

# British Drilling Association

Founded 1976

# NEWSLETTER

*Committed to Excellence in Health & Safety, Quality of Workmanship and Technical Standards for the Benefit of the Drilling Industry and its Clients*

April, 2011

## Secretary's Column

Later on this year the BDA celebrates its 35th birthday. It was on October 22nd 1976 at the Geological Society in London that Brian England of Hands England Drilling issued the words 'Gentlemen we now have the BDA' at the Association's inaugural meeting.

Times change and perhaps we should not look back too often. We must however respect our heritage and remember that what brought the Association together is just as relevant today. Working together as an industry team is more effective than trying to go it alone.

Your Association from the day of its formation has been able to do much for its members and the drilling industry. Many of its achievements are listed on the BDA website. That's our history but it shouldn't and doesn't rest there.

The phrase 'there is nothing new under the sun' (Ecclesiastes 1:9, for the scholars amongst us !!) is often misinterpreted to mean that all the good ideas have been thought up already. If this were true we'd never move on and all of us would become depressives. I hate the expression 'thinking outside the box' but totally agree with its sentiment of creating and exploring new ideas. Long may the BDA continue doing this and its members also.

All thoughts are welcome, call:  
**Brian Stringer**  
**01327 264622**  
*office@britishdrillingassociation.co.uk*

## BDA WINS GRANT FROM CONSTRUCTIONSKILLS for development of Geothermal Drilling certification

**In March the BDA was awarded a substantial financial grant by ConstructionSkills to develop a Land Drilling Sector Scheme for geothermal drilling enterprises. The project will also include a series of regional briefing seminars for all those involved and associated with geothermal drilling.**

Shallow geothermal drilling for up to 200 metres depth is associated with the installation of ground source heat pumps (GSHPs), a renewable heat technology. The latter, using refrigerator science, extract low grade heat obtained from the ground and turn it into usable heat for building space heating and hot water. The ground's heat (primarily derived from solar radiation) is at a temperature of 9 - 15 degrees centigrade a few metres deep everywhere in the UK. This low grade heat warms a thermal transfer fluid circulating in borehole installed pipes (closed loop system) back to a GSHP. Another variant is borehole open loop systems where groundwater is extracted, piped to a GSHP and returned to the ground.

A full GSHP system comprises the ground heat exchanger (GHE), piping to / from the building, and installation of a GSHP. Various contractors and suppliers are involved for a single system. There is justifiable concern and actual examples that all is not right, especially design of a complete system and GHE installation. Government in announcing its Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI - see page 3); Environment Agency (EA - see page 3) and others including the Ground Source Heat Pump Association (GSHPA) and the BDA are all involved in improving standards to ensure that systems are correctly designed and installed.

Certification of those companies carrying out designing; contracting; installing and supplying at any stage of the process is very much on everyone's agenda. Without it, sustained growth is threatened by companies without the necessary skills, qualifications and training which will lead to poor quality and loss of client / consumer confidence.

For geothermal drilling, ConstructionSkills (the sector training body) has recognised the BDA's case for certification of enterprises carrying out this activity. It fits into the overall drive for certification within the GSHP sector. ConstructionSkills has thus awarded a significant grant to BDA to develop and promote a UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service) scheme in geothermal drilling. Work is underway and a cross industry Advisory Committee is being set up to draw up the scheme. More details will follow but please contact the BDA Secretary to learn more.

**GEODRILLING SHOW**  
**Be there on June 7th - 8th 2011**  
**Find out more on [www.geodrilling-show.co.uk](http://www.geodrilling-show.co.uk)**

**BDA MEMBERSHIP****BDA EVENTS**

Dates for your diary. We look forward to seeing you.

**Change of Address****Topdrill Ltd**

This company has relocated to:

**14 Darin Court  
Vincent Avenue  
Crownhill  
Milton Keynes  
Bucks.  
MK8 0AD**

Tel: 01908 666606  
Web: [www.topdrill.co.uk](http://www.topdrill.co.uk)

**BDA Accident Survey  
2011**

**Shortly the BDA Office will be sending out an accident survey form for Corporate members to complete and return to the office. This is required for every BDA member. This year there are some changes.**

In previous years we've only required the number of accidents. This in itself has been hugely beneficial in compiling a report, examining trends and reporting back to members. However the cause of accidents has always been an unknown other than to each individual member.

As a condition of BDA membership to NSCC (National Specialist Contractors Council) we've supplied the BDA accident statistics for some years. NSCC now requires us to list the causes of fatalities, major injuries and over 3-day injuries. Hence the BDA 2011 accident form has been modified to collect this information. We trust that BDA members will appreciate the need for this and fully co-operate. BDA itself welcomes having more information.

**BDA AGM  
12 May 2011**

**All members and their guests are invited to the BDA's Annual General Meeting being held this year as follows:-**

**2.00pm Thursday 12th May  
Tickled Trout Hotel  
Samlesbury  
Preston  
PR5 0UJ**

This is the opportunity for members to meet with the BDA's Management Committee; hear at first hand about what the BDA is doing and take part in the Association's AGM.

Join us for lunch prior to the AGM at this delightfully situated MacDonald hotel.

We'll have a guest speaker, Andy Howley of Loopmaster (Europe) Ltd., to give us a detailed insight of what's happening in the UK ground source heat pump market. Andy is Chairman of the Training & Standards Committee of the Ground Source Heat Pump Association. He's much involved in and informed about all aspects of this developing market.

A booking form for this event is on the BDA website under BDA Meetings or please contact the BDA office for details.

**BDA GOLF DAY  
2 September 2011**

Always extremely popular it will be held at our usual venue at Woodsome Hall Golf Club, near Huddersfield, on Friday 2nd September.

There will be full details in forthcoming Newsletters or look on our website.

**BDA DINNER DANCE  
12 November 2011**

**Details are now announced for the BDA's social event of the year. Those who attended the event at this hotel in 2005 will know what a great venue it is.**

**Saturday 12th November  
Hilton Newcastle Gateshead  
Bottle Bank  
Gateshead  
Tyne & Wear  
NE8 2AR**

We last visited the Hilton Newcastle Gateshead hotel in 2005 when we had 362 people attending, a record for any BDA Dinner Dance.

The hotel is marvellously located on the south bank of the Tyne overlooking the river, Tyne Bridge, the Quayside and Newcastle. It has 254 rooms, extensive leisure facilities including a 15 metre swimming pool, and excellent catering. It's a short walk from Newcastle city centre and many other attractions. including the Sage music venue, Baltic Arts Centre, and Millennium bridge.

The evening features a four-course dinner and once again (at popular demand) our entertainment is headed by The Blame, a 4-piece cover band who never fail to amaze us with their energy, performance and ability to keep the dance floor fully occupied.

Tables seating 10 people are available at £860 (inclusive of Vat) but individual tickets are also available. Double or twin bedrooms can be booked at a special rate of £120 (B & B inclusive of Vat). For full details check the BDA website where you'll also find a booking form, or contact the BDA office tel: 01327 264622.

***BDA on the WEB***

***Our new website is finally here.  
It's been a long time coming but we hope you like it.***

***[www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk](http://www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk)***

**BDA WEBSITE**

[www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk](http://www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk)

Since the launch of the new website in November 2010, we have received welcome compliments about its appearance, content and ease of use. The site is consistently receiving in excess of 130 hits a day. We are still in the process of developing more content and features so keep watching for changes.

**Are your membership details correct?**

Please check the site to ensure that your company title, address and contact numbers are correct. Please advise us of any changes required.

**Members Activities**

Each Corporate member has received a fax-back sheet on which they can list their activities. This needs returning for uploading to the BDA website. Please return it as soon as possible. If the sheet has been mislaid then please ask our office for a duplicate copy.

**Your Website Link**

On the fax-back sheet (see above) we offered the opportunity of a link to your own website to appear with your membership listing. Many members have already subscribed to this. Shortly we'll also be offering the addition of your company logo as part of this service. Contact our office for further details.

**BDA Website Advertising**

Now available is a facility for members to advertise on the BDA Website. Full details were posted to members in early March and can also be viewed on the website itself.

This is a great opportunity to profile your company and its services to a larger audience on a daily basis. The advertising rates compare very favourably with what's available elsewhere in order to provide a real benefit to members. Get in first before your competitors seize the undoubted opportunity.

**Renewable Heat Incentive GSHPs included**

On March 10th 2011 UK government announced the long awaited RHI (Renewable Heat Incentive) details. The RHI tariff scheme, which is supported by £860m of public funding, will provide payments for 20 years for eligible renewable heat technologies. Government confirmed that GSHPs (ground source heat pumps) is one of the supported technologies.

Once Parliament has passed the necessary legislation in May, RHI will be rolled out in two phases. Phase 1 for the industrial, commercial and public sector (with some limited support of £15m for the domestic sector in the form of installation grants - 'premium payments') is due to start in July 2011. Phase 2 for the domestic sector will coincide with the introduction of the 'Green Deal' due in October 2012.

The news is welcomed by the BDA. It removes many of the uncertainties about RHI. While domestic installers will be disappointed with the RHI delay to October 2012, the focus on Phase 1 in the non-domestic area (which almost invariably utilises boreholes) will provide a boost for geothermal drilling.

Read all details of the government announcement on DECC's website:

[www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what\\_we\\_do/uk\\_supply/energy\\_mix/renewable/policy/incentive/incentive.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/policy/incentive/incentive.aspx)

**Environment Agency GSHC Guide & Position Statement**

In late March the Environment Agency (EA) published two documents on its website regarding ground source heating and cooling (GSHC). These documents explain EA's latest thinking on regulation and best practice.

Good Practice Guide

The published guide is a working draft for both closed loop and open loop systems. The guide is for designers, developers, installers, drillers and owners of schemes. EA welcomes any comments on this by 29th April 2011.

BDA and GSHPA (Ground Source Heat Pump Association) were involved in advising on the pre-publication draft and several changes were made. Both Associations will be revisiting the published draft guide and will submit appropriate comments to EA by 29 April.

EA will be reviewing all comments and will publish a final version in July 2011.

Position Statement

The 2-page statement sets out EA's position on GSHC; background and context; EA's role, and role of the installer and operator.

-----

Both documents can be viewed on EA's website by the following link: [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/128133.aspx](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/128133.aspx)

**LEE COLLINGWOOD  
1975 - 2011**

Lee Collingwood, at the very young age of 35, a BDA Audited cable percussion Lead Driller, died suddenly in Scotland on Saturday 19th March 2011 from natural causes. He was away from his home in Carcroft, Doncaster, engaged by his employer Vinci Soil Engineering on a Scottish drilling contract, but passed away at his lodgings after apparently leaving site feeling unwell. His colleagues, family, friends and BDA are distressed at the loss of this young talent.

Lee was born on 1st April 1975. He entered the drilling industry, aged 27, in July 2002 as an assistant cable percussion Driller with Norwest Holst (now Vinci) of Leeds. In August 2005 he achieved SVQ Lead Driller status followed by BDA Audited status in December 2006. He obtained many other certificates and qualifications. He worked extensively in UK, and Southern Ireland, including the Hindhead A3 proposed tunnel.

Lee was an accomplished Lead Driller. The BDA and industry mourns his passing. He leaves behind his partner and their two children to which our thoughts must go.

### GSHPA Standards Update

In February's Newsletter we mentioned that GSHPA (Ground Source Heat Pump Association) has prepared draft standards for borehole ground heat exchangers (GHEs). The standards are called 'Closed Loop Vertical Borehole - Design, Installation & Material Standards'. BDA Secretary, Brian Stringer, has represented the BDA on the GSHPA committee that has drawn up these draft standards.

Following a public consultation period in February/early March some 280 comments and suggestions were received by GSHPA and these are now being reviewed by its Training & Standards committee. One review meeting has been held and another is taking place in early April.

GSHPA would hope to publish the agreed standards late April. They will add substantially to all the other initiatives taking place to ensure that ground pump heat systems are designed and installed correctly, not least geothermal drilling certification (see page 1); MCS contractor/installer certification (which is being revised at present); EA's guide (see page 3) and approaches being made to establish designer qualifications/suitable training.

### BDA Audit Information

BDA Audit is the successor to BDA Drilling Accreditation and differs from the former scheme in that all audited operatives possess an NVQ, level 2, in Land Drilling and valid CSCS card in Land Drilling. It's open to Lead Drillers / Drillers and any drilling discipline.

It's becoming a necessity. Clients will be specifying it in order to conform to Eurocode & British Standards - BS 22475-2 & -3 (see page 1) and Amendment 2 of BS 5930 - and also the revised SISG (Site Investigation Steering Group) documents.

Please note that the BDA Driller Accreditation Scheme was wound up in 2005. Those who belonged to it should no longer be claiming that they are currently BDA Accredited. This would be an act of misrepresentation and the Association retains the right to take action should evidence reach it of this taking place.

BDA Audit is the only accreditation now issued for drilling operatives. Don't get left behind in not being able to satisfy tender requirements. Apply for details now to the BDA office and get ahead of the crowd.

### NEW PUBLICATION Contaminated Land

#### Guidance for Safe Intrusive Activities on Contaminated or Potentially Contaminated Land

This new document is a complete revision of the BDA "Guidance Notes for the Safe Drilling of Landfills & Contaminated Land" published in 1992. The original document became famous for introducing site categorisation - green, yellow and red - and went on to being being republished by Thomas Telford as SISG Part 4.

The new document comprises 52 pages and is in A4 booklet format.

It is essential reading for all who have to specify or carry out intrusive activity on contaminated land and features much on CDM 2007 and how to decide as to the site categorisation.

The document is available from the BDA Office @ £20 + £1.50 post & packing for BDA members. Telephone 01327 264622, fax 01327 264623, email office@britishdrillingassociation.co.uk

You may also like to order the Guidance for the Safe Operation of Cable Percussion Rigs and Equipment at the same price which was published in 2005 or its sister document on Dynamic Sampling published in 2007.

### HSE Delivery Plan

On March 31st the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) published its 'Delivery Plan' for 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012. Comprising some 17 pages it takes some time to digest but some fundamentals are apparent.

BDA understands that, while HSE is continuing to make general cuts in staff and offices, there will however be no reduction in its construction sector. HSE is to concentrate on real risk industries of which construction is one.

Significantly this delivery plan introduces the concept of a charging regime. It's not named as such but HSE is to consult on 'businesses ... meet more of the regulator's costs'. For companies that fail to have safe working it's going to cost a whole lot more !! Inspector visits are liable to be invoiced. If successfully prosecuted a company is going to be faced with a considerable rise in what the HSE claims for costs in the courts. Getting safety right will suddenly become even more cost effective!!

### AND FINALLY

Much of the content of this Newsletter and in February has been on developments surrounding ground source heat pumps. Geothermal drilling's future is very much linked to all these developments. The importance of the BDA's role in getting involved at all stages can not be underestimated. These are critical times in making sure that the new industry has firm standards and best practice to work to - without them it's a 'free for all' with all the bad consequences that will result.

*Brian Stringer*

# British Drilling Association Limited

'Wayside', London End, Upper Boddington, Daventry, Northampton, NN11 6DP

WEB: [www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk](http://www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk)

Tel: 01327 264622 Fax: 01327 264623 Email: [office@britishdrillingassociation.co.uk](mailto:office@britishdrillingassociation.co.uk)