

Work hard, play even harder

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WILD STAFF PARTY

Team activities don't have to cost a fortune. Bill Price, a director at WSP, has organised what he says is the first construction industry battle of the bands, which takes place in November. "The basis is that it is homebrewed and is supported by enthusiasts. It's the right kind of thing at the moment – a low budget venture," he says.

Ten bands have entered the competition so far, paying £50 for the privilege. Bands are obliged to sell 20 tickets each at £10 a pop and profits will go to charity. "We've got the bands signed up and now people are starting to panic about tickets, food, beer and stage management. There is a lot to think about and I'm trying not to let it take up too much of my work time," he says.



Sounds like fun, but does it contribute to a better team?

"Internally it has brought people together who wouldn't normally see each other. It brings enthusiasts together and there is a natural 'oh he's in the band, he must be alright' feeling. "I don't think we've won a job or improved our fees from it, but it's more about relationships and common interests," Mr Price says.

"I would much rather do this than go to a corporate event or an alleged team- building activity." Mr Price's band takes its inspiration from his firm's initial letters – it is called Wild Sex Party. His clients will be supporting him - Nigel Fraser at BAA and Paul Nicholson at Lend Lease will provide sound and lighting.