



November 2009

To whom it may concern

Client Reference for Dobson Construction Ltd.

After a competitive tender process Dobson Construction were awarded the contract to build our new state of the art clubhouse and boat-store at Grimwith Reservoir on 27 October 2008. Right from the start, Richard Allen and Nick Dobson impressed us. At the value engineering meeting they took our request for cost savings seriously and fully understood that we were operating with a finite budget. By the time of the pre-contract meeting on 30 October Gary Dean (site foreman) and Adam Bowles (contract administrator) were champing at the bit to get started. The site was established on 10 November and the first excavations took place on 12 November.

We all knew that it would be difficult doing the heavy external construction through the winter, and that Grimwith is a bit exposed, but I don't think any of us expected the harsh winter that we got. There were gale force winds that blew away anything that wasn't tied down – even the site perimeter fencing blew away more than once. There was torrential rain, there were deep frosts, especially when concrete screeds needed laying, and then we had more snow than we've had for many a year, so deep that it wasn't even possible to get to the site, never mind do any building work.

Throughout all this, Gary and his dedicated team soldiered on, somehow keeping cheerful, always staying professional, and keeping remarkably close to the original time schedule. I'd like to give special mention to Paul a joiner and Craig a labourer who must have pulled the short straws because they have been on site every day from start to finish – they deserve medals for bravery and perseverance!

Throughout the project, Dobsons have been a delight to work with; they shared our sense of urgency to hit important deadlines (like the cut-off date due to bird breeding), obviously have huge pride in their workmanship and a desire to do the best possible job. Gary in particular bore the brunt of the myriad of practical problems that a project like this throws up. I almost started to look forward to those early morning phone calls from Gary “can you pop up to the site, we've got a bit of a problem” .. but instead of leaving me to sort it out, Gary usually had a couple of practical suggestions which would achieve what we needed as well if not better than the original plan.

The project was completed under budget and within a few weeks of the original estimate, despite our numerous additions. The end result is a testament to Dobson's professionalism and experience – a building that works perfectly, delights everyone that visits it and is very environment friendly. I would not hesitate to give Dobson's my highest recommendation.

Jonathan Lister
Commodore