

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

June, 2012

Secretary's Column

Is the British Public more aware of drilling these days? The question came to mind recently for several reasons. I've had a flurry of meetings in London at different locations over the past two months. I seem to have walked past piling and drilling rig sites wherever I've been. This usually with members of the public peering through the fencing or looking up. The drought in southern England has attracted many newspaper articles about drilling for water and consequently the public has been able to read something about what we can do. There's also increasing press coverage about geothermal heat, either shallow (ground source) or deep seated and how it's accessed through drilling. Last but not least there's shale gas drilling and 'fracking', a word that has very quickly become well known.

What's common amongst all these is that they are land based activities. Where there is land, there are people, and this brings the subject of drilling closer to the public unlike, for example, offshore oil and gas.

How we can utilise this increasing awareness for the benefit of the drilling industry is something we'll have to think about. Perhaps it will spark more interest in drilling as a career. Possibly it will attract more investment. It may even expand the demand for drilling services or is that wishful thinking?

All thoughts are welcome, call:
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BDA Annual General Meeting Held 2nd May 2012

The BDA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on Wednesday 2nd May at Donington Manor Hotel, Castle Donington. Financial results for 2011 were presented and showed a slight improvement over 2010. The new BDA Chairman began his term with a new BDA Vice Chairman and there were new additions to the BDA's Management Committee.

Geoff Prudhoe, BDA's outgoing Chairman led the proceedings of the BDA's 35th AGM. He welcomed the members present and spoke about the tough times that much of the industry had continued to experience. While there was some increased activity in recent months, the uncertainties about the UK economy were still dominating especially with news about a 3% fall in construction sector output in the first quarter of 2012. He said that 2011 had been a difficult year for BDA but membership had held up; a good financial performance had been achieved despite a small loss, and excellent work had been done in winning a new grant from CITB ConstructionSkills. It was the end of his 2-year term as BDA Chairman, a role that he'd enjoyed, and he was certain that the Association would continue to serve the best interests of its members. BDA National Secretary, Brian Stringer, led the thanks to Geoff for his leadership, commitment and involvement over the past two years.

The AGM welcomed John Grainger as the new BDA Chairman. It also welcomed Andrew Stevenson as the new BDA Vice Chairman to follow on from John. New Management Committee members were Lee Allardyce and Adam Woodhead.

BDA AGM approved the Association's financial accounts for 2011. A loss of £2,863 (2010 loss £4,487) was reported on a turnover of £184,921 (2010 £184,863). Good financial management has enabled the BDA to continue to provide its full services and carry on dealing with all the issues that affect the industry and future industry growth.

RIDDOR CHANGE - Accident Reporting

As at 6 April 2012, the over 3-day injury reporting requirement under RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations) has changed to over 7 days incapacitation. Employers must still keep a record of all over 3-day injuries but only have to report on those that exceed 7 days (not counting the day of the accident). Incapacitation means that the worker is absent or is unable to do work that they would reasonably be expected to do as part of their normal work. The deadline by which the over 7-day injury must be reported has also increased to 15 days from the day of the accident.

A free guidance leaflet on RIDDOR, which includes this changed requirement, is available on the HSE's website - www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg453.htm

BDA MEMBERSHIP

Membership Changes

Soil Engineering Geoservices Ltd

As from April, this is the new name of Soil Engineering, the specialist site investigation and grouting company. Formerly it was a division of Vinci Construction UK Ltd but ownership is now transferred to the Vinci Soletanche Freyssinet UK geotechnical arm which is Bachy Soletanche Group.

The BDA understands that the change is positively welcomed by Soil Engineering's staff because activities complement Bachy Soletanche's operations; both are involved with ground engineering, and that there is a natural synergy. Bachy Soletanche is also a BDA member.

Sonic Drilling and Piling Plant Hire Ltd

The new BDA Registered Member is:
- **David Hildebrandt**

URS Infrastructure and Environment Ltd

Eddie Bennett, our BDA Registered Member based in Ashford, advises that this is the new name for Scott Wilson Ltd for which he works.

This follows URS, San Francisco-based engineering group, acquiring UK's Scott Wilson consultancy group, in 2010.

PLEASE LET BDA KNOW OF ANY MEMBERSHIP CHANGES. WE'D BE HAPPY TO PUBLISH.

BDA Events

BDA is continually working on expanding the number and type of events it offers. We make a welcome return to regular seminars.

BDA SEMINAR - 'Driving Quality' Tuesday 26th June 2012 - Geological Society- London

This seminar at its prestigious venue will be of interest to all those concerned with ground investigation quality whether clients, consultants or contractors. What are the drivers towards better quality? What is new that can assist? How can it be achieved? All the issues and solutions will be examined.

Starting at 2.00pm and running until 6.00pm it will be followed by a networking opportunity with snacks and drinks.

The Programme is chaired by John Grainger, BDA Chairman, and is a series of presentations by well informed speakers:-

- **David Norbury, Geotechnical Investigation Standards**
- **Len Threadgold, Quality Factors in Procurement of Site Investigation**
- **Stewart Jarvis, Ground Investigation Quality Challenges**
- **Matthew Baldwin, New British Standards: Quality Drilling and Sampling**
- **Neil Breach, Safety Management - its Contribution to Quality**
- **Keith Banton, New Hazardous Gases Guidance for Geotechnical Drilling**

You may be reading this for the first time near to the date of the seminar. It's not too late to book. Further details are on BDA website with a booking form. Or call BDA office now on 01327 264622.

We look forward to many BDA members being there.

BDA GOLF DAY 7 September 2012

Always extremely popular it will be held at our usual venue at Woodsome Hall Golf Club, near Huddersfield, on Friday 7th September. Bookings can be made now.

The course is challenging and picturesque. The regulars to this event consider it a gem whatever your handicap status. The clubhouse is 16th century being a former manor house. The day comprises 10 holes in the morning and 18 in the afternoon. Bacon sandwiches on arrival, lunch and evening dinner are all provided. The evening "do" is held in a magnificent dining room complete with minstrels' gallery and period fireplace. Prizes to play for and excellent company complete what's on offer apart from the opportunity to stay overnight in Huddersfield and enjoy some of its attractions with other BDA members.

Price is £98 per person inclusive of Vat. For further details please contact the BDA Secretary or book through the BDA website (see Events).

BDA on the WEB

*For latest news and updates visit our website
Our new website contains much needed information*

www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk

BDA WEBSITE

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 can 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.

EN 791 Revision

Work on compiling a new European Standard (EN) that will replace EN 791 Drill Rig Safety is nearly complete.

The existing EN Standards that manufacturers use to design drill rigs (EN 791) and piling rigs (EN 996) will be replaced by a new 7-part Standard currently termed 'pr' 16228. The 'pr' indicates that it's proposed and has yet to be formally put in place.

Work on 16228 has been proceeding for several years in a European technical working group (CEN TC 151 WG3). It reaches a critical stage this October when the completed seven parts are submitted to CEN itself and prepared for European formal voting in early 2013. Subject to positive voting there will be EN 16228 Standards later in 2013.

A major change will be requirements for drill rigs to be 'guarded' either through physical guards, or 'sensitive protective devices' that will detect foreseeable access to the rotating parts danger zone. When guards are opened, or sensitive protective devices are triggered, the rotation and feed shall stop. Restarting will only be possible in a 'restricted operating mode' or with guards closed / protective devices no longer being triggered.

The restricted operating mode (ROM) will comprise of a number of requirements. These include rotational speed and feed speed restrictions; hold to run controls; indicators, and stopping of rotation within half a turn when hold to run is released. All the details of the ROM requirements are still being agreed in CEN TC 151 WG3 which has its final meeting in early July.

BDA's Brian Stringer and FPS's Keith Bolton, on behalf of BSI committee, attend the CEN meetings and have been heavily involved in the development of the 'guarding' requirements. This major proposed change has been the subject of much debate amongst CEN WG3 members over the past three years. Consensus has been difficult to achieve both on the principles and the detail. It's been the single most issue that has divided the members. WG3 has come a long way since it was first raised.

LAND DRILLING APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

Launched in 2007, this specialist apprenticeship programme (LD-SAP) has proven to be a success for individuals, companies and the industry. Enquiries are welcomed for new batches of apprentices starting this year.

The LD-SAP was developed by BDA with CITB ConstructionSkills and is aimed at newcomers to the land drilling industry or those in the industry who require formalised training to progress to Lead Driller. The outcome at the end of 2 years is the award of NVQ Diploma Land Drilling as a Lead Driller. The apprenticeship is designed around monitored in-house company training and external training courses provided by the BDA. The training incorporates both practical skills and knowledge learning. It is formulated in accordance with specific frameworks that lay down what has to be delivered. Details of the training are in the scheme booklet.

The breadth, content and quality of the training is unachievable elsewhere. ConstructionSkills apprentice officers visit each apprentice on a regular basis to provide support and ensure that their needs are being addressed.

Employers that are in scope and registered with CITB can obtain a grant that is paid to them over the 2-year period. This is currently £5,200 per apprentice. In addition, CITB ConstructionSkills through its National Specialist Assessment Centre (NSAC) is currently offering a further £1,000 per Land Drilling apprentice registration to in scope Employers.

The BDA invites companies to consider providing candidates for this year's batches of apprentices. A batch is starting in June. You may have a recently employed person who is showing potential to go on to Lead Driller, or one that has been with you a while who is keen to progress. Age is no barrier to who can start on LD-SAP. We've had apprentices in their forties on previous batches.

Contact the BDA Secretary, Brian Stringer, to discuss further with no obligation or to obtain the scheme booklet. Details are also available on the BDA website. We look forward to hearing from you.

BDA Accident Survey 2012

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.

Existing members will be familiar with the annual requirement to complete an accident form. New members may require information why this is necessary and wonder what's entailed.

In order for the BDA to compile yearly industry accident statistics, each Corporate member is asked to fill in a form giving the number of accidents (Fatalities, major injuries, over 3-day injuries, dangerous occurrences etc.) to their directly employed workforce and employees under their control e.g. sub contractors. In addition the causes of these accidents need to be indicated. The information supplied is confidentially handled within the BDA office and only used to compile overall figures for the BDA membership.

In turn the BDA supplies the overall figures to the National Specialist Contractors Council (NSCC) for its compilation of specialist statistics.

Load Security Enforcement

VOSA (Vehicle Operator and Services Agency), from 1st April 2012, has been rolling out its new enforcement policy for insecure loads.

It's always been necessary to ensure that loads on vehicles / trailers are secured, but from 1st April VOSA is now stepping up its approach to the matter. An industry led working group has been involved in discussions with VOSA and HSL (Health and Safety Laboratory) during the past two years. New guidance has been drafted and a matrix drawn up to assist examiners. The matrix distinguishes between various types of load and has three categories of severity for assessing load security. Plant is a Type A load type as are metal pipes.

VOSA examiners are being trained to assess against the matrix and now have an enforcement policy table for issuing prohibition or advisory notices.

The new enforcement regime will be directed to commercial transport but BDA members should be aware that it may apply to themselves as well.

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.

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 and Amendment 2 of BS 5930 - and also the revised SISG (Site Investigation Steering Group) documents. It will also be necessary for those in geothermal drilling in order to satisfy the UKAS certification scheme requirements.

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.

AND FINALLY

Ensuring that BDA members are kept up to date with what may affect them is a prime function of the Association's newsletter.

We rely on members and the BDA's own research to identify all that's relevant. Sharing of information is welcomed at all times. If you have knowledge of something that would help other members then please let us know about it.

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