BOULBY AND TEESDOCK

TIMES

January 2026

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026



SAFE
CERTAIN
SUSTAINABLE

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ICL BOULBY AND TEESDOCK

The home of

POLYSULPHATE®

A Message from Grahame



- Grahame Wallace
  VP and General Manager

Firstly, a Happy New Year to all our readers and welcome to the first edition of 2026. I trust that you all had an opportunity to enjoy the festivities and the precious down time with your families and friends?

No doubt about it, 2025 was a successful year across all aspects of the business including Safey, Environmental, Quality, Cost reduction……., where we focused as a team on those elements that we can control and influence and ultimately, we showed that TOGETHER WE DID MAKE A DIFERENCE! What do we take from last year? Bottom line is we cannot change the past and all we can do is learn from it and that's what we all need to take from 2025.

1. Looking back and seeing where our successes were and how we can sustain them going forward.
2. Where are the opportunities of improvement from 2025 and what are we going to do differently this year.

I have recently shared face to face with you, ICL's announcement to initiate an early-stage exploration of a potential sale of the Boubly site and its operation. The decision to share this announcement is in keeping with our open and transparent approach we have fostered in our communications over the last few years. I appreciate that this announcement may create concern however I feel its better for knowing and allows us to continue to channel our efforts in a constructive manner. I reiterate my message that it is 'Business as normal' both as regards delivering against our plan and challenges for 2026 and from a support of our business from ICL.

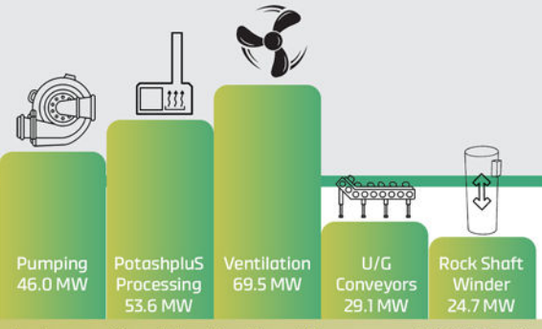
So no short-termism that is associated with New Year's resolutions! We must continue to work together cooperatively, and collaboratively, understanding each other's strengths and limitations in order that we develop the best business solutions! 2026 promises to be a challenging year but I am confident that as a team we can succeed in meeting our challenges and continue to improve the viability of the business!

So, NO new business mantra! We stick with same one! We need to refresh and refocus on where individually and collectively we can make a difference!

- SAFE - Every task that we undertake MUST be undertaken safely.
- CERTAIN - We need certainty in the outcome of the tasks that we undertake and not reliance on LUCK or HOPE. That comes from planning, preparation and understanding before we commence.
- SUSTAINABLE – To create a sustainable business we need reliability and repeatability of delivering success whilst we must be agile and adaptable to seek and deliver opportunities for improvement.

In line with refreshing our approach our competitions have been refreshed, please see below and let's see all the ideas that you have!

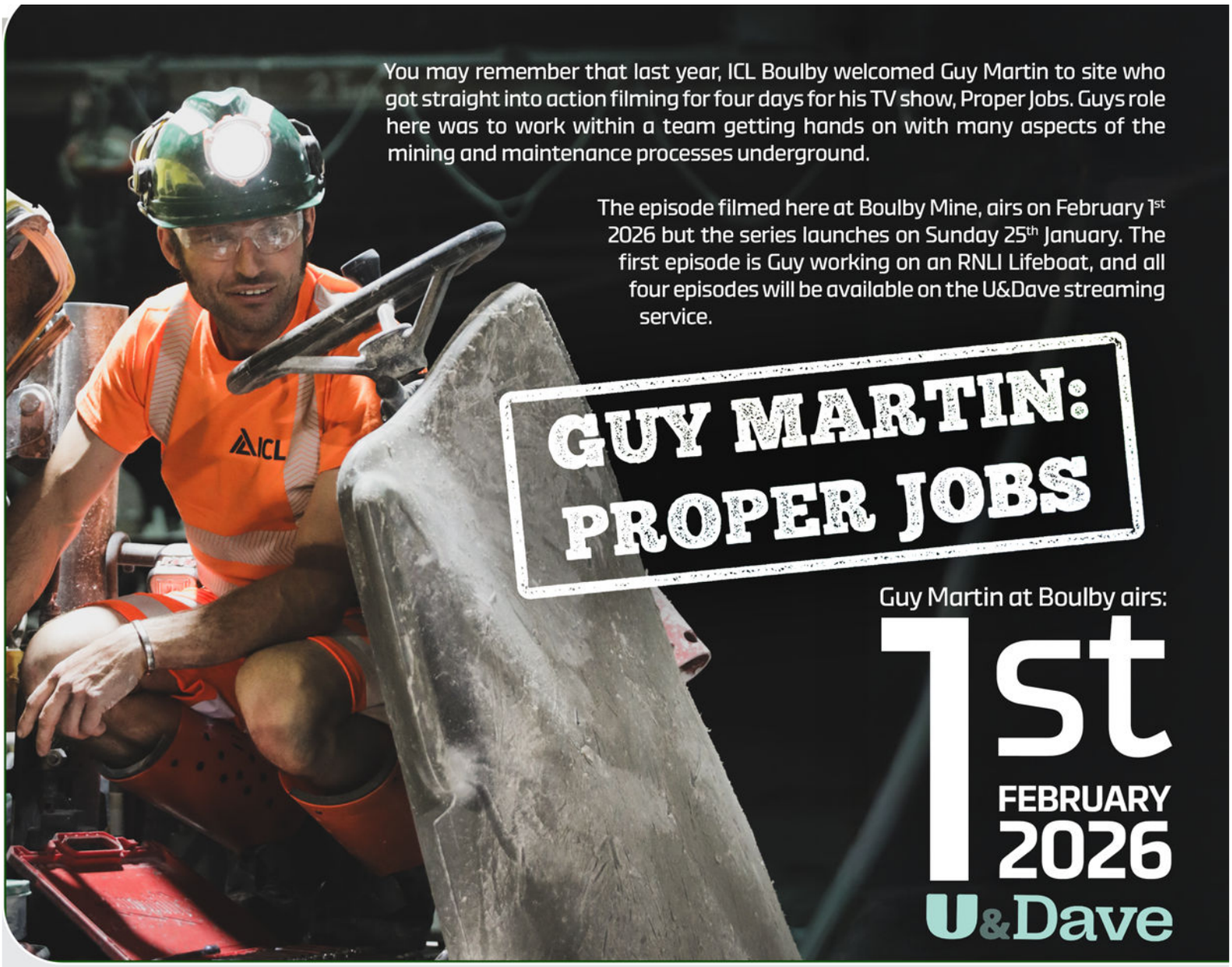
PUT YOUR ENERGY INTO SAVING COSTS



On a typical operational day, Boulby utilises around 268MW of energy. This is the equivalent of powering roughly 90 homes for an entire year! These are the five main areas of energy consumption.

This months competition is a little different. As you all know we are looking for new ideas on how to save costs. Scan the QR code to give your ideas on where we can make energy usage reductions across the business. All ideas entered via the online form, including all previous submissions will be entered into the competition to win a £50 Love 2 Shop voucher.

Well done to Karl Seymour who found Max the dog from Decembers edition and won the prize of a £50 Amazon Voucher.



You may remember that last year, ICL Boulby welcomed Guy Martin to site who got straight into action filming for four days for his TV show, Proper Jobs. Guys role here was to work within a team getting hands on with many aspects of the mining and maintenance processes underground.

The episode filmed here at Boulby Mine, airs on February 1st 2026 but the series launches on Sunday 25th January. The first episode is Guy working on an RNLI Lifeboat, and all four episodes will be available on the U&Dave streaming service.

GUY MARTIN: PROPER JOBS

Guy Martin at Boulby airs:

1st FEBRUARY 2026

U&Dave

Admin Areas, Offices and Service Buildings

The Admin Office costs £7,808 per year to heat.

Simple ways of saving energy within these areas.

Turn off and unplug equipment: Power down computers, monitors, printers, and other electronics at the end of the day

Use energy-efficient modes: Set computers to sleep mode or turn off after periods of inactivity.

Unplug chargers and accessories Avoid "phantom" energy drain by unplugging chargers, and other accessories when not in use.

Do you need to use a fan heater during the day? A typical 2kw fan heater will cost 27p per hour to run.

Keep your office door closed if you have the air-con / heater on – don't try and cool / heat the whole building from your office!

Encourage tea rounds: Instead of each person boiling the kettle individually, take turns making drinks for your colleagues, or boil just enough water for your cup.

Go paperless and avoid printing and photocopies which consume energy, but upload files to a shared drive instead.

If possible, arrange workstations to maximise natural light.

Do you need to travel to attend a meeting, can it be held virtually?

Does your TV screen in the office need to be on all the time, will a computer monitor do the same job?

Mine-End showers and heating costs £59,390 per year

The admin and office areas of the business are not big consumers compared to the operational / engineering areas.

However, we all have our part to play in saving energy costs, and this includes all office / non-operational roles.



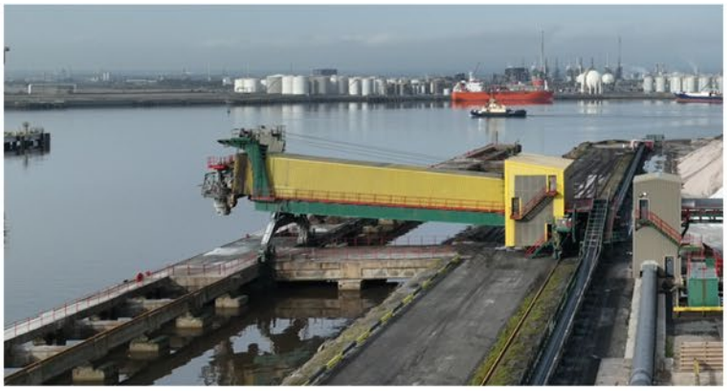
Live casualty training exercise with our Medics



Our medical department recently conducted an annual training exercise, a critical component in ensuring our team is ready to respond swiftly and effectively to emergencies across our Boulby and Teesdock sites. This year's exercise took place in the Dome Gym and featured two scenarios designed to test and enhance the medics' response capabilities. The first scenario involved two live actors who kindly volunteered from the Boulby Underground Lab, with Becca simulating a severe arm injury caused by a piece of equipment, and Beth playing the role of a concerned colleague and friend. Medics Tim Dobson and Luke Lawton managed the situation, showcasing their ability to handle pressure and deliver precise care in the face of chaos.

The second scenario introduced a life-like manikin experiencing a cardiac arrest, providing Tim and Luke with an opportunity to exercise their skills in cardiac emergency management. The medics attached a defibrillator and ventilated the manikin until an ambulance arrived, underscoring the importance of quick action in life-threatening situations. This training, orchestrated by Lead Medic, Jonathan Tremain, not only serves as a vital practice for our medical team but also reinforces our commitment to safety and preparedness in the workplace. A big thanks to Tim, Luke, Becca, Beth, , and Jonathan for their dedication and efforts in making this exercise a success.

ENGINEERING DEFENCES AT TEESDOCK



RAIL CLAMPS INSTALLED ON THE LARGE SHIP LOADER



Due to documentation from the 1970s concerning the Large Ship Loader, which indicated that the original design included rail clamps and storm brakes, the Teesdock Engineering department had to devise a new solution after replacing the travel bogeys on the machine. They needed to implement a method to secure the Large Ship Loader during storm conditions, which is where the rail clamps become essential.

In alignment with PUWER Regulations, the team installed and integrated these rail clamps into the machine's travel operations. When the operator initiates travel after a 10-second delay, the rail clamps lift. If there is no movement for one minute, the rail clamps engage to secure the rail track. The Loader now features a total of 10 brakes, including the two roll clamps to keep the machine safe and secure.

The Introduction of ZoneSafe RFID Safety System.

A safety enhancement known as the ZoneSafe will be implemented across our surface operations in January 2026. This system uses RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology to establish detection zones around vehicles and mobile plant equipment.

ZoneSafe functions through vehicle-mounted antennas that detect RFID tags. These tags are worn by workers, attached to objects or property, or positioned around restricted areas.

The system is designed to enhance safety by offering several key benefits:

- Penetration through Obstacles: The technology can "see" through walls, racks, and other blind corner obstructions, ensuring comprehensive coverage.
- No Multi-Path Reflections: Unlike traditional RFID systems, ZoneSafe is unaffected by environmental conditions or reflection issues.
- Precise Detection Boundaries: The system creates accurate detection zones that encircle equipment.
- Unobstructed Detection: Detection ranges remain consistent even when a pedestrian's back is turned.
- Clear Alerts: Both vehicle operators and pedestrians receive precise and clear audible and visual alerts.
- Vibrating Alerts: Pedestrians are also alerted through vibrations, enhancing their awareness.
- Expandable System: ZoneSafe is compatible with other components, allowing for future expansion.



The vehicle-control unit, mounted inside each plant vehicle, is easily accessible to operators. It includes a slot for inserting a driver tag, enabling the system and allowing the vehicle to start.

Machine operators and personnel assigned to specific areas on-site will receive a Vibra-Tag, which emits haptic and audible alerts when a vehicle is nearby. Each tag is assigned based on whether you are a vehicle operator or a pedestrian. For vehicle operators, the tag is inserted into the vehicle's control unit and is undetectable, enabling the vehicle system to activate and allowing the vehicle to start. Once the tag is removed, it automatically switches back to pedestrian mode where it can detect and alert you if a plant vehicle come within a 10 meter radius of you.

A special thank you to Mike Steyert and Keith Brown for their invaluable contributions in bringing this project to fruition. Their efforts have been instrumental in ensuring the successful implementation of theZoneSafe RFID safety system.

USB Powered Wireless Chargers will be located in these areas:

- Lotto room
- CP3
- Poly control
- Salt control
- R.L.O
- Projects
- Mech Charge Hand Office
- Fab Charge Hand Office
- ESB Meeting Area
- EC&I Supervisors Office

Each team member will receive a driver or pedestrian tag, with additional units available for visitors from the Loto room. It is mandatory for tags to be always carried while on site.

Welcome and Congratulations to Paul Medd





We are pleased to introduce Paul Medd as the newly appointed Safety Advisor at ICL Boulby and Teesdock. Paul recently joined our EHS team, bringing with him a wealth of experience from his impressive 24-year military career with the Army Air Corps (AAC). He completed his service as the Regimental Sergeant Major of 4 Regiment AAC Battle Group.

Recently Paul's dedication and professionalism has been recognised with the prestigious Meritorious Service Medal (MSM), one of the United Kingdom's oldest and most respected military long service awards. Established in 1845 by Queen Victoria, the MSM honors senior non-commissioned officers in the British Army for exceptional service, loyalty, and conduct. The award was never intended for a single act, but rather for a career marked by leadership, reliability, and dedication far beyond what was expected. This award underscores Paul's commitment to excellence throughout his military career.

Outside of work, Paul enjoys fitness, hill walking, shooting, and has a keen interest in global politics. He is also a devoted husband and father of two children.

Paul has expressed his enthusiasm about joining the team, noting the camaraderie and teamwork reminiscent of his military experience. He looks forward to fostering strong relationships within our team:

"Boulby and Teesdock have a very military feel to it, it's like a large family! Working in the safety department has highlighted the importance of holding good relationships with colleagues, and I'm looking forward to getting to know you all."

Please join us in welcoming Paul to ICL Boulby and congratulating him on his remarkable achievements!



Good Morning Britain

from Boulby!

We have recently welcomed reporter Amelia Beckett from Good Morning Britain breakfast show for a live broadcast right from our mine! Amelia had an insightful discussion with our Head of Mining Richard Severn, shining a light on the significance of the Boulby site and our dedicated team of employees as we geared up for Storm Goretti!

For those who may not know, Boulby Mine is not only the world's only producer of the multi-nutrient organic fertiliser Polysulphate, but we have also been extracting and producing rock salt for over 50 years. This critical resource helps keep UK roads safe during the winter months.

Simon's Promotion

We are pleased to announce the promotion of Simon Holland to the position of Head of Finance, ICL Boulby & Teesdock.

Simon has previously held various roles in finance from Management Accountant, Commercial Controller and Plant Financial Controller to Finance Manager before joining ICL in July 2022 as a Finance Business Partner.

Since joining ICL Boulby, Simon has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, strategic thinking, and a deep understanding of our financial operations. In his previous role as the Finance Business Partner, he gained a detailed appreciation of the activities of the site and developed numerous reporting tools that have enabled the management teams across both sites greater insight into financial performance of their departments and the overall business.

In his new role, Simon will oversee all financial planning and analysis and continue to drive operational excellence across the business. We're confident that his expertise and commitment will be instrumental in supporting our growth and long-term success.

Please join us in congratulating Simon on this well-deserved promotion.

As well as welcoming Simon into his new position we bid a fond farewell to Craig Hardaker who left us to enjoy his retirement in December 2025.

Craig has had a significant impact on the operations at both Boulby and Teesdock navigating complex financial landscapes and contributed significantly to the business turnaround.

We wish Craig all the best for the future.



Minable Shapes Optimiser (MSO)

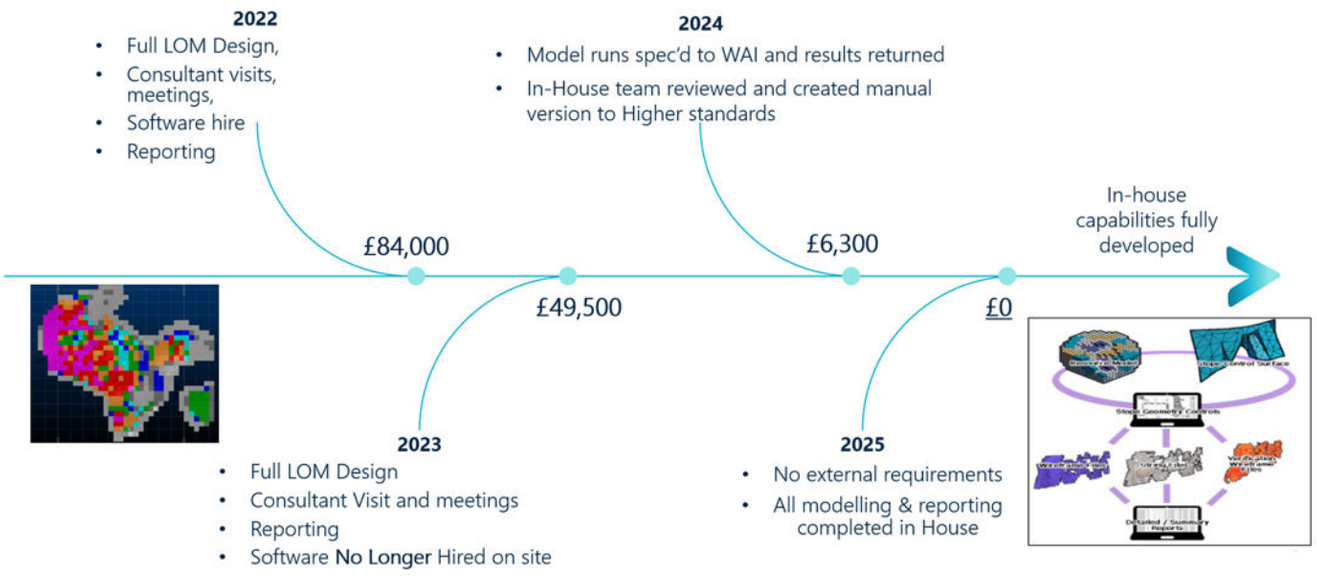
Dogan Cetinkal, Senior Resource Geologist has successfully implemented a cost-saving strategy that has reduced expenses. The challenge faced was rooted in the necessity to calculate the optimum mining horizon and evaluate available areas with suitable thickness and grades within Resource models. Traditionally, this was accomplished using a costly module known as the Mineable Shapes Optimiser (MSO), which incurred substantial expenses. Furthermore, they were reliant on consultants to operate the MSO.

He set a SMART objective to eliminate these costs entirely by 2025. The goal was to reduce the expenses associated with both the MSO module and Wardell Armstrong MSO consulting to £0. This ambitious objective required the development of an in-house process that could produce the same outputs as the MSO without depending on external consultants or the expensive module.

Dogan leveraged Resource Estimation expertise and existing software to replicate the functionality of the MSO. By doing so, he eliminated the need for the costly external resources. This move not only saved the company money but also empowered the team with enhanced control over their processes.

In 2025, the target was achieved, marking a milestone in cost efficiency for the company. By developing a process that matched the output of the MSO internally, the potential of leveraging in-house expertise to drive innovation and cost reduction has been demonstrated.

Initial Reliance on third party contractors (WAI) and software reduced over 4 years to current position.



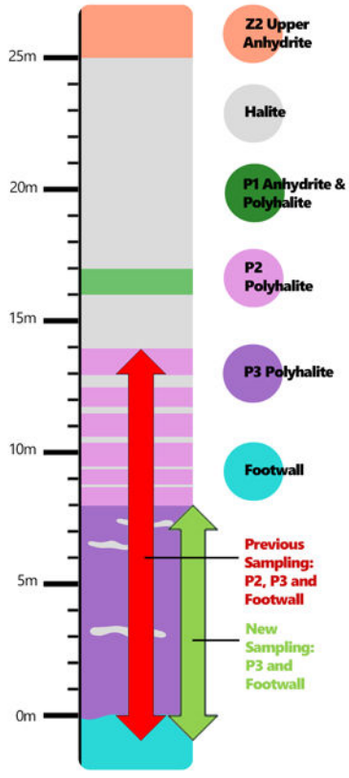
Exploration Sampling

Tom Edwards, Chief Geologist, has identified an opportunity to enhance cost savings by optimising sampling processes in Zone 1. Upon reviewing the overall sampling throughput of the labs, it was discovered that exploration sampling in Zone 1 included a significant number of samples of the "P2" polyhalite per intersection—sometimes up to 25 samples from a total of 50.

The P2 is characterised as a strongly banded unit with high-grade polyhalite interbedded with halites. Due to historic and current customer restrictions on grade, it is unlikely that this unit will be minable in the foreseeable future. As a result, the continued sampling of this unit was deemed unnecessary and a potential area for cost reduction.

Since the implementation of this objective, significant progress has been made. The project team successfully reduced sampling from above the main P3 ore zone by 191 samples, equating to a total of 353 meters of core that was not sampled. This initiative has already resulted in substantial cost savings.

Using the average cost per sample in the labs as of October 2025, which is £22.39, the project has saved over £4,275 in 2025. These savings are expected to continue growing with each new set of samples from Zone 1. By ceasing unnecessary sampling of the P2 unit in Zone 1, the project has created a more efficient practise.



SAVINGS SPOTLIGHT

Cost Saving by Challenging the Norm

Christopher Morrison, Electrical Foreman, showcases how questioning conventional methods can lead to big savings. ICL Boulby previously bought solenoid kits from KMC for £29.55 to fix O-rings and seals, avoiding the need to purchase a full solenoid at £2,476.21. This kit was a cost-effective alternative, allowing seal replacement without the hefty cost of new solenoids.

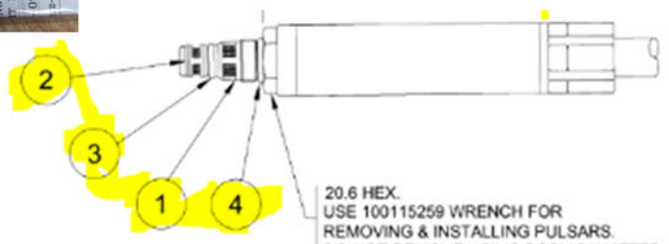
He found a way to save even more by buying individual seals. With all necessary seals costing just 12p. Compared to a full solenoid, this was a saving of £2,476.09.

The most frequently replaced seal, NO2, costs only 4p. Previously, seals were removed from other solenoids, rendering them unusable.
Morrison's strategy not only cut costs but also boosted efficiency by moving solenoids to surface stores, improving access and inventory management. This change streamlined maintenance, reduced downtime, minimised waste.

Christopher Morrison's initiative shows how questioning existing processes can lead to remarkable savings.

Significant savings can come from small changes.





SPECIFICATIONS:
MAX PILOT PRESSURE: 400 PSI [27.58 BAR]
VISCOSITY RANGE: 1500 SUS TO 30 SUS.
FILTRATION LEVEL: SAE CLASS 5

PULSAR SEAL KIT 100129862, COMPRISED OF:
1. (1) PILOT SCREEN
2. (1) O-RING (00910660-0010 REF)(#010)
3. (1) O-RING (00910660-0011 REF)(#011)
4. (1) O-RING (00903226-0006 REF)(#906)

PPE Management Success

You might recall the images from April 2025's Boulby and Teesdock Times, showcasing large quantities of PPE that were originally meant for disposal but were later recovered, sorted, and cleaned for reuse.

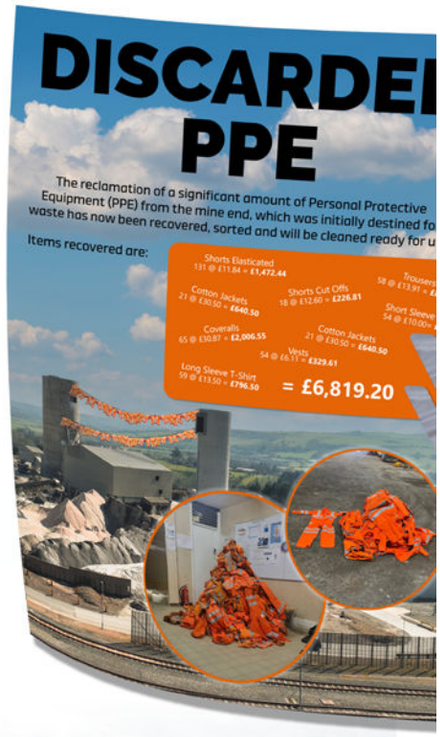
Fast forward to today, our teams have successfully implemented planning and execution strategies that have resulted in considerable cost savings through improved management of PPE.

At the beginning of 2025, the average monthly budget for PPE was at **£32,337.75**. Through careful management and purchasing, the average monthly spend was reduced to **£19,758.58.** This approach led to an impressive average monthly reduction of £12,579.17.

On an annual scale, our budget was allocated at £388,053.00. By the end of the year, our actual spending was £237,102.96, which left us **£150,950.04 under budget.**

This equates to a remarkable reduction of 39%!

These achievements would not have been possible without the efforts of all involved in the PPE process, from issuing and control to management and communication. As we move into 2026, it's essential to maintain the same level of control and vigilance in our PPE management.





James'
Capital Corner

- James Hall
  Engineering Projects Manager



2025 CAPEX was the toughest year to date, with a reduced budget meaning that as a team we had to ensure that all investments were selected with extra care and attention.

This said I am pleased to report that for the first time in my tenure we have managed to spend 100% of the assigned budget – a challenging goal so thankyou to all who contributed and delivered on time.

The expectation for 2026 is that budgets will yet again be constrained so we must continue to spend every penny wisely and not expect that projects will move forward without significant challenge and robust justification.

We will continue to complete machine overhauls and mine infrastructure projects, as well as the program of surface structural repairs which are currently ongoing. In addition we will make operational improvements and implement efficiency projects as this is still a key strategic local focus. As always we'll keep everyone updated throughout the year.



Old Shed During Mixing Trials

On the topic of efficiency projects we have just completed the installation and commissioning of a new anti-cake mixing facility.

Anti-cake is a Sodium Ferrocyanide solution which is sprayed on all of our salt products to stop them sticking together - you will find similar in your table salt at home.

We used to make this onsite though the quality was unreliable, which in turn led to us purchasing a pre-mixed solution for the past few years. When our Process Department looked further into this last year, it was clear that if we began manufacturing our own again we could achieve significant savings and a maintain high quality.

After identifying a number of possible technologies we trialed a shear mixing pump which proved to provide consistent mixing. We began converting an old surface shed to house the facility.



New Facility



New Facility

The new facility will manufacture 6 to 8 IBC's per week in only a few hours and will ultimately save circa £240k per year.

Thankyou to Balaji Vasudevan for the concept and to Champions for another quality installation.

We are always looking for good ideas just like this one, so just like last year if on your day to day rounds a lightbulb moment occurs let us know!



3D SCANNING AT BOULBY

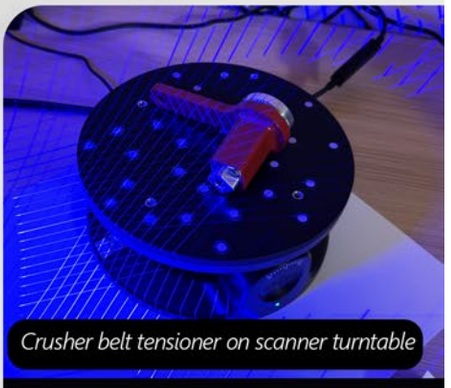
A recent investment in Boulby's Laboratory Department is a 3D laser scanner primarily to create 3D models of compaction flake from the PotashpluS plant.

The volume is used to calculate 'envelope' density accurately without using costly flammable solvents or any consumables. Compaction flake density is key to being able to optimise the compaction process, allowing us to gather data that will ultimately lead to insights to produce a harder and stronger compacted granular product. It's also key to being able to define operating parameters of the plant as we move through alternative grades of PotashpluS production.

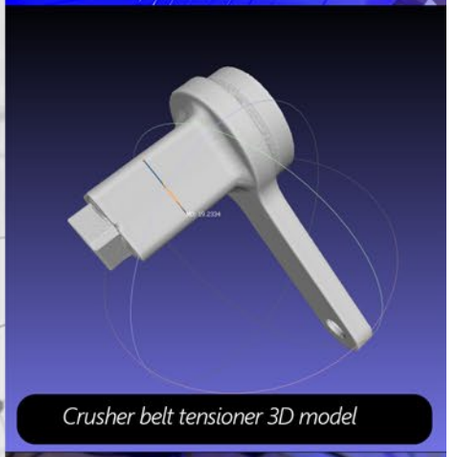
The scanner works by emitting blue laser light in a crosshatch pattern – the curves of which are used to calculate the dimensions and surface structure of the object being scanned. It can capture well over 1 million points per second and builds up a point cloud that is then turned into a solid mesh in the software. The mesh can then be measured in three dimensions down to an accuracy of around 0.02mm. Parameters such as object volume, surface area and roughness can be calculated.

Other than compaction flake, the scanner can be used to create a 3D model of nearly anything up to one cubic metre in size and enable metrological inspection, duplication, and wear analysis from engineering standpoint.

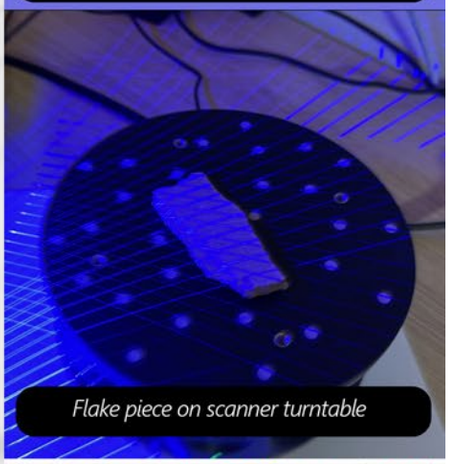
One such example has been to map a hole in one of the Koppern compactor rolls, and to monitor wear on a regular basis.



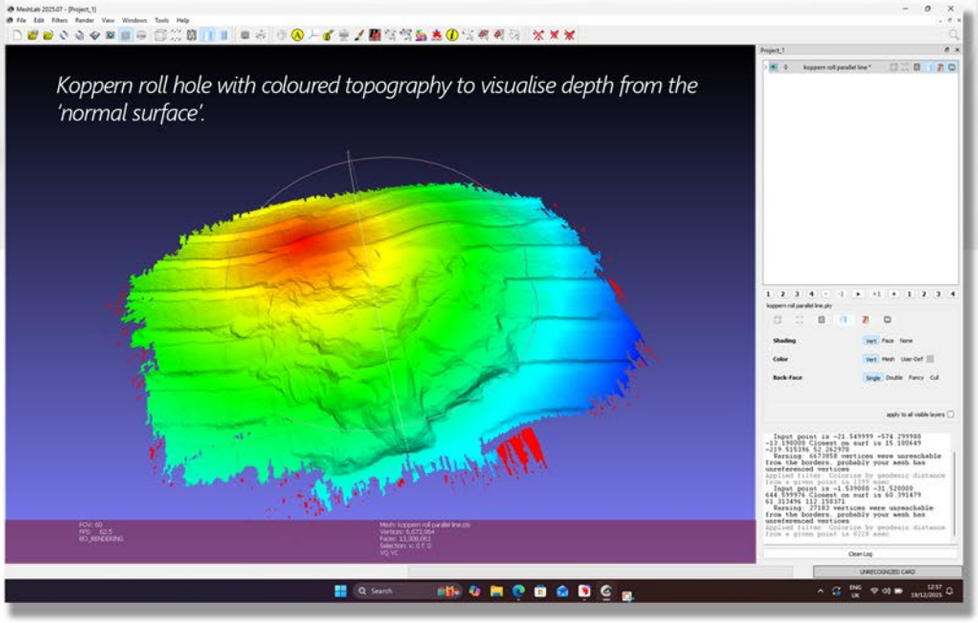
Crusher belt tensioner on scanner turntable



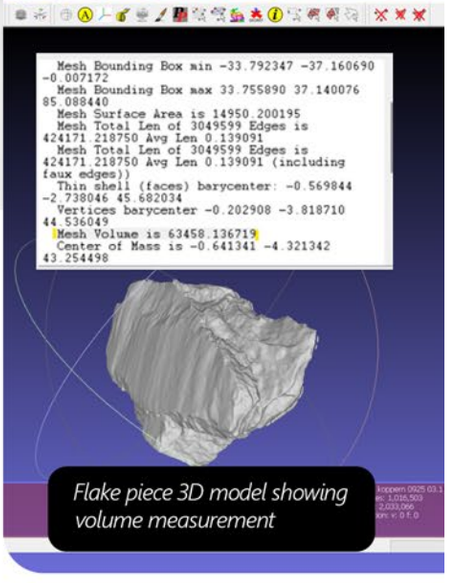
Crusher belt tensioner 3D model



Flake piece on scanner turntable



Koppern roll hole with coloured topography to visualise depth from the 'normal surface'.



Flake piece 3D model showing volume measurement

Other than compaction flake, the scanner can be used to create a 3D model of nearly anything up to one cubic metre in size and enable metrological inspection, duplication, and wear analysis from engineering standpoint.

If your department requires anything scanning please contact ***Ellis.burton@icl-group.com.***

EXERCISE PLAN 2026

Designed by Glyn Amos MSc, Personal Trainer.

30-45 minutes gym session 6x per week.

Day 1

LEGS: *Kettlebell* 15-20kg. Front Squats - Deadlift - Sumo deadlift - Calf raises
3-4 sets of 10-12 reps

SHOULDERS: *Smith machine* shoulder press. *Dumbells* 4-6 kg. Side laterals - Front raises to crucifix - Front raises - Reverse flys - Round the world - *Smiths machine*. Upright row
3-4 sets 10-12 reps.

Day 2

BACK: *Lat machine* pulls wide then narrow grip 3-4 sets 10-12 reps. *Seated row machine*. Bent arm front pulls 3-4 sets 10-12 reps.

TRICEPS: Pushdowns super set with *Machine/Kettlebell* overhead triceps extensions 3 sets 10-15 reps.

Day 3

CHEST: *Chest press* 3 sets of 12-15 reps light/ish then 3 sets of 4-7 reps heavy. Incline chest press 3 or 4 sets 10 reps. Flys super set with hammer chest press use dumbbells 3 x 10 reps.

BICEPS: *Kettlebell* concentration curls, hammer curls, screw curls.
3 or 4 sets of 10 reps.

Day 4

BACK: *Pulley* Bent over row wide and narrow grip. 3 x 10-12 reps. Bent arm pullovers using EZ bar 5 sets 10 reps.

TRICEPS: Triceps dips super set with *dumbbell* kickback 3-4 sets of 10-15 reps.

Day 5

LEGS: *Dumbbells* 10 kg+ front squats - alternate leg lunges - deadlifts.
3-4 sets of 10-12 reps.

SHOULDERS: *Dumbbell* Arnold press with front raises.
3-4 sets of 10-12 reps.
Seated reverse fly with Seated front raises
3 sets 10-12 reps.

Day 6

CHEST: *Chest Press* 3 sets of 15 reps with only a 15 seconds rest do this 3-4 full sets. Rest for 2 minutes between full sets. Incline chest press 4 x 10 reps.

BICEPS: EZ bar curls with dumbbell - bicep screw curls - straight bar curls
3 sets 10-12 reps.

Never overexert yourself, lots of small steps make a big journey so take it easy and be patient, persistence and adherence are the keys to success.
This is a demanding persistent exercise plan so if you need to use a session as an 'active rest' then do so, its better than skipping a session.

1. If you feel ill STOP IMMEDIATELEY.
2. Any problems or concerns regarding training in the Dome, please contact Glynamos@hotmail.com
3. Don't punish yourself if you miss a session, life and work can take priority. Try and catch up on another day if you can, if not forget it. But don't let one or two missed sessions be your reason for quitting, your better than that.
4. As you master the exercises you may wish to increase the weight, that's great if you can finish the set. You may need to rest mid-set, this is acceptable, but you must finish all the sets and repetitions.
5. If you persevere for 21 days, you will have formed a new and healthy habit.
6. The only person stopping you from doing this is the ne looking in the mirror.
7. Cardio. I have not been prescriptive here because this Exercise Plan focusses on strength. Use the Treadmill/bike/rower/cross trainer if available at the start and finish of the session for 6-10 minutes.
8. Bench Press with a sightly narrower grip than usual grip this places emphasis on the triceps, anterior deltoids and minor pectorals muscles; a wider grip would normally be just outside the shoulder line, this places a greater emphasis on the large pectorals or major chest muscles.
9. Super sets are different exercises performed immediately or with minimum rest after one another.
10. I have specified reps of 10-12 but try where possible to push to maximum by increasing the weight/resistance when ready to do so.

THE DOME

DETERMINATION OF MIND & EXERCISE

medics@icl-group.com
01287 646423
EXT 3298



Did you know?

ICL Boubly and Teesdock offer gym facilities for all employees and long-term contractors. If you are new to site or not yet signed up to use the Dome please scan the QR code to complete the questionnaire.

Whether you're looking to boost your fitness levels or maintain a healthy lifestyle, our gyms are equipped to support your goals.

Don't forget! There's a fitness class held twice a week: Mondays and Wednesdays at 12:15 PM, led by Glyn Amos, Personal Trainer.

If you have any questions about workouts, feel free to reach out to: glynamos@hotmail.com, and he can provide you with a personalised workout plan.

News from Boulby Underground Laboratory

Science and Technology Facilities Council

BUTTON-30 Water System – wrapped up for Christmas

This month saw the final installation of the BUTTON-30 water system – the purification and filtration mechanism that will be keeping water flowing around the prototype detector.

Part of the system was installed in late 2024 for the initial tank fill tests, but after a few months back at the University of Liverpool for maintenance and upgrades, the system is now firmly set in its new home and fully commissioned.

The BUTTON-30 detector is a technology test project, aiming to develop technologies for detecting a type of fundamental particle called an antineutrino. Detectors similar to BUTTON-30 have existed for a number of years, but BUTTON is the first to trial hybrid detection methods by using a specially formulated target liquid.

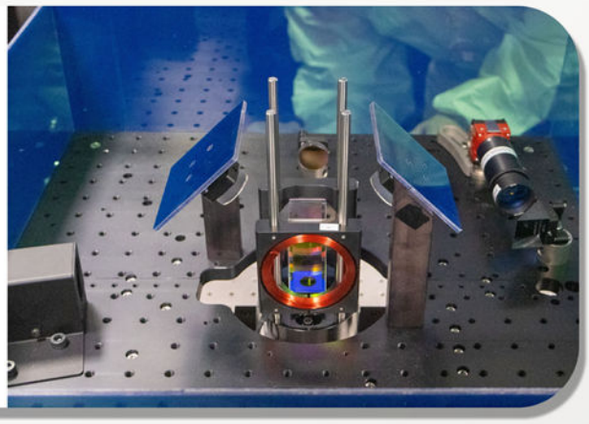
Exciting to see this package of work get wrapped up in time for the festive period!



QuASAR – dreaming of a (quantum) light Christmas

QuASAR – the first project in our emerging quantum technologies programme – saw its second phase of installation this month, with the team from Durham University spending a week in the lab assembling the intricate laser system that sits at the heart of the project. QuASAR is a quantum mechanics experiment that aims to use precisely-directed lasers to supercool rubidium atoms to nearly –273 degrees Celsius. If this technique is proven effective, there are potential applications in future gravitational wave detectors!

Installation of the project is not finished, however, and the team from Durham will be returning this year to commission the laser apparatus.



Snowstorm or MINDSTORM? The Remote3 programme has begun for this academic year!

Right before the Christmas break, a team of mentors from Boulby Underground Lab travelled to a Seton Community Primary School in Staithes (right down the road!) to kick-off this year's Remote3 programme with a class of Year 4 – 6 students. The launch session involved introducing the project and its aims, introducing the LEGO MINDSTORM kits that the students will be using, and having a go at some block-based coding by trying to find water on Mars (that is to say, programming a LEGO Mars rover to detect the colour blue on a challenge mat).

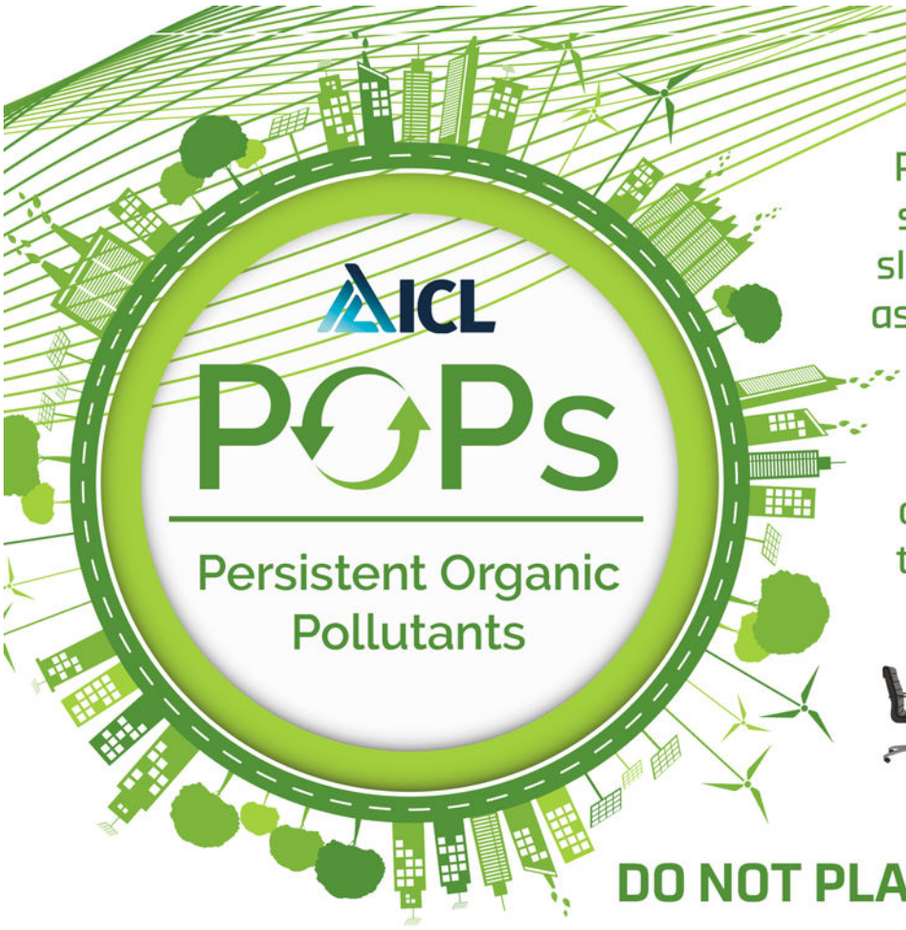
Remote3 is a coding-based project that teams of aspiring robotics engineers undertake, aiming to design, construct, and programme LEGO Mars rovers. In June of this year, after months and months working on their robots, the students' creations will come underground to our lab for their final stage of testing!



Thank you to all of you – and here's to 2026!

2025 was a big year of us at the lab. We took on our biggest wave of early careers new starters to date (3 new apprentices and a graduate!), observed some major project milestones such as the BUTTON PMT installation, and inspired thousands through our public engagement programmes. Despite only being a week into the new year, we can already feel that 2026 is going to be one to remember.

Needless to say, all that we achieved last year wouldn't have been possible without everyone at ICL-Boulby. Thank you to all those who have supported us, trained us, or even just chatted with us in the cage. We couldn't do what we do without you and your invaluable contributions. Here's to 2026!



POPs are poisonous chemical substances that break down slowly and get into food chains as a result. Upholstered seating can contain POPs. Please ensure that any waste upholstered furniture originating from site is given to the waste department for appropriate removal.



DO NOT PLACE IN GENERAL WASTE.

Production Figures

December 2025

• Throughout 2025 the Poly plant saw a record production year, produced a total of 759,058tonnes which is the highest yearly production total for Poly plant.

• The Poly plant produced a total of 21,024tonnes during the month, a further 11,880tonnes of material was transferred across to AACN production. Run time averaged at 21hr30min for the month and run rate average at 111.5tph. significant delays were 63hours due to stock management and 8hours for repairs on screen2 feed box. Plant operation ceased on the 18th December and planned closure during Christmas period which accounted for 336hours. Average GRN yield were positively impacted due to year end stock adjustment across most of the products. Run of mine and Product grades in December continued to be highly variable as the development of 131 panel was completed and the initial stages of 150's also began with some areas of significant halite. Tonnages from 150's were adjusted or stopped as required to bring ROM back up to acceptable levels. High grades from 500's continue but some minor halite was also encountered on 505 A road but was short lived and had only a minor impact towards the end of production prior to the Christmas Shutdown. Standard grade was dropped significantly as maintenance and moves on 500's meant that tonnage-based blending was less effective for the early part of December, this recovered as the tonnage from 502 and 505 was increased after the 7th.

• The PotashpluS plant operated for 16 days in December, producing 10,601 tonnes. At the start of the month, plant was set to produce 37% and produced 5,499tonnes and change to 45% grade and 5,102 tonnes was calibrated. Average run time was 16.5 hrs per day, and average run rate was 43 tph. Major delay to the plant were 64hrs delay for the reheat stamler drag chain failure at the start of the month and 11hours delay on the 020 bucket elevator trip. Average K_2O for Potashplus 45% was 45.5% and average degradation was 2.5%. Average K_2O for Potashplus 37% was 37.5% and average degradation was 3.3%. Gas consumption in the plant was higher than average at 174 KWh/t against the target of 145 KWh/t.

• A total of 21,289 tonnes of salt were processed and shipped as 6mm salt during the month. There were no major delays during processing. The average plant run rate was 232tph. The anti-cake consumption was 47ppm during the month, anti-cake consumption has reduced throughout 2025. The anti-cake mixing trial has been successful and this process will be operational in January 2026.

Product	Target	Actual
Poly Hoist	32,400	33,857
Salt Hoist	25,410	22,774
Total Poly Processed	20,850	21,024
PotashpluS Produced	14,280	10,601

Cleveland Potash Social Club

Social Club Draw January 2026 Winners:
1st Prize - Adam Rymer 103959 **£200**
2nd Prize - Louis Robson 132474 **£150**
3rd Prize - Steven Hampton 103773 **£100**

If you would like to become a member of the Social Club or you are interested in joining our 9 committee members, please reach out to us on the email below, CPL.socialclub@icl-group.com

David McLuckie (Chairperson) - Lindsey Pace (Secretary) - Pauline Sayers (Treasurer) - Brent Jackson - Katie Robinson - Kelly Robinson - Linsey Whiteley - Richard Severn - Gary Rennison

Please let us know your ideas for events in 2026. If you are a member, and thinking of organising your own shift event for other members, please contact the Social Club for an Application for Funding Form with your ideas and we may be able to help subsidise it. All bookings must be made through the Social Club.

All Social Club forms can be found on the notice boards located in the Admin and ESB buildings, as well as near the managers' kitchen in the Mine Services building.

CPL.socialclub@icl-group.com



Defibrillator Locations Across Boulby



Have your say!

If you have anything you would like to see featured in our monthly newsletterplease contact:

David.Adams@icl-group.com

Follow us on:

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Medical
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