

# 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*

May, 2010

## Secretary's Column

By the time you read this the General Election will be over but perhaps its outcome in terms of who governs will still be undecided. Such is the situation as I write this some two weeks before polling day. Whatever the result it's to be hoped that the country will, over the ensuing months, learn more about what's intended in reducing the deficit. It's inevitable that public expenditure will be cut but where will the axe fall? In particular what will be the knock on effects to the drilling industry if the construction and building sectors fall victim to more uncertainty, cancellation of projects and reduction of activity?

Planning for the future is not an exact science. The drilling industry as a whole cannot normally create demand for the services and products it provides. That has been the case for a long time. But we should collectively and individually re-examine whether opportunities now exist to challenge the long held view that we can't influence overall demand. For example the new Eurocode geotechnical standards suggest and demand that ground investigation moves on to more and higher quality work. We should be bringing that to the attention of the industry's clients. We should be pointing out that they have a duty and liability to commission works and methods to fulfill the new codes rather than accept them carrying on with insufficient and low cost approaches.

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

Email: [brian@britishdrillingassociation.co.uk](mailto:brian@britishdrillingassociation.co.uk)

## GeoDrilling 2010 Postponement

**It was with regret that the BDA and the industry learned of this year's Show postponement to June 2011.**

The eagerly awaited Geodrilling Show that was to be held in April was sadly, at short notice, put back for a year until times improve. It had become a reality that many potential exhibitors found it hard to justify the expenditure in such a hard economic climate.

The disappointment that was felt in the loss of the exhibition and conference was however lifted by the immediate announcement that there will be a Geodrilling 2011 Show next year on June 7th and 8th. This very welcome news means that we can look forward to once again attending what has become an important event for our industry.

## BDA AGM

**The BDA Annual General Meeting is being held on Wednesday 19th May. A few days remain for you to advise whether you wish to attend.**

BDA members have been sent details of this year's AGM which is open to members and guests.

2.00pm Wednesday 19th May  
Macdonald Tickled Trout Hotel  
Salisbury  
Preston  
PR5 0UJ

The formal AGM business will be accompanied by a presentation by Keith Banton, Coal Authority, on shaft & gas hazards and the Authority's permissions and requirements.

Lunch is from 12.30 to 2.00pm at a cost of £15.

## Land Drilling Apprenticeship Scheme

**Opportunity still remains to register suitable employees on the BDA Land Drilling Apprenticeship Scheme which attracts funding from ConstructionSkills for eligible companies.**

Have you an employee that is showing promise to become a Lead Driller? Age doesn't matter.

Do you want that employee to have the best training available in the industry over a 2-year period and achieve his NVQ Land Drilling?

If the answer to both questions is yes then we'd like to hear from you. The Apprenticeship Scheme can hugely benefit your company and that employee as many have already found. Choose the modern way forward to train tomorrow's Lead Drillers on everything they should know. To discuss please contact Brian Stringer, the BDA Secretary who can provide all the details

## MEMBERSHIP

### New Corporate Members

We welcome these new members to the BDA and look forward to being of assistance to them.

#### **B. A. Hull Ltd**

Waterwell Drilling, Geothermal, Ground Investigation, Ground Stabilisation.

*Registered Member*

**Dan Collins**

*Sponsored Member*

**Guy Thompson**

**Court Farm  
Lower Lemington  
Moreton-in-Marsh  
Gloucestershire  
GL56 9NP**

Tel: 01608 652600

Fax: 01608 652230

email: info@bahull.com

web: www.bahull.com

#### **Geotech Developments Ltd**

Geothermal Energy Wells, Groundwater Heat Transfers, Water Wells.

*Registered Member*

**Maurice Bosch** Director / Partner

*Sponsored Members*

**Alexandre Bosch**

**Jonathan Clark**

**Waters End Farm  
Iden Green  
Cranbrook  
Kent  
TN17 4LA**

Tel: 01580 848110

Fax: 01580 848109

email: info@geotechdevelopments.co.uk

web: www.geotechdevelopments.co.uk

#### **John M. Grainger Ltd**

Geotechnical Project & Management Advice, with specific focus on the Ground Investigation Sector.

*Registered Member*

**John Grainger**

Director

**7, Pen-yr-Heol Drive  
Sketty  
Swansea  
SA2 9JT**

Tel: 01792 202264

Mbl: 07515 474869

email: j.mgrainger@yahoo.co.uk

### Change of Address

#### **Emerson Moore Drilling Ltd**

has relocated to this new address and has new contact numbers.

**Four Winds Farm Buildings  
Gloucester Road  
Upper Swainswick  
Bath  
BA1 8AE**

Tel: 01225 855002

Fax: 01225 852795

email: info@emerson-moore.co.uk

## BDA EVENTS

### DINNER DANCE 2010

The ever popular BDA Dinner Dance will be in Birmingham this year, a city that we haven't visited before but one that has a host of attractions. Be sure to put the details in your diary.

**Saturday 6th November 2010**

**Macdonald Burlington Hotel**

**126 New Street**

**Birmingham**

**B2 4JQ**

The historic Burlington Hotel is Birmingham's original Victorian four star city centre hotel. Owned by the renowned Macdonald hotel company it was built some 125 years ago as a luxury railway hotel. It lies adjacent to New Street station and is in easy walking distance of the city's main attractions and shopping areas. It is rumoured to have been Winston Churchill's favourite Birmingham hotel.

We have the exclusive use of the Horton Suite with its own private entrance, foyer, dedicated bar and dining / dancing function room. Once again we'll have "The Blame" cover band who have kept us well entertained for the past 6 years.

The hotel has 112 rooms and we've negotiated a double room B & B rate of £99.00 inclusive of Vat to make this year's event more affordable. Rooms will go fast so it's suggested that you book your accommodation now. You can telephone the Reservations Department on 0844 879 9019 but be sure to quote BRIT061110 to obtain the negotiated rate.

Price of tables for 10 people is being held at last year's rate of £825, inclusive of Vat, to follow the affordability theme but with no loss of quality.

## 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***

## Eurocode 7 Is awareness now developing?

**From April 2010, Eurocode 7 for geotechnical design became fully active across Europe. In reality however there's been a build up to this event for several years - many of the supporting Standards to which Eurocode 7 refers have been in place in UK for some time. Awareness and implementation needs to improve rapidly.**

Eurocode 7 is published in 2 parts by BSI as follows:  
BS EN 1997-1 Geotechnical design, General rules (this Part 1 is essential for those involved with all aspects of geotechnical design)

BS EN 1997-2 Geotechnical design, Ground investigation and testing (this Part 2 concentrates on site investigation. It covers soil/rock description; sampling methods and groundwater measurement; field testing, and geohydraulic tests).

1997-2 is a very important document for those that specify and carry out site and ground investigation. However it does not stand alone for it calls up many separate standards that contain the specific details of what needs to be complied with. For example the following:-

BS EN ISO 22475-1 technical principles for execution (amongst others this deals in detail with sampling methods, classification, types of samplers, sample storage, transportation etc.). Currently the UK's BS 5930, which is a code of practice, is undergoing an amendment 2 so that it doesn't conflict with 22475-1. It is however the latter that the industry has to conform to and therefore the document that all should be aware of, reading and implementing.

Very importantly the UK's U100 sampler falls under the description of an open tube, thick wall sampler under 22475-1 and cannot provide a class 1 sample (for shear strength and compressibility testing etc.) according to 22475-1 or 1997-2. Where a tender specification includes obtaining class 1 samples and/or testing of same according to Eurocode 7, 1997-2 or 22475-1, then an alternative to the U100 sample must be sought. Thin wall samplers or rotary cored samples are the main alternatives and described in 22475-1.

The industry has been looking at the status of the U100 under 22475-1 and there is wide agreement that Eurocode does not permit its use for class 1 sampling. Currently many contractors and manufacturers are developing or producing thin wall samplers that would comply with 22475-1 for class 1 sampling. We will publish details of this when further information reaches us and there is wider consensus and acceptance of what's been developed. Members should consult the technical press; manufacturers & suppliers, and look out for publication of BS 5930 Amendment 2 on this subject.

Another aspect of Eurocode 7 is in-situ testing and in particular the Standard Penetration Test (SPT). Since 2005 there has been a new standard for SPT, namely BS EN ISO 22476-3 2005 which forms part of Eurocode. 22476-3 is available from BSI (<http://shop.bsigroup.com>) at a current cost of £124 (£62 to BSI members). It contains details of how the test should be performed; requirements for hammer certification etc. Copyright issues do not permit us to publish or distribute its contents (this applies to all BSI publications). BDA members should obtain a copy if they're specifying or carrying out SPT testing as the old standard in BS 1377 has been withdrawn for several years. Amendment 2 to BS 5930 to be published later this year will also make this clear.

Is awareness of Eurocode 7 now developing? Certainly amongst larger organisations there has been attention paid to the introduction of Eurocode. With greater resources and liabilities you'd expect this. Overall however the UK has been slow to react and now it's time to catch up for many. Training courses do exist and the BDA can advise where these can be obtained. The first step for many must be to become familiar with what's in Eurocode and its relevant Standards. It is a time of change and each company has to assess the impact on its business.

We published details of Eurocode 7 in the newsletters of August 2008 and December 2009. Members can contact the BDA office for back copies.

## 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 EN ISO 22475-3 which is being published shortly and Amendment 2 of BS 5930 which is being prepared) and also the revised SISG (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.

## NVQ LAND DRILLING

In recent years the Learning Skills Council (LSC), a government body, has been able to provide money so that NVQ level 2 assessment could be given free. This source of funding has effectively dried up and LSC is being broken up into two other organisations this April.

CITB grant for NVQ achievement to eligible levy payers has also been reduced and further reductions are believed to be in the pipeline..

The days of free NVQs is being rapidly brought to an end. It may be possible to obtain assistance in some localised areas but with difficulty.

The advice to BDA members is that you make enquiry now on NVQ Land Drilling to establish the latest position. As we've consistently said it's a qualification needed by all drilling operatives. The longer it's left to obtain will inevitably incur higher cost.

### Latest News

***Some limited funding may be available for a short while through assessors attached to CSkills NSAC Centre . Contact BDA office for details.***

### Inclined Drilling "Guarding"

**A joint statement by the BDA and Health & Safety Executive (HSE) is in the final stages of being agreed. This follows many meetings within the BDA and with HSE.**

In June 2009 a BDA working group was set up of leading contractors carrying out inclined drilling. Typical applications were soil nailing, anchoring and ground stabilisation. This was in response to HSE asking the industry to comply with the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) 1998 as amended 2002 and come up with solutions for inclined drilling.

The BDA working group, under chairmanship of Geoff Prudhoe (BDA's Vice Chairman) sat on six occasions between June 2009 and February 2010 with the HSE attending two of these meetings. The Federation of Piling Contractors (FPS) was kept in contact with the process.

Inclined drilling is defined as any angle greater than 10 degree from vertical. It should be noted that requirements for compliance with PUWER in "vertical drilling" are already defined by HSE and have been well publicised. HSE regards that guards fitted for vertical drilling will cover angles up to 10 degree from vertical.

The working group after much debate and exchange of information has concluded that it is practicable to guard drill rigs during inclined drilling. The joint statement of BDA and HSE, when issued shortly, will go into details and is likely to say that access to dangerous parts involved in the drilling process shall be prevented by an interlocking guard or protective device such as a sensing or scanning device. The industry will have up to 30th September 2010 to fully comply. From end of June to this date the HSE will expect any contractor to be capable of demonstrating that it has an acceptable programme in place to meet full compliance by 30th September.

### Land Drilling Sector Accreditation Scheme

**In February's BDA Newsletter we reported that the Association had won a ConstructionSkills grant to develop a Land Drilling Sector Accreditation Scheme (LD-SAS) for the industry. We report now on progress.**

LD-SAS when developed and available will provide Company accreditation awards by UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service). These awards will follow auditing of an applicant Company according to the standards required and procedures in the LD-SAS scheme booklet. It is the latter that is currently under preparation.

To arrive at a scheme booklet the BDA has appointed a consultant for the duration of the project. Preparatory work has taken place with the consultant to produce an initial draft. This has involved a series of meetings and discussions.

Under UKAS rules an Advisory Committee has to be set up comprised of clients, representative organisations and other parties. The Advisory (or Technical) Committee has the job of scutinising, reviewing and contributing to the work of producing the scheme booklet.

BDA has sent out invites to all interested parties to send a representative to the first meeting of the Advisory Committee being held in London on May 11th. From replies received we're expecting representation from such clients as Highways Agency, CrossRail, Network Rail, Thames Water etc. and representative bodies which include AGS, FPS, Ground Forum, EGGS, BGA etc. There is great interest in what's proposed.

Much work remains to meet the project deadline of November this year and we'll keep you advised of further progress. A good start has been made and we look forward to this being maintained.

### 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 SIGS 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](mailto: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

We bid farewell to Mark Green who's been running Discovery Drilling for 13 years. Mark leaves for New Zealand in May to take up a major position with Contact Energy on their deep drilling geothermal projects.

We thank Mark for his continued support of the BDA over the past years, and wish him and his family every future success in their new life abroad.

*Brian Stringer*

## *British Drilling Association Limited*

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