

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

August, 2009

Secretary's Column

During late July, I spoke at an international drilling safety conference in Ontario province, Canada. This had been organised by a Canadian geotechnical drilling contractor, Determination Drilling, following the death through auger entanglement of one of their young lead drillers, Dan Grieves, last September.

The conference was held over a weekend at Sir Sandford Fleming College at Lindsay, Ontario, and attracted representatives from regulators, contractors, manufacturers, and trade associations from Canada, USA, Australia & the UK (BDA). I'll report elsewhere in this Newsletter and a future edition of Geodrilling International as to what was discussed.

On one day of my trip I was driven by Chris, an employee of Determination Drilling. Chris, acting as secondman, was with Dan Grieves at the rig when the accident happened. He raced to shut the rig down while Dan was being entangled and being killed. Dan's bootlace had caught in the rotating auger whilst kicking spoil away. Chris and Dan were best friends from their childhood. Dan had persuaded Chris to enter drilling. It was Chris's first day on a rig in the field.

The horror is unimaginable and needs no further words from myself at this time.

**All thoughts are welcome, call:
Brian Stringer
01327 264622**

Email: brian@britishdrillingassociation.co.uk

Safe Drilling through Coal Measures Hazardous Gases

The BDA has now met twice with the HSE and Coal Authority (CA) as an industry working party to draw up guidance with regard to hazardous gases in coal measures. A safety bulletin will be issued by HSE while this guidance work proceeds. A recent incident reinforces the need for vigilance and applying for CA permission to drill into coal measures.

BDA Chairman, David Allan, and BDA Secretary, Brian Stringer, met jointly with HSE and CA on 16 June and 16 July. A further meeting is planned for 26 August. All parties have come together to form a working party to produce guidance on the risks of hazardous gases and the precautions to be taken when coal measure drilling. Other organisations will also be invited to join the working party. It is hoped that the guidance will be published later this year.

The HSE is currently agreeing with BDA and CA the contents of a safety bulletin that it will issue shortly. The bulletin will serve to highlight that drilling into coal measures and former mining activity can lead to the creation, release or migration off-site of hazardous gases. Such gases include carbon dioxide, methane, hydrogen, hydrogen sulphide, carbon monoxide and oxygen deficient air. The bulletin will draw attention to the potential for coal to spontaneously combust on exposure to air thus possibly creating large quantities of carbon monoxide. It will also mention that gases can be displaced by drilling flush over distance thus creating an off-site hazard. It is this off-site risk to members of the public that needs careful consideration as well as the on-site risks.

It was reported at the 16 July meeting that CA had recently been called out to a Scottish drilling site. A main coal seam had been intersected. It had spontaneously combusted while air flush coring was taking place. CA reported that no permission for the coring had been applied for by the client, consulting engineer or the drilling contractor and that it was a case of unauthorised drilling. The incident is regarded as serious, as the seam is well known to CA as being liable to spontaneous combustion and rises towards housing and industrial premises. It apparently took 6 or 7 hours to seal the hole on a Friday. Monitoring over the weekend established high levels of carbon monoxide in what is thought to be an adjacent borehole. Monitors were also placed in the houses. Permission was sought and granted for 2 further boreholes up and down dip which encountered carbon monoxide levels above normal. CA is in ongoing discussions with the parties involved following this incident. HSE is also involved.

CA advise BDA that normal turnaround time to grant permission is 3 to 4 weeks. This can be quicker in some circumstances but those applying for permission must plan ahead. In any event no drilling works can commence where CA permission is required. If in any doubt, BDA members should contact CA.

Membership

BDA EVENTS

New Corporate Members

Eco Drilling Services Ltd

Geothermal Drilling, Water Well Boreholes, Landfill Drilling

Registered Member

Richard Irwin

General Manager

**Unit 45
Evelyn Street
Beeston
Nottingham
NG9 2EU**

Tel: 0115 922 9521

Fax: 0115 943 0266

Email: jonathan@eco-drilling-services.co.uk

Web: www.eco-drilling-services.co.uk

Hydrock Special Projects Ltd

Drilling Contractor - Ground Investigation, Mineral Exploration, Soil Nailing, Geothermal, Water Boreholes, Anchoring, Slope Stabilisation

Registered Member

Fred Mann

UK & Overseas Drilling Manager

Sponsored Members

Simeon Doubleday

Adam Fisher

**Over Court Barns
Over Lane
Almondsbury
Bristol
BS32 4DF**

Tel: 01454 619533

Fax: 01454 614125

Email: bristol@hydrock.com

Web: www.hydrock.com

Membership Services

The BDA is keen that all members are aware of the services that are available to them. Here are just a few of them. We'll mention more in future newsletters.

Insurance

We can put you into contact with four insurance brokers that specialise in the drilling market.

Enquiries

Contact our office with your queries. We can answer most things or find someone to help you.

SSSTS Training Course

NSSC discount on 2-day Site Supervisors Safety Training Scheme course.

Publications

Are you aware of the range of publications we offer? If not please contact our office for further details.

Membership Recruitment

It's very encouraging that the BDA continues to attract new membership applications. It's a recognition that BDA membership means something, and that we provide the services and information so essential in these difficult and regulatory times.

We have recruited 7 new corporate members this year and are dealing with several more enquiries.

Please take every opportunity to encourage others to join so that everyone in the industry can share the burden of what the BDA is doing.

DINNER DANCE 2009

The date and location of this year's event was announced at the BDA's Annual General Meeting in April. Be sure to put the details in your diary.

Saturday 24th October 2009

Radisson SAS Hotel

**Argyle Street
GLASGOW**

This is a superb 5 star hotel situated in the heart of the city and adjacent to Glasgow Central Station. The hotel opened in November 2002 and has won awards ever since for its architectural style, comfort and services. It has 250 stylishly designed bedrooms, health club, 2 restaurants and 2 bars. In all a great venue for the BDA.

We'll once again have the best in entertainment including "The Blame" cover band who'll be travelling up from Lancashire. Gary & his band members really look forward to our "do" having continuously got us on our feet for the past 5 years. We've also been promised one or two surprises from our Scottish members.

Full booking details have been sent out to members.

We've reserved 100 bedrooms for starters - a double room B & B will be £120 inclusive of Vat and you can get ahead of the crowd by booking these now. Telephone reservations on 0141 204 3333 and quote the BDA rate.

LATEST NEWS

**Bookings are going extremely well
Over 230 are currently attending
Be sure to be there**

BDA on the WEB

***Our new fully updated website will be re-launched very shortly.
It's been a long time coming but we hope you like it.***

www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk

Association of Associations?

On 26th July in Lindsay, Ontario, Canada, the BDA chaired a meeting of 5 other major drilling associations from Australia, Canada and USA. It may go down in history as the beginning of worldwide drilling association co-operation.

The International Drilling Safety Conference at Sir Sandford Fleming College in Lindsay, Ontario, Canada, held on 25-26 July provided an opportunity for several drilling associations to meet. In fact it was a major reason that the BDA Secretary, Brian Stringer, was present along with principal officers of ADIA (Australian Drilling Industry Association); CDDA (Canadian Diamond Drilling Association); NDA (National Drilling Association, USA, who also represent DCDMA, Diamond Core Drillers Manufacturers Association); NGWA (National Ground Water Association, USA), and OGWA (Ontario Ground Water Association).

No formal links have existed between all these associations, or for that matter other drilling associations around the world. And yet we're all dealing with matters of common interest - regulation, standards, health & safety, competence, training and drilling technology. The intention of getting together was to map out where we can assist each other, share our experiences and plan for future ongoing co-operation.

The meeting was a huge success. A draft agenda had been proposed by the BDA and amended / agreed before we met. All sat down having had the benefit of getting to know each other in the previous 48 hours - shared transport from Toronto Airport; College rooms shared accommodation; the Conference itself, and not least some drink and late hours were involved! After these 2 days we were more than in the spirit of mutual co-operation and determined not to let the moment go by.

Each Association now has to go back to its Main Committee or Board for approval of what was discussed and initially agreed at Lindsay. Principally this was 6-monthly circulated report of each association's training agenda; guarding information; safety alerts; events, and industry trends. In addition, mutual recognition on each association website; membership rate for publications; database of all international associations; exchange of training materials; international press release, and moves towards a formal international association of associations.

What is apparent is that we vary as Associations as to priority, resources, level of where we're at, and coverage. The BDA should be proud of where it stands internationally on matters of driller qualification & training, regulator involvement, standards involvement, and the respect shown to it.

A Young Driller replies

Liam Donovan, a 24 year old Lead Driller of BDA member, Ecologia Environmental Solutions Ltd. writes in response to June Newsletter:

"Being a young driller I enjoy the job I do and am always looking to learn new techniques. For example last year I turned 23 and 3 days later was on a plane to Guinea, West Africa. Before that job I was just a rotary driller but when I came back I found myself as a CPT operator as well. I don't know many jobs that give you that much of an 'adventure' as such, also giving you a variety of different styles of a job as drilling. So if there are any young drillers that are out there that have been made redundant and have the potential, I hope that when the industry does pick up that they come back to drilling as it is a job with many rewards such as travelling to destinations you wouldn't dream of.

Also I think it's excellent that the BDA have started a drilling apprenticeship, as I think it is something that is needed in our industry, and wished it was around when I first started my job nearly 5 years ago now."

Thank you Liam. The industry needs young blood and its views.

Drill Rig Scam Beware !

A BDA Member has advised of where you can be caught out. He wasn't but who's next?

A telephone call came into the Company. "This is a film set company that would like to hire a drill rig for a current production. We would like an older machine. What is your rate?" The voice seemed authentic, albeit with an american accent. A rate was agreed of £1200 / day (it was a larger rig) by the Company's negotiator. A purchase order was requested to confirm who the enquirer was.

Purchase order arrives. Alarm bells soon start on top of suspicion about nature of enquiry. Order format is amateurish. Company carries out checks on enquirer company name. It is a company registered at Companies House with a London address. The address is checked out and is also the address of a black activist group.

Meanwhile £5,000 has been requested by the Company as an upfront payment. Enquirer now says that it will send in its own low loader transport to pick up the rig. At which point the Company smells a real rat and closes down any further communication.

The BDA Member feels, quite rightly, that it could have lost a rig. Next time, for someone else, it could be a rig or another item of plant. Perhaps the drilling industry is being targeted. Be on your guard.

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.

This year it will become a necessity. Clients will be specifying it in order to conform to Eurocode & British Standards, and also the revised SIGS (Site Investigation Steering Group) documents.

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.

Inclined Drilling "Guarding"

In June's Newsletter we published an agreed statement between the HSE and the BDA regarding inclined drilling. Since then a BDA working party has been set up and two meetings held.

The issue is that the HSE requires those that are engaged in inclined drilling to comply with Regulation 11 of PUWER (Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations) with regard to preventing access to rotating parts - the drill head and rod string.

A BDA Working Party, comprised of drilling contractors engaged in soil nailing and anchoring has met twice on June 23rd and July 30th to consider the matter and move forward to solutions. Other contractors will also be involved and the FPS (Federation of Piling Specialists) has also been invited to participate. The last meeting included Donald Lamont and Marcus O'Connor of the HSE who were given a slide presentation of all the various configurations of inclined drilling. It was agreed to concentrate initial effort on the bulk market, that of soil nailing and anchoring conducted at or near ground level. The HSE appreciated that more thought would be required for long reach operations, slope and cliff locations.

HSE is looking for initial proposals for a meeting 1st December. The Working Party itself will meet again in mid September and again in October / November.

EN 791 Drill Rig Safety

The revision of European Standard EN 791, Drill Rig Safety, was last reported in our April Newsletter. What's been happening since?

It will be remembered that the process of revision of EN 791, published in 1995 and now being combined with EN 996 (Piling) started in February 2008. The proposed joint Standard is for manufacturers of drills and piling rigs.

Meetings have been held in Europe (Paris and Frankfurt) on a regular basis. The latest were in May and July. The next meeting is in London in early September. BDA Secretary, Brian Stringer, along with HSE (Donald Lamont) and FPS representative (Keith Bolton, Bachy Soletanche) have been representing the UK.

The revised joint standard is made up of 7 parts.

- Part 1 General requirements
- Part 2 Drill rigs
- Part 3 HDD (Horizontal Directional Drilling)
- Part 4 Foundation equipment
- Part 5 Diaphragm walling equipment
- Part 6 Jetting, grouting, injection
- Part 7 Auxiliary equipment

Any machine will have to comply with Part 1 and then the relevant other part or parts. Key matters include stability calculations and protection against rotating parts. Progress is being made but the amount of work is considerable and has been underestimated by those managing the process. October this year is a deadline for producing a final draft of Part 1 that will go to a CEN consultant for comment and then onward for public comment. The other parts, particularly Part 2, have a long way to go before they will be ready.

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 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.

AND FINALLY

Cecil Rhodes, the great imperialist and workaholic, is reported as saying on his South African death bed in March 1902 "So little done, so much to do". He happens to be one of my heroes - more perhaps for his vision and accomplishments rather than his work practices.

I'd say that BDA has done much but more needs to be done. What we share with Rhodes is constantly looking forward and doing something about it.

Brian Stringer

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