

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

November, 2011

Secretary's Column

On 22nd October 1976 a meeting took place at the Geological Society, London, to which many people in the drilling industry had been invited. Brian England of Hands-England Drilling closed the meeting with the words, 'Gentlemen, we now have the BDA'. That was the beginning, 35 years ago, of our Association.

1976 was the year of strikes and raging inflation up to 17% but don't let's dwell on that. It was also the year of day after day temperatures in the 90s fahrenheit (32+ centigrade) and the launch in July of the Apple 1 computer by Steve Wozniack and Steve Jobs.

No one had a computer in those days and when the Apple arrived it boasted 4KB memory expandable to 48KB. Bill Gates who'd founded Microsoft a year earlier went on to say a year or two later that 640KB should be enough for anyone.

I'm sure that the BDA founders could never have envisaged just how widespread and powerful computers would become. However there is one thing that they were committed to that continues to this day. The BDA would be the means for the drilling industry to come together in a democratic and selfless way to create standards; improve safety; originate qualifications; sponsor training, and provide whatever was required for a quality industry.

All thoughts are welcome, call:

Brian Stringer

01327 264622

office@britishdrillingassociation.co.uk

BDA CELEBRATES LARGEST EVER GRANT Upskilling for geothermal drilling features as major benefit

In October the BDA was awarded the largest grant in its 35 year history to support the land drilling industry in meeting the challenge of engaging in the emerging geothermal drilling market. The funding provided by CITB ConstructionSkills is further proof of the Sector Skills Council's confidence in the BDA's leading role to help employers and drilling operatives upskill and prepare themselves to meet the requirements of this new sector.

The grant to BDA of £93,220 by CITB ConstructionSkills is for a 19-month project called 'Land Drilling - Geothermal Drilling, Qualifications, Training and Skills Development'. The money, being paid in stages, is from CITB ConstructionSkills' Growth Fund which is targeted at supporting business growth not least for emerging markets and specialist sub-sectors that are linked to environmental sustainability, low carbon and renewable energy. Geothermal Drilling, which is an essential input to ground source heat pump systems, met all the Growth Fund criteria. BDA qualified for the funding because of its track record in successfully delivering similar projects, its Trade Association status and its commitment to quality training.

This latest Project, which commences in November, follows on from the BDA's 2011 project, funded by CITB ConstructionSkills, of developing and introducing a UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service) certification scheme for geothermal drilling organisations. The certification scheme was approved by UKAS in early October. Certifying Bodies will be seeking UKAS accreditation over the next few months prior to being able to offer their services to carry out audits and assessments according to the scheme requirements, and thereby award certification. The BDA has been holding a series of six regional seminars from September through November to publicise the scheme. Details of these seminars, and any remaining (including 1st December in Bristol) can be found on the BDA's website. The free seminars have been hugely popular and informative as they also cover the revised MCS (MIS 3005) heat pump contractor standard; GSHPA (Ground Source Heat Pump Association) vertical borehole standard and EA (Environment Agency) guidance.

The BDA has been actively involved in the development of all of these standards / guidance as well as the geothermal drilling certification - this to make certain that they all are mutually supporting, cross reference each other, and do not conflict. The level of co-operation between government, its agencies and the trade associations to ensure this has been remarkable. All have been fully committed to preparing and introducing robust, measurable, accountable standards and certification so that ground source heat pump systems are well designed, properly installed, fit for purpose and sustainable. This is in order to maintain / increase customer confidence, and grow an undisputed quality industry.

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BDA MEMBERSHIP

BDA EVENTS

New Corporate Members

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

Core Resource Ltd

Geothermal Drilling, Geotechnical Investigations, Waterwell Boreholes

Registered Member

Stephen McLoughlin
Director

**15 The Observatory
Westridge Business Park
Ryde
Isle of Wight
Hampshire
PO33 1FX**

tel: 01983 611732

email: ajt@coresource.co.uk

web: www.coresource.co.uk

Giofu Engineering Ltd

Window Sampling, Hand Excavated Trial Pits

Registered Member

Mr Ubong Umana
Director

**15 Tapton View Road
Chesterfield
Derbyshire
S41 7JS**

tel: 01246 224845

tel: 07941 011817

email: israel.adetunji@giofu.com

web: www.giofu.com

Synergy Boreholes and Systems Ltd

Water Boreholes, Geothermal Boreholes, Water Filtration, Headerworks

Registered Member

Antony Jennings
Managing Director

**Unit M
Moses Winter Way
Hithercroft Road
Wallingford
Oxfordshire
OX10 9FE**

tel: 01491 828208

email: info@synergyboreholes.co.uk

web: www.synergyboreholes.co.uk

WT Specialist Contracts Ltd

Ground Anchoring, Soil Nailing, Slope Stabilisation, Tension Piles, Core Drilling, Geothermal Drilling, Waterwells

Registered Member

Andreas Ramsauer
Director

**Bird-in-the-Eye Yard
Bird-in-the-Eye Hill
Uckfield
East Sussex
TN22 5HA**

tel: 01825 768111

fax: 01825 744038

email: andreas@wtspec.co.uk

web: www.albiondrillinggroup.com

BDA Golf Day

Held on Friday 2nd September at the traditional venue of Woodsome Hall Golf Club near Huddersfield, this year's event was once again a great success. There were 40 players which illustrates the popularity of the event.

Results:

Rockbit Trophy

1st

Rory Hurlin & Scott Sutton

2nd

Gordon Long & Dave Torbutt

3rd

Colin Brown & Simon Hake

Eddie Burke Trophy

1st

Paul Sherwood

2nd

Eric Williams

3rd

Dave Torbutt

Les Nichol Trophy

The winner was: Paul Caldwell

Nearest the Pin 3rd

Paul Sherwood

Nearest the Pin 10th

Richard Popps

Longest Drive

Simon Hake

Many thanks go to those who donated prizes - M & J Drilling Services, Rockbit, Strata Surveys.

Next year's event will be held on Friday 7th September and we look forward to once again visiting Woodsome Hall Golf Club which never fails to look after us so well.

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 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.

Hazardous Gases Document

After a prolonged period, the work on the Coal Authority document on hazardous gases is set to continue to which the BDA is contributing.

We last reported on the development of a Coal Authority (CA) document, 'Guidance on managing the risk of hazardous gases when drilling near coal', back in 2010. Drafting of the document by CA, BDA, Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Association of Geotechnical Specialists (AGS) started in 2009 following conclusion of legal procedures on an incident of fatalities through carbon monoxide poisoning adjacent to a drilling site. The BDA's David Allan and Brian Stringer have been sitting on CA's working group during the drafting process.

In February this year the document was nearing completion but there was a request from the Federation of Piling Contractors (FPS) for inclusion. The FPS had been initially asked for its contribution but a mix-up had occurred in receiving it. All would have been well in accommodating FPS contribution this February but it coincided with a CA reorganisation. All government agencies, of which the CA is one, have had to cope with reduced staff and reallocation of duties.

Following BDA enquiry in October, which expressed concern about the delay and offered its further assistance, there is now optimism that the work will recommence and the document will be published without more delay. The final draft agreed by the parties will have to go out for review prior to publication. BDA will urge for early completion of the process and has promised its help to achieve this.

BDA Health & Safety Manual Revision

Last published in 2002, the BDA's 'Health & Safety Manual for Land Drilling - A Code of Safe Drilling Practice' which is the industry's prime safety document, has been undergoing revision.

The revision process is taking longer than expected as it has relied on volunteer help, but publication of the new manual is expected early in 2012 and we look forward to its issue.

BS 5930 Revision

BDA has been invited by British Standards Committee B526/3 to act as leader on the revision of two major parts of BS 5930, Code of practice for site investigations. It has been glad to confirm that it will take this role.

BS 5930 was first issued in 1999 and underwent two amendments in 2010 to remove any conflicts with Eurocode Standards. The BDA was entrusted at that time to lead the removal of any BS EN ISO 22475 conflicts.

BDA sits on BSI Committee B526/3, Site investigation and ground testing, which is responsible for UK input to national, european and international standards, in particular Eurocode 7 Part 2 and eurocodes related material including the extensive series of testing standards developed by CEN/TC 341 and ISO/TC 182/SC 1 Geotechnical Investigation.

BDA will act as leader to a sub group for the full revision of 5930 Section 2 - Ground Investigation, and Section 3 - Field Investigations. This will entail much work stretching forward for a considerable period. The BDA will be consulting its members and the industry at large during this process to ensure that the revision is robust and inclusive.

Latest - EN 791 revision

EN 791 the existing Standard for Drill Rigs - Safety, which rig manufacturers have to use for design and manufacture, continues to be under revision (as does its companion Standard EN 996 for Piling Equipment). Both are being combined in a new proposed Standard which is known as prEN 16228 (in seven parts) during its development period.

Earlier this year prEN 16228 underwent a European public comments process resulting in 350 pages of comments. CEN/TC 151/WG 3 commenced comments review in early October in Finland / Sweden. The BDA Secretary of contributing BSI Committee attended the meeting and he can be contacted for further details. Owing to the large numbers of comments more European meetings are to be held and a 9-month process extension sought.

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Upskilling for geothermal drilling features as major benefit
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The 'Land Drilling - Geothermal Drilling, Qualifications, Training and Skills Development' Project has many specific tasks and outcomes to achieve. The benefits are considerable and include financial incentives for employers who engage in upskilling their current drilling workforce. A BDA Geothermal Drilling Working Group will be set up as industry's contribution and management of the project. It will work closely with CITB ConstructionSkills NST (National Specialist Team) and NSAC (National Specialist Accreditation Centre).

Tasks include the provision of upgrading existing NVQ Lead Drillers with the additional NVQ endorsement of geothermal drilling. Financial support for in scope employers will be available for this through BDA. National Geothermal Drilling Training Frameworks will be developed for the existing workforce and new entrants. Training course material, including E-learning, will be developed to match the training frameworks. Financial support will be provided to employers for drilling operatives receiving formalised and approved training. The Land Drilling Apprenticeship scheme will be improved to include geothermal drilling. A 'Geothermal Drilling Training Toolkit' will be published. Train the trainers, assessors and BDA auditors will be another task. These and many other related activities form a completely inclusive project of all that needs to be done to upskill the existing workforce and to cater for the training / qualification needs of those new entrants that will come into the drilling industry.

In order for organisations to meet the criteria of the UKAS geothermal drilling certification it will be necessary, amongst other requirements, for them to display that their workforce is fully competent, appropriately qualified, formally trained and BDA audited. The new BDA project will enormously help organisations to achieve this and is major support to the drilling industry especially during these challenging times. It will help all sectors of the drilling industry either directly or indirectly and the benefits will cascade forward for many, many years.

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.

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

Reaching a milestone of 35 years of the BDA is just that. It's only a milestone and doesn't mean that a destination has been reached.

This newsletter demonstrates that much is still underway and even more is starting. News of the latest CITB ConstructionSkills grant for geothermal drilling is recognition that the BDA continues to look ahead on behalf of its members.

Brian Stringer

British Drilling Association Limited

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

WEB: www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk

Tel: 01327 264622 Fax: 01327 264623 Email: office@britishdrillingassociation.co.uk