



## TRAINERS CORNER

### Rig Train prepares workers for offshore

**Rig Train** couldn't say it better for an organization whose mission is to prepare workers for the offshore drilling industry. Based in Aberdeen, the Weatherford subsidiary occupies the Downhole Technology Centre adjacent to the city's conference and exhibition center. Originally, the center was launched 13 years ago by the Grampian Regional Council with a single classroom. Actual drilling training did not begin until just 5 years ago.

Weatherford began operating the training facility this past January. Since then, it has moved swiftly under the leader-

ship of Training Manager **Chris Ball**. Rig Train offers some 40 courses in nine classrooms, and was recently accredited for basic IADC WellCAP®. Most recently, it applied for WellCAP's well intervention and underbalanced operations accreditation.



Rig Train's offerings include a 12-day roustabout training course and a half-day man-riding program. A "green hand" teaching program was built around specifications developed by the IADC North Sea Chapter.

"We focus on learning through understanding," Mr Ball said, "not just teaching to pass exams."

Well control teaching is fundamental to Rig Train curricula, and WellCAP is their preferred method. "Well control should be considered right from spud," observed **Gordon Lawson**, Drilling Training Manager. "WellCAP gives us more flexibility than IWCF."

Mr Ball notes the importance of solid, hands-on training in acquiring well-control skills.

"In the classroom, we fight 30 to 40 blowouts a day and nobody gets hurt," he quipped.

And in the long run, that keeps people safe in the real world. ■

### Aberdeen Drilling Schools celebrating its 21st year

**Aberdeen Drilling Schools Ltd** is celebrating its 21st anniversary in 2003.

The school offers extensive training courses in various well control and safety issues to the oil, gas and petrochemical industries.

Topics include well control, awareness training, drilling technology, high pressure high temperature wells, team focused training, safety, legislation and general training and on the rig training.

The school also supplies off-the-shelf training materials, such as operational health and safety kits aimed to furnish management and first line supervisors with on-the-job training material.

Other safety kits include stuck pipe prevention and health and safety work modules.

The Scottish-based oilfield training company also works with oil and service companies and petrochemical companies writing, revising and updating various manuals.

Its latest contract was to serve as the technical author of **ChevronTexaco's** Well Control Manuals Upgrade Project for drilling and workover well operations.

The project, to run from July 2003 through first quarter 2004, will include updates or new sections addressing the latest technology and operational practices associated with deepwater and subsea operations, surface operations, well control equipment, HPHT, underbalanced drilling, coiled tubing operations and casing drilling.

The ChevronTexaco project will be managed from ADS's Aberdeen base where a technical authoring project team has been operational for several years.

Other recent technical writing projects have included the revision of BP's Global Well Control Policy; development of **Enterprise Oil's** Well Control Guidelines; development of the **Sonatrach (Algeria)** Well Control Manual (in English and French); and a revision/update of the 'Standard Drilling Instructions' for **TotalFinaElf's** UK platforms. ■



Students learn safe drilling practices on this rig at Rig Train's facilities in Aberdeen.