour of HMRC this may have resulted in many husband and wife businesses being liable to additional tax charges going back up to six years.

That the Revenue lost is therefore good news, but the Government has intimated that it will introduce new legislation. We'll bring you more news when it does.



## Headless chicken? Ask Dave to help!

**A**re you running around like the proverbial headless chicken, with not enough hours in the day for money matters? Is it a case that your hand wafts vaguely in the general direction of your business' finances rather than you having your finger on the pulse? Well if that's you then Fox Evans has got the answer! "What's that then?" we hear you cry . . . "is it a bird . . . is it a plane . . ."

Well, um, neither actually! It's Dave McCabe!

"Er, who is he then?" we hear you add.

Well, we know who he is, and we know what he'll do. . . but we're not sure what to call him. Whatever someone is called who visits businesses to try and stick the head back on the chicken and financially focus those wafting fingers - well he's kinda that. We can't fit that on his business card, though - so at the moment he's just Dave. He's had more job titles than you can shake a stick at in the recent past, so doing without one for a bit won't hurt. Just Dave joined Fox Evans in 1986 and qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1989. He then took charge of many of the management account clients before taking a variety of industrial positions in 1995.

His first position was as Financial Controller to a £3m turnover manufacturing and service division of a Midlands based family resale and service business, and was involved in the sale of the division when it was taken over by a large French company in 1997.

In late 1999, he then moved on to be Financial Controller at a £9m turnover family business, while Fox Evans' Rob Anderson and Mark McLean took over the Board level finance part of Dave's former role, as well as becoming Auditors at the new Company.

After becoming Finance Director within a year, there followed four years finance and operational work, before

working on the sale of the business to a US Company in early 2004. Then there was three years working directly for the European Finance Director, as one of two European Financial Controllers linking finance to the operations of the business.

In other words, he's done a fair lot, including :

- Managing very tight cash flows
- Stock, debtors and creditors control
- Re-financing
- Significant cost reduction programs – both with overheads and purchases
- Develop practical finance and detailed operation reports
- IT and MRP system design, implementation and management
- Service call automation and control
- Detailed and customer facing work on large tenders
- Management Buy Outs and Exit Strategies
- Strategy development
- Acquisitions and integration
- Day to day business management

Just Dave's key role is to work as a quasi (his word) part time finance director / controller working from shop floor to Board level.

His appointment will help Fox Evans provide a comprehensive Business Finance Service to whatever extent is required, including developing operational and detailed financial reporting, and streamlining IT systems. To discuss how he can help you become a headed, rather than a headless chicken, and to see how your business can financially benefit too please contact him on (024) 76257317.

### File Annual Return on line to save £15

We have written previously about filing your Annual Return online with Companies House.

Well, we are pleased to tell you that we can now do this for you. Filing online costs just £15 (as compared to the usual £30 for a paper return) so it'll save you money too. Contact Alison Hewitt for more information when your return is due next.

### HMRC apologises for payment delays

HMRC has apologised to companies who are awaiting their £150 tax-free incentive payment for 2006/07. This is due where an employer, or agent, successfully filed their Employer's Annual Return form P35 and supporting employee forms P14s online. HMRC says the large numbers of people claiming payment has led to a delay and many employers may not receive cheques until December. We are claiming around 70 repayments, and as soon as we receive them we will forward them on.

# What a draining lifestyle! And that was before going into business!

Jeddah . . . Muscat . . . Oman . . . Cairo . . . with the glamour of working at the very top of the construction industry, on some of the world's most sophisticated projects for some of the world's richest people. Alternatively, Coventry and the West Midlands, and the pleasures and pain of running your own business. Which would you prefer?

Fox Evans client Phil Knight had the former. With a degree in building technology and management he could have gone right to the top with his former companies Pettifers and Costains. He was pretty high up as it was, being a contracts manager for the two companies for 23 years between them. During that time he'd worked in the middle of the desert in Oman, building a new barracks for the armoured regiment of the Sultan, and had worked in other far off, exotic venues.

But he chose the latter. The work, the lifestyle, the pressure was too draining on his family, he says.

What he wanted was to run a building business back in the Midlands, but none came-up that were right for him. An advert in *The Daily Telegraph* some 15 years ago, however, changed everything. Out went the pressure and its draining effects of high industry on one hand, but in came a different sort of pressure and drain on the other - Phil decided to take-on the DynoRod franchise for Coventry and Warwickshire.

From working over ground in glittery and glamorous locations to working largely underground in and around the Midlands. But Phil doesn't miss the difference at all.



Far left Phil Knight, far right his son Chris, plus some of the staff of PJK Contracts. They can be contacted on (024) 76251999

"It was a pretty nomadic existence before," he says.

"In Oman we had to build our own living accommodation and then sink wells before we got on with the actual job. The work in the big companies was a lot more stressful, and I always wanted to run my own business."

Since he took that momentous decision he's grown the business steadily, moving location twice to settle just off the Foleshill Road. The franchise now runs nine emergency and repair vans, has two plumbers plus a tanker, and has all the necessary technical equipment that goes with it - such as "no dig" technology and in-pipe cameras. If you've got a problem with drains then Phil and his men are the ones to turn to. He also does preventive and general plumbing work.

Turnover is growing all the time, and his son Chris is becoming more

involved in the business. There's an increasing amount of work coming the firm's way from British Gas - which now owns DynoRod - and Phil hopes that the door will open to doing more general plumbing work.

Three of the staff he began his business with are still with him, as is his accountant - John Banbrook - who helped set him up in business. Aside from general accountancy work Fox Evans does the firm's payroll every month and VAT, and generally monitors the financial side of the business.

Phil is an excellent example of many of Fox Evans clients, says John Banbrook.

"He's someone who could have got to the very peak of their career elsewhere, but chose to take a risk and run his own successful business instead."

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