

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

October, 2008

Secretary's Column

In June's Newsletter, I presented the question "Difficult times & challenges ahead?" In the article, which ended as upbeat as possible but conceded that there were indeed difficult times ahead, I made the point that enterprising and capable companies still had opportunity.

Barely 4 months later, we all know that we're living in a world that few of us could have predicted. None of us has experienced what's happening to the degree and extreme suddenness with what faces us today. And the forecasts are gloomy in that the so called "real economy" is entering recession. As I write, Ireland & France are officially in recession (following 2 quarters of negative growth) and other EC countries will follow including UK.

It's difficult to be optimistic. In fact it's gone past the point where business planning should assume that the market will improve sometime soon. Those that will be best placed to weather the storm will have already invested in their equipment; personnel; quality and market sectors over the good times. For those that haven't it's a grim choice - survival, or gamble on investment to ensure that work can be won when the upturn eventually happens. Investment in the right people, either to retain or train, has to be ongoing. People determine and contribute to the ability of an organisation to succeed.

All thoughts are welcome, call:

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SISG (Site Investigation Steering Group) New Documents are on the way

In 1993 four documents were published as a series to assist clients and their professional technical advisers in the construction industry. The documents dealt with site investigation and had been written by a pan industry body called SISG. The BDA was a member and contributor to SISG. Some 15 years later, SISG has regrouped and is in the process of revising the original documents for publication in early 2009. BDA is much involved in the revision process.

The 4-document series "Site Investigation in Construction" was published by ThomasTelford Ltd (the publishing arm of the Institute of Civil Engineering) in 1993. It had been put together by SISG (Site Investigation Steering Group) which comprised of all leading experts, organisations and associations on the subject. The BDA's publication "Guidance Notes for the Safe Drilling of Landfills & Contaminated Land" was adopted to form Part 4 of the series - this led to the widescale use of the green, yellow and red site classifications. Part 3 of the series (commonly known as the Yellow Book but titled "Specification for ground investigation") adopted BDA Driller Accreditation as a requirement.

Much has changed in the past 15 years, not least legislation, regulation, geotechnical Standards (Eurocode) and competence requirements. With regard to the latter, BDA AUDIT replaced driller accreditation in 2005 but many clients still refer to SISG 1993! The scope, quantity and quality of site investigation is not the same - in fact it's arguably far worse with many clients not apparently appreciating its value and the benefits to be derived from carrying out quality investigations. The 1993 SISG documents have thus become not fit for purpose and are sorely out of date.

It's timely that SISG has come back together and that revision is underway. The initiative for a rewrite began in late 2006 and it's been a slow process building up momentum to achieve the objective of republishing. The BDA completed what will form the new SISG part 4, when it published its "Guidance for Safe Intrusive Activities on Contaminated or Potentially Contaminated Land" earlier this year. Currently the BDA is being very proactive in lending its help to what's happening in the production of the other 3 parts of SISG.

The importance of ensuring that a revised "Site Investigation in Construction" by SISG happens, sooner rather than later, cannot be underestimated. With worsening prospects for SI contracting due to the overall economic situation, it is necessary that clients and their technical advisers follow up-to-date SISG documents in order that quality contractors can continue to win work. Clients issuing specifications based on 15 year old documents ignore the fact that a lot has changed and allow contractors, that have not kept up with the times, to satisfy them that they meet requirements. This to nobody's benefit eventually.

Membership

BDA REPORTS

New Corporate Members

We welcome these new members to the BDA.

Geothermal Supplies Ltd

Supplier of high quality equipment and materials to the geothermal drilling industry

Registered Member

Kevin Bottomley
Managing Director

**92A Wheat Street
Nuneaton
Warwickshire
CV11 4BH**

Tel: 02476 328900
Fax: 0870 383 5202

Email: info@geothermalsupplies.co.uk
Web: www.geothermalsupplies.co.uk

Geothermal International Ltd

Design, installation & commissioning of complete geothermal heating and cooling systems

Registered Member

Michael Crane
Director of Drilling Operations

Sponsored Member

James C Raeburn
Director

**Spencer Court
143 Albany Road
Coventry
CV5 6ND**

Tel: 024 7667 3131
Fax: 024 7667 9999

Email: info@geothermalint.co.uk
Web: www.geothermalint.co.uk

Change of Address

M & J Drilling Services Ltd

This company's new address is:

**Unit 44
Coneygree Industrial Estate
Tipton
West Midlands
DY4 8XP**

Contact numbers remain the same:

Tel: 01902 885241
Fax: 01902 887257
Email: enquiry@mandjdrilling.com

Name Change

As from 6th October **Ritchies** became **BAM Ritchies**

This follows the renaming of Edmund Nuttall (of which Ritchies were part) to BAM Nuttall Ltd. to reflect the aspirations of the Royal BAM group to enhance its position in the UK market.

BAM Ritchies is the geotechnical business unit of BAM Nuttall Ltd.

New Members Required

There are 117 Corporate Members of the BDA but we could always do with a few more.

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.

BDA ACCIDENT STATISTICS to 31st March 2008

For the third year running the BDA has obtained a 100% return of Members' accident statistics. Many thanks to everyone for their co-operation.

(Last year's figures in brackets)

Companies reported 108 (108)
Direct Employees 10024 (9655)
Sub Contract operatives 899 (829)
Total Employees 10923 (10484)

Fatalities	None (0)
Major Injuries	32 (44)
3 Day Injuries	119 (101)
Dangerous Occurrences	18 (35)
Non Reportables	1221 (1041)

It will be noted from the above figures that there's been a noticeable decrease in major injuries of 27% (12 fewer) but an 18% rise (18 more) in 3 day injuries.

This trend of less severe accidents is to be welcome. It has however to be remembered that behind every single accident is a human story. It's not just the person who's injured that is affected but also their family, friends and those who witnessed the accident. We also must not forget the Employer and staff who have had something happen to a work colleague. One accident can affect tens of people in many different ways.

Incident rate for Fatality, Major and 3-day combined was:-
1382 per 100,000

Last year the above figure was 1383 so there has been no change. This is disappointing as previous years had shown a steady decline in the incident rate. Let's continue to work for no incidents at all.

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

BDA APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME Proving to be a great success

In March 2007 the first batch of Land Drilling apprentices commenced their 2-year training programme. Another batch started in November 2007. The 16 individuals have been given an unrivalled opportunity to undergo formalised training. How's it been going? Why is success already claimed?

The Land Drilling Apprenticeship Scheme was launched as a pilot in March 2007. Its aim is to take newcomers to the industry through a series of external training courses, combined with structured training in their own companies, to the award of NVQ Land Drilling as Lead Drillers within 2 years. The external training comprises 19 days split into 8 separate modules / courses that cover all aspects of drilling and drilling applications. The internal company training is the equivalent of 80 days training - its content is mapped out by the scheme.

Batch 1 apprentices (7) from Bachy Soletanche; DCE (Drilling, Contracting & Environmental); Discovery Drilling; Drilcorp, and Norwest Holst have now completed 6 separate external courses amounting to 13 days and will have their 2 remaining courses during October / November. They will then be in preparation for their NVQ assessment during the 1st quarter of 2009.

Batch 2 apprentices (9) from AEG (Allied Exploration & Geotechnical); BAM Ritchies; DCE; Drilcorp; Norwest Holst, and Pennine Drilling Services will have completed 4 separate external courses by early November.

Most of the external training to date has been directly supplied by BDA trainers working with industry volunteers. Geology training was provided by First Steps Ltd. Of late the BDA has employed the services of Equipe Training Ltd., the newly formed company specialising in geotechnical and drilling training. Rotary Test Drilling (Training & Accreditation) Ltd is also to be employed for certain training. The quality of external training provided to date has been a major success. Its coverage, depth and delivery has been much appreciated by the apprentices and their employers. The apprentices from different drilling backgrounds are being given exposure to all forms of drilling, thus having awareness of other methods that will be useful to them in their careers.

Early success is claimed for the scheme. It's brought formalised training to the industry for the first time. The quality of training is proving itself. The apprentices are enthused and very grateful for the opportunity - we've seen them develop as people; become more confident and have greater pride of their industry. Employers taking part are seeing that their apprentices are more motivated and trained.

Commencing early in 2009 more batches of apprentices will be started. The BDA is recruiting now for likely candidates. Please contact the BDA office for further details.

CSCS WARNING "Get sent off with a Green card"

CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) has issued the following statement:

"We have heard of too many people obtaining green CSCS cards as a quick way to gain access to construction sites with no intention of upgrading their card by proving their competence. This breaches both the rules and the spirit of CSCS, which aims to support the industry's desire to improve the skills of those in construction. CSCS has the power to cancel the membership of anyone who is fraudulently using a CSCS green card, and intends increasingly to exercise this power where it sees fit.

If you believe that there is a cardholder whose card should be withdrawn, please provide the evidence to Gordon Jenkins, CSCS Scheme Manager, by emailing him at gordonjenkins@cscs.gb.com so that the matter may be considered by the CSCS Appeals Committee."

BDA Members will be aware that drilling operatives should have either a Red (Trainee); Blue (Experienced Worker) or Blue (Skilled) Land Drilling CSCS card.

BS 5930 versus BS EN ISO 22475-1

The BDA on behalf of British Standards (BSI) Committee B526/3 has compiled a report for that committee on conflicts between BS 5930 and the new European standard 22475-1. B526/3 will consider the report in mid October.

BS 5930, Code of practice for site investigations, has been around a long time. It was last published as a complete revision in 1999. An amended version, that dealt with amendments to Section 6 (soil and rock identification) was republished in December 2007.

The BDA Working Group was commissioned by BSI to examine 5930 for any conflicts with 22475-1, the new standard under Eurocode for sampling methods & groundwater measurements. All conflicts have to be removed from 5930 as 22475-1 takes precedence.

The BDA Working Group, comprised of senior geotechnical people drawn from BDA major contracting SI companies, met 4 times during June, July & September 2008 to compile a report. This report was sent to BSI in late September.

The contents of the report will be considered by BSI Committee B526/3 on October 14th.

B526/3 comprises of representatives from BDA, AGS, FPS, BGA, Highways Agency, County Surveyors, BRE etc.

We will carry details in our December Newsletter of the report and B526/3 reaction to it. It is fair to say at this stage that while not many conflicts were found, those that were could have a significant effect on ground investigation particularly with regard to U100 sampling and its suitability for obtaining high quality samples.

BS5930 will have to be rewritten to remove the conflicts identified and the BDA's Working Group has offered to carry out this work in its report submitted to BSI.

If any BDA member would like a copy of the Working Group's report then please contact the BDA Secretary. It should be read with copies of 5930 and 22475-1 open on the desk as it directly references both of these standards and cannot sensibly be read without them.

HEALTH & SAFETY

FATALITY ACCIDENT PHILIPPINES

A drill helper of United Philippines Drilling sustained a fatal injury in June while using a 36 inch pipe wrench during rod breaking. The wrench caught on rotating drill rods and hit the chest of the drill helper causing his rib cage to break and subsequently puncturing his lungs.

Precise details of how the accident occurred are not available as no one saw the actual impact of the wrench on the body of the drill helper. What is theorised is that the drill helper was using the 36 inch wrench to crack the joint between a water swivel adapter and PQ drill rod. The rig had a through spindle / chuck assembly so the joint was above the rotation unit. He's assumed to have had the wrench on the water swivel adapter initially but it slipped down on to the rotating rod. The wrench then swung and hit him in the chest as he'd positioned himself to face the direction of rotation.

BDA Comments:

The use of hand held wrenches to break rods has been common practice but is prone to accidents of this type. It's a reminder that serious consequences follow if the operation goes wrong.

Risk assessment has to identify all the possibilities on how a pipe wrench could slip off and corresponding measures should be taken to prevent it from happening.

These measures may be to use a suitable tool other than pipe wrench to break the rods e.g. hydraulic breaking clamps which are now fitted to most modern rigs.

One has to consider whether an accident of this type should have been prevented by fitment of an interlocked guard i.e. drill head with limited speed and torque while guard is open.

BS EN 791 Drill Rig Safety

Work is in progress to produce an updated standard for manufacturers of drill rigs. What part is the BDA playing?

BS EN 791 was published in 1996 and is the British adopted Standard of the European EN 791 Standard of 1995. The words are identical. The Standard provides safety design criteria and requirements for the manufacture of drill rigs. The original EN 791 committee which produced the standard included Bill Robertson of the BDA who provided much technical assistance. Being an English speaker amidst many Europeans (all European meetings are conducted in English), Bill was able to become central to everything that was happening.

We roll forward to 2007. CEN (the European Standards body) made the decision to revise EN 791 and amalgamate it with EN 996, the Piling safety standard. The BDA Secretary, Brian Stringer, was at the CEN TC 151 meeting in Spain that decided this.

Work on the revision of any EN standard is delegated to a working group. In this case it was working group 3 (TC 151 WG3 responsible for EN 791) combined with TC 151 WG2 responsible for EN 996. The combined groups met in Frankfurt on 5th February and met again 7th/8th October, again in Frankfurt. Brian Stringer was at both meetings on behalf of BSI (and of course, BDA).

In the UK, the actions of any CEN committee or working party are monitored by a BSI mirror committee. The relevant BSI committee is B513 and its associated working groups. Volunteers are required to become involved in contributing to the work of B513 in respect of EN 791. The work is very much on technical matters. Contact Brian Stringer for further details.

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

What have Aaron, Craig, Harry, John, Richard, Richard (again) and Robert got in common?

Or Andy, Christopher, Colin, Kenneth, Michael, Scott, Stephen, Thomas and Wayne?

All are playing their part in BDA activity and will become better known.

Answers on a postcard please.

Brian Stringer

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