

In Brief Newsletter

The Way Forward...

Steve Trynka was appointed Senior Partner at the firm in May 2007.

Steve has been a stalwart of Rollits having joined the firm as an Articled Clerk in 1976 after studying law at Birmingham University and the College of Law in Guildford. He qualified in 1978 and became a partner in the firm in 1982.

Steve became the firm's Managing Partner in 1996, a position which he held for ten years until stepping down in 2006.

Steve says: "I am extremely confident that Rollits will continue to build upon its reputation for expertise, reliability,



Steve Trynka: Expertise and quality

accessibility and quality and entrench our role as a major player in the region."

Backing Hull, backing business

As a key employer in Hull, Rollits is pleased to support the city of its birth by joining the Hull Bondholder scheme to help shape the future of Hull.

Steve Trynka, Senior Partner, said: "Since our establishment in Hull in 1841, we have built strong relationships with a number of our clients who are based both within the city and the surrounding area. To support the continued success of our company and the future prosperity of Hull means we are keen to show our support for the city's continued development."

"We believe that the Bondholder scheme provides access to a powerful network of businesses who are dedicated to working together to raise the profile of Hull and this is certainly something that we want to be a part of."

Andy Mowbray, Business Development Manager at Hull Citybuild, commented: "We are delighted to have gained the support of Rollits, particularly as it is such a well-established and highly regarded organisation in Hull. The Bondholder scheme is designed to improve the flow and exchange of communication across the city and we are confident that Rollits will provide a valuable addition to this active business network working to promote Hull as an attractive location to do business."

"The Bondholder scheme has gained a significant level of support over the last year from both local companies and other businesses across the region and we welcome the individual skills and expertise each new member brings."

More than a law firm

As you can see from this first issue of our "In-brief" Newsletter Rollits has a new look and a new Brand. We hope you like our new logo and associated design which in future will be a common feature of all material produced by the firm.

Perhaps the most talked about aspect of our new brand has been our bold statement that we are "more than a law firm". Is this merely a bit of "advertising puff"? The answer to that is quite simple, we would not say it if we did not mean it and fully intend to live up to it.

So what do we mean by it?

Firstly, whilst being proud of our heritage (which dates back to 1841), today Rollits is and will always aim to be a dynamic business constantly evolving to meet the needs of our clients. With that aim in mind we now provide additional services well beyond those that might be expected of a law firm including, in particular: Corporate Finance; Food Business Brokerage; Specialist Tax Services and Project Management.

We intend to maintain such developments into the future.



Some of Rollits' Partners with new brand

Secondly, we do not see ourselves simply as "lawyers" but will always strive to be our clients "trusted advisor" whether that be in a commercial or personal context.

Thirdly, we see our business as being part of and fully committed to the community in which we work. In particular we have a long tradition of our lawyers being actively involved in local charities, churches, schools and even politics (from involvement in Parish Councils to standing for Parliament!).

Rollits is not therefore simply a provider of quality legal services, we are a lot more than that. For us "More than a law firm" is not a disposable "catch phrase". It is a simple statement of who we are and what we will always strive to be.

Richard Field, Managing Partner

In this issue...

Rollits cares, York Cares

Pie in the sky at Denby Dale

Q&A with Richard Field

Appointments

Charity Golf Day

Rollits cares, York Cares

Volunteers from Rollits got their hands dirty when they helped to clean up a local park close to where they work and live.

Eight staff swapped their desks and PCs for wellies and spades when they headed down to Acomb Wood in York to help out with the York Cares project.

David Watson, Partner at Rollits' York office, said: "The York Cares project is a fantastic initiative to be involved in. It gives us the opportunity to try different activities as well as giving something back to the community in which we work and hopefully making it a better place to live."

The York Cares project, which is a Business in the Community initiative, runs activities and events throughout the year. This event in particular was part of a week-long programme called 'Life Swap in the Park Week' where employees of York Cares member companies helped spruce up York's parkland.

York Cares Project Officer, Claire Gebert, said: "We really appreciate the work that Rollits are doing for the local community in York. It will be of a direct benefit to the green spaces in York and to the local people who use them."

She added: "This is just part of the good work that Rollits does to support



David Watson: Rollits cares



Team work: Rollits volunteers at Acomb Wood

York Cares. The project relies on the time and efforts of all our member companies working together to make a difference to the wider community in York."

As part of York Cares, Rollits have previously painted a local community centre, supported Christmas Sherry Parties in elderly peoples' homes and visited a school where staff talked to primary school children about careers and skills for work.

Deliciously Yorkshire rewards innovation with Rollits

Congratulations to Bradford-based Love Bites which picked up the Most Innovative Company award in the 2007 Deliciously Yorkshire Awards organised by the Regional Food Group for Yorkshire and Humber and sponsored by Rollits.

Love Bites Foods, which creates and distributes premium chilled food products, was also winner of the Most Innovative Product award.

Its innovative ranges include a locally-sourced Quorn deli range of sandwiches, salads, pizzas and the new toasted breakfast 'Love Muffin'.

A leader in the innovative 'foods to go' market, its "eco plan" has seen it launch sandwiches with environmentally safe packaging, as well as a reduced salt initiative and the world's first branded Quorn Deli range.

Rollits' Food Group Director, Julian Wild: "We are one of the few law firms in the north who have a specialist team dedicated to the food sector so it was only natural we should support the Deliciously Yorkshire Awards. Love Bites is an excellent company showing others how to grow markets through product innovation."



Award celebration for Love Bites

York office set for further expansion

Rollits has expanded its offices at Rowntree Wharf, Navigation Road as part of the firm's continued growth.

York landmark



The firm has recently finished work on a major refurbishment programme at its York offices which has significantly increased capacity at the landmark site.

Chameleon Business Interiors, based in Howden, were appointed to create a new reception area, client meeting rooms and introduce more offices in the upstairs office suite.

Rowntree Wharf, an imposing 19th century building was designed by Walter Penty and was originally known as Leatham's Mill until it was acquired by Rowntree in 1937.

Until 1967 thousands of tons of ingredients, including cocoa beans and Gum Arabic, were shipped from Hull docks right up to the landing stage and stored in the building.

Rollits have occupied their present offices in Rowntree Wharf since 1991.

Managing Partner Richard Field said: "The expansion of the York office further underscores our commitment to the city and our success as one of the leading professional advisers in the city.

"Rollits now supports many significant companies in York and North Yorkshire and it seemed fitting that we should further expand our presence in the city to reflect our growing business."

Pie in the sky at Denby Dale

Rollits advised on the recent successful £150,000 fundraising by the Denby Dale Pie Company which is expanding following several new business wins with some of the UK's largest retailers.



Janet Purcell: Plan for further growth for Denby Dale Pie Company

The company raised £150,000 from Partnership Investment Finance, a £37m fund which invests in fast-growing businesses throughout the Yorkshire region, to invest in new plant and machinery as the company continues to win new contracts for its range of traditional home-made quality pies.

Based in Denby Dale, Yorkshire's famous pie town and home to the Guinness Book of Record's Biggest Pie in the World, the pie company was set up by husband and wife team Janet and Barry Purcell six years ago.

Today it supplies a wide range of clients including the major

supermarkets and several independent retailers. Commenting on the expansion, Sales and Marketing Director Dennis Simpson said: "The Denby Dale Pie Company has enjoyed terrific growth since it was launched by Janet and Barry.

"However, in recent years demand for our top quality pies has meant that we have had to expand our production capacity and the investment by Partnership Investment Finance will enable us to grow the business further."

The company has quickly built up a reputation for great tasting frozen pies made with high-quality, locally

sourced ingredients and the Denby Dale Pie Company has worked with a major retailer to develop products for its Taste the Difference range.

Julian Wild, Director of Rollits Food Group, which advised PIF on the deal, said: "The Denby Dale Pie Company has established a strong reputation for making top-quality, traditional pies and has built an excellent customer base as a result. This latest investment of funds will allow it to consolidate its position in its market place and provide a platform for further growth."

Rollits advises NSD management on sale to ArcelorMittal

Last month Rollits advised on the successful sale of Scunthorpe-based NSD, the third largest steel distributor in the UK, to ArcelorMittal, the world's biggest steel company.

Established in 1985 NSD has grown from a turnover of £7m in its first full trading year to a turnover of more than £60m employing more than 100 staff.

NSD Managing Director Paul Hart said: "NSD is a very successful business and our decision to join the ArcelorMittal group of companies reflects the management team's commitment to our continued success.

"We were tremendously pleased at the quality of service provided by the Rollits team. They took an extremely commercial approach to the whole process, finding answers to all the problems we faced."

Rollits acted on behalf of Paul Hart and Tony Levison, the principal shareholders of NSD. The Rollits team was led by Managing Partner, Richard Field.

ArcelorMittal is the world's number one steel company, with 320,000 employees in more than 60 countries. It has led the consolidation of the world steel industry and today ranks as the only truly global steelmaker with an industrial presence in 27 countries.

Member of the Rollits team included Shona Unwin (Corporate), Nasim Sharf (Tax), Alison Barr (Property) and Mary Walker (Employment).

John Downing: Into Africa

John Downing visits six African countries again in January, as he continues to develop the Master's Programme in Community Care and HIV/AIDS at St Paul's University, Limuru, Kenya.

In 2002 John had retired as a partner in Rollits to work with his wife in Kenya. After months of intense preparation the programme was launched in June 2003.

Nearly 150 students have joined in five annual intakes. Two sets have now graduated with MA degrees of the University of Wales.

More importantly more than 50,000 people affected in some way by HIV have been helped by the students who set up 'base groups' of volunteers in their community with a wide variety of locally generated support and training.

This year it is hoped that the first group of non-Kenyan students will join the programme, from Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Kigali in Rwanda. John is in the process of securing bursaries for a maximum of 11.

More ambitiously Tearfund has asked John to carry out feasibility studies to see if there are institutions in Southern and West Africa in which the programme might be replicated.

This took him on two trips in early and late January. The first was to Zambia and South Africa. The second to Nigeria Benin and Cote d'Ivoire. He was last in Nigeria 42 years ago as a VSO student.

Rollits Two take on the Three Peaks challenge for cancer charity

Rollits lawyers Peter Mason and John Flanagan have raised over £550 for charity after tackling the Yorkshire Three Peaks.

Peter Mason, Senior Solicitor in commercial property and John Flanagan, Solicitor in company & commercial, challenged themselves to the trek last year in aid of Marie Curie Cancer.

John said: "Both Pete and I took part in the Great North Run 2006 but this is the first time we have attempted the Three Peaks Challenge. We both thoroughly enjoyed the trek and had fantastic support from our colleagues, friends and family."

The duo, who climbed the well known Three Peaks of Whenside, which stands at 736 metres high, Ingleborough (723m) and Pen-y-ghent (694m), completed the challenge in less than nine hours.

John added: "We were aiming to complete the circuit within 12 hours but even we surprised ourselves at the finishing time! Hopefully we'll try a different challenge this year and be just as successful."



Walking feat: Peter Mason and John Flanagan



Q&A with Richard Field

Rollits' Managing Partner Richard Field gets a grilling when he answers our twenty questions.

What was your first job?

Paper boy. I did not last long. I started one Christmas but the snow was so bad I decided it was not worth the effort

If not in your present job, what would you like to be?

There are two things I would love to have done. I would love to have been a producer of Natural History Programmes like Blue Planet and I

would also have loved to have been a professional golfer.

What would be your ideal day out of the office?

A round of golf with some good friends, going to watch my children play in their football or hockey teams and then dinner with my wife at a good restaurant.

Name one person you would like to have dinner with and why?

Bill Bryson. I think he has written some great books and I know he loves Yorkshire!

What was your best subject at school?

Mathematics and economics

What are your hobbies?

Natural history, Golf and keeping fit

How would you describe yourself in a person advertisement?

Keen golfer with GSOH, interested in natural history but not a fossil yet!

What's your top money saving tip?

At various stages of your career for all sorts of reasons there will be different forms of financial pressure but always try and save something.

What would you do if you won the national lottery?

Play on some of the best golf courses around the world and treat my family and friends to a few luxuries.

Which political, legal, economic or sporting event would you most like to see happen in your lifetime and why?

The Football World Cup in the UK

What is your favourite garment and why?

My jeans because they fit well and are a sign that I'm officially 'off duty'.

What was your worst mistake and why?

I try not to dwell too much on mistakes but I wish I had taken more interest in music and languages. At my school for some reason they were seen to be 'girls' subjects. However, I have just bought my children a piano so you never know...

What is your favourite time of day and why?

First thing in the morning, especially in Summer. I like to see as much of the day as I can.

What is the best thing about being in business in Yorkshire?

It has to be the people. Yorkshire is a big county and there are all sorts of different people in the different Ridings but they are all honest and straightforward. I appreciate candour.

What would you like your epitaph to be?

He was a good listener.

Appointments



Mary joins firm's Employment Group

Mary Walker has joined the firm's Employment Group as an associate.

Mary will work on all aspects of employment legislation and advise companies in corporate deals. Mary joins us from Gosschalks Solicitors, where she held a position of Partner and was also Head of the Employment Law Unit. She said: "I was delighted when Rollits asked me to join them. This is an exciting opportunity to further strengthen the current successful and highly knowledgeable team." Rollits Employment team has been recommended in the Legal 500, the most in-depth survey of the UK legal market, with Neil Maidment being praised as 'extremely personable and very responsive'.



Two new recruits in Property Group

Rollits has strengthened its Commercial Property Group with the appointment of David Hextall (pictured left) as Partner and David Prescott as Associate.

New Partner, David Hextall will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of the commercial property function including commercial and residential conveyancing, construction and development, residential and commercial tenant and landlord relationships.

David Prescott joins Rollits as an Associate to manage the residential conveyancing section and will seek to develop and progress relationships with builders and developers.



Rollits has a new partner in the firm's Company and Commercial team

Richard Frogson, left, who specialises in corporate law, will work alongside Craig Engleman and Ralph Coyle to strengthen Rollits' growing corporate presence in York.

Richard joins Rollits from Gordons, where he was a Partner in the Corporate department. He said: "I am very excited about joining the team at Rollits. It is a fantastic opportunity to work with some extremely experienced individuals and build a greater corporate presence for the firm in York."

Rollits advises Cooplands on Skeltons takeover

Rollits has helped bakers Cooplands of Scarborough acquire Hull-based Skeltons from administration in a deal which saved more than 500 jobs.

The takeover saw Cooplands, a family-owned firm, increase its estate from 43 to 77 shops and makes it the UK's fourth-largest bakery chain. The deal includes 34 of Skeltons' 43 shops as well as the Skeltons bakery in Hull, which is now set for a major investment programme.

Paul Coopland, Managing Director of Cooplands, said: "By taking over Skeltons we have saved 500 jobs, boosting our workforce to 1,100. The new business will complement Cooplands' existing bakery in Scarborough and shops around the north-east.

"We are extremely pleased to have secured this deal, helping make us the largest independent bakery chain in the north of England."

Managing Partner Richard Field said: "We worked closely with the Cooplands management team to deliver a successful takeover. The Rollits team provided corporate finance advice on the deal and legal advice on the sale process and the company's commercial property estate."

Scarborough-based Cooplands was established in 1885. Prior to the Skeltons purchase the company employed 600 people in 43 shops and 5 cafes in Yorkshire and Teesside.

Richard said: "We are delighted to be involved in this sale and purchase which secured nearly 500 jobs and provided certainty for customers and staff."

The team from Rollits was led by Richard Field and included Neil Jenneson (Corporate Finance) Nasim Sharf (Corporate) Glenn Craft and David Myers (Property), Neil Maidment (Employment) and Craig Engleman (Pensions).

Backing business with York Press Business Awards

Rollits supported the York Press Business Awards in 2007 as sponsors of the Large Business of the Year award.

As a leading commercial law firm in York we have witnessed a significant growth in the economy within our region and have seen a steady flow of deals with larger businesses coming into North Yorkshire.

York Partner Richard Frogson said: "The York Press Business Awards are now very much a feature of the region's business calendar and we are delighted to support them and the companies that have been nominated.

"We have acted on behalf of several high profile local matters including advising Scarborough Museums Trust on its funding agreement in respect of the Rotunda Museum re-development with the Heritage Lottery Fund.

"We continue to advise on the establishment of the Derwenthorpe settlement, a substantial 'new village' in partnership between Joseph Rowntree and York City Council, as well as other notable projects such as The Deep, Hull Truck Theatre and the Kingswood Development."

Regulatory Group guides clients through legal maze

Rollits' Regulatory Group aims to help guide companies through the maze of red tape that is currently entangling business.

According to a report last year by the British Chambers of Commerce, the burden of red tape now costs British business £56 billion and that figure is expected to rise further as new European legislation impacts on business.

The Regulatory Group is headed by Rollits Partners George Coyle and Chris Platts. George says: "It seems that every day, new regulatory liabilities, trading standards, Health & Safety, reporting obligations, penalties for existing liabilities, codes of practice and guidance documents are created. "This means that regulatory costs are the fastest rising burden that businesses face and it is important that companies keep abreast of their obligations."

George is an experienced advocate and commercial litigator skilled in finding commercial solutions to commercial problems, with a particular interest in the ever-increasing regulations of trade and industry. Chris Platts is a specialist health and safety lawyer and is a founder member of the Health & Safety Lawyers Association. He has extensive experience of dealing with all types of health and safety issues.

Chris says: "Regulatory risks are increasing, more prosecutions are being pressed by the regulators, and fines are dramatically on the increase. Individuals



Chris Platts and George Coyle

within organisations are also being prosecuted with charges as severe as manslaughter in some cases."

According to Rollits the main problem is that organisations who breach regulatory laws are committing criminal offences. Rollits offers a Regulatory Audit to help organisations assess any regulatory risks they may be prone to.

Undertaken by a team of experienced regulatory lawyers, the service provides companies with an understanding of their regulatory weaknesses and what measures they need to take to bring them to the standards required.

George says: "Regulation is on the increase and the consequences are more real than ever before. Companies are facing huge fines and company directors are facing potential imprisonment.

"At Rollits we can help companies respond to domestic and EU regulation but it is clear that many companies and organisations are failing to put in place a comprehensive response to managing their risks. They are putting themselves in grave danger by failing to address these problems."

Wind of change bodes well for Hull property market

While the property markets of Manchester, Newcastle, and Leeds have enjoyed terrific growth recently, Hull, by contrast, has remained rather more sedate.

The city's property market has also received a substantial amount of negative press in the national media much of it unjustified. But the Commercial Property Department at Rollits, believes a wind of change is now blowing through Hull and it has never been more ebullient.

Rollits has wide-ranging expertise in dealing with complex commercial property issues and provides practical, commercial advice and common sense solutions. It has more than 20 professionals in its commercial property team working across the region.

The firm was also one of the first legal practices in the region to have a team specialising in planning. Rollits has experience in every aspect of planning and development law and has worked on a wide range of developments across the Yorkshire region as well as Hull.

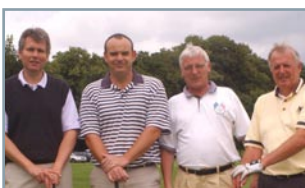
Neil Franklin, head of Property at Rollits says the ambitions of the city's development company Hull Citybuild is responsible for the city's regeneration.

He said: "At Rollits we believe Hull has reached a tipping point which will usher in a significant number of new developments in the city, especially east of the River Hull. We are particularly excited about the planned developments of the Boom and Fruit Market."

Meanwhile, Mark Dixon, a partner in Rollits' planning and development group, which has worked on a number of major developments in Hull said earlier developments have laid the commercial platform that has made developments like The Boom and the Fruit Market possible.

Charity Golf Day raises cash for charity

Our 2007 golf day at Brough Golf Club raised £4,500 for charity after 34 teams of golfers teed off for a bracing day on the fairways.



Now in its 20th year, Rollits' Golf Day attracts business people from across the region and has raised an impressive £90,000 for charity.

Last year's beneficiaries were the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign, the only UK charity focusing on all muscular dystrophies, and Dove House Hospice in Hull which offers palliative care to adults with life limiting illnesses.

The winners of the competition with a score of 120 was a team from Rollits comprising Donald Robertson, Richard Field, Chris Makepeace and Mark Bentley.



Senior Partner Steve Trynka said: "The day was a great success and we had a fantastic turn out of representatives from local businesses. Both of this year's charities are very good causes and we're pleased to be able to support them by presenting them with the proceeds of our golf day. I'm also very pleased to have been on the winning team and look forward to defending the title next year."

Two winning teams from Rollits

This year's event will be held on Thursday, July 3 at Brough Golf Club.

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