

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, 2008

Secretary's Column

There's a lot happening of late and I could have filled another couple of pages keeping you informed. This is somewhat of a revelation as it's a struggle sometimes to find enough material of sufficient interest to publish - more to do with waiting for a bus to arrive and then finding three arriving at the same time, rather than absence of activity.

We've yet to report on the latest SISG (Site Investigation Steering Group) position regarding re-publication of revised 1993 Thomas Telford documents. For those wondering what's that about, "Yellow Book" may provide a clue.

And you're overdue to hear about the progress of the BDA Apprenticeship Scheme. I hope the "lads" who started last year will forgive me for not having featured the scheme for a while.

We've got a Working Party on the ground side of heat pump installation. You need to hear more on this, especially as more and more of members are involved.

And then there's the rig guarding and carbon monoxide issues; forthcoming new edition of the BDA Health & Safety manual; BDA Sector Accreditation Scheme progress, and many more, not least a BDA Business Plan.

Not to forget the Credit Crunch !!

**All thoughts are welcome, call:
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Email: brian@britishdrillingassociation.co.uk

EUROCODE 7 IS COMING Who's prepared? What's it's all about?

Many will have heard of Eurocode 7: Geotechnical Design. Some may be familiar with its contents but very few know much more than that. But even now in certain cases, and by March 2010 at the latest, it affects anyone engaged in geotechnical work - be it ground investigation, geotechnical processes etc. It's time for everyone to get up to speed, look at the detail and plan how to meet the requirements. The industry will have to work to Eurocode standards - it can't be avoided.

The history of Eurocode goes back to 1975 when the European Community initiated a programme to produce common Rules and Standards for construction. These Rules and Standards when produced would override and replace any existing standards in a Member State. Any conflicting Member State standards have to be withdrawn no later than March 2010.

During the 1990s all 9 Eurocode parts were produced and issued covering different types of structures and geotechnical works. Each Eurocode part was to be supported by a suite of new individual Standards that were listed and mentioned in the text of each Eurocode part. It is important to note that while Eurocode itself does not become a "legal" Standard until March 2010, many of the individual supporting Standards are operational now. For example there is already a new Standard for SPT (Standard Penetration Testing) issued in 2005.

Eurocode 7: Geotechnical Design is part 7 of Eurocode and it's the one that should have our attention. It was published in UK by BSI in 2 parts:

BS EN 1997-1 2004 Geotechnical design, General rules

BS EN 1997-2 2007 Geotechnical design, Ground Investigation and testing

BS EN 1997-1 (we shall call it 1997 Part 1) calls up 12 individual standards on piling, anchors, grouting etc.

BS EN 1997-2 (we shall call it 1997 Part 2) calls up 45 individual standards or technical specifications.

We shall concentrate here on 1997 Part 2 to illustrate both the complexity and difficulties for our ground investigation members. This is not to ignore that anyone in piling, grouting, anchoring etc. should also be aware that this Part also touches on them.

The 45 individual standards and technical specifications under 1997 Part 2 are what matters for those that carry out ground investigation field works and/or reporting. They do include laboratory testing (12 technical specifications all beginning with 17892) but this is not mandatory in UK at this time. Of the remaining 33 standards, 8 are to do with pile, anchor and nail testing (all beginning

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Membership

BDA EVENTS

New Corporate Members

We welcome these new members to the BDA.

Equipe Training Ltd

Technical & vocational training in drilling and geotechnics

Registered Member

Julian Lovell

Managing Director

**The Paddocks
Home Farm Barns
The Upton Estate
Banbury
Oxfordshire
OX15 6HU**

Tel: 01295 670990
Fax: 01295 670990

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

Editor's Note: This new venture is much welcomed and will greatly increase the amount of training facilities available to our industry.

MIB Investigations

Site investigation drilling contractor

Registered Member

Keith Spires

Owner

**3 The Croft
Daventry
Northamptonshire
NN11 4EL**

Tel: 01327 872012
Fax: 01327 872012

Editor's Note: Keith Spires sits on the BDA Main Committee as Lead Driller Representative.

Change of Address

Land-Drill Geotechnics Limited

As from 14th July this company's new address is:

**5 Kingsthorne Park
Houstoun Industrial Estate
Livingston
Scotland
EH54 5DL**

New contact numbers are:

Tel: 01506 432020
Fax: 01506 438137

Name Change

As from 1st June **WA Developments Ltd** became **Stobart Rail Ltd**.

The change reflects its integration into the Stobart Group plc.

There are no changes to any of its addresses or telephone numbers.

The website becomes:

www.stobartrail.co.uk

Current email addresses remain the same for a few months until the new @stobartrail.co.uk addresses are established.

BDA Dinner Dance 1st November 2008

De Vere Grand Harbour Hotel Southampton

This 5* hotel, standing alongside Southampton's medieval wall, near to the extremely large West Quay Shopping Centre and in an attractive waterfront location, is a superb choice for this year's Dinner Dance to be held on Saturday 1st November.

We have the exclusive use of the Mayflower Suite with its capacity for 350 guests.

The hotel is somewhat unique. A modern hotel of striking design, it is connected to the UK's first geothermal energy and combined heat & power district heating and chilling scheme. This scheme, started in 1986, is served by a 1800 metre deep geothermal borehole which accesses an aquifer having a temperature of 76 degrees centigrade. This borehole currently provides about a fifth of the system's heat.

We have negotiated a very good rate for bedrooms @ £110 inclusive of Vat (double occupancy, B & B, single night) and have reserved 140 rooms for the Saturday night. We've also reserved some rooms for the Friday and Sunday nights at the same rate should you wish to make a weekend of it.

Dinner Dance tables (seating 10) at £800 each inclusive of Vat can be provisionally booked by phoning the BDA Office on 01327 264622.

You should also immediately consider phoning the hotel to reserve rooms - telephone 02380 633033, ask for Events Department and quote the BDA rate.

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

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with 22477) - none of these are published yet. That leaves a further 25 Standards which are grouped as follows:

14688 Identification and classification of soil (2 standards)

14689 Identification and classification of rock (1 standard)

The above have been published as BS EN ISO standards from 2002 to 2004. They are operational now. The UK standard covering this area is BS 5930 1999 (Section 6) and it's been republished in December 2007 to remove any conflict with the above new standards. Its new title is BS 5930: 1999 Amendment 1. This amendment is only to Section 6 - all other sections remain as before (at least for the time being !).

Here we have the first UK compromise. New UK / European standards have been published under Eurocode, which people should read and adhere to, but people can still use BS 5930 (as amended) because it doesn't conflict. It was felt that BS 5930 was too good to throw away as it contained a lot of useful information. Whatever, BDA members should ideally have copies of the three 14688 standards and the republished 5930.

22475 Sampling methods and groundwater measurement (3 standards)

Part 1, Technical principles for execution, (BS EN ISO 22475-1: 2006) was published in 2006. It is a most important document for anyone involved with the taking of samples in the field.

Currently a BDA working group is comparing it to what's written in BS 5930. This work is being done on behalf of BSI. The BDA group's brief is to inspect 5930 for any conflicts. BSI will then decide what to do about 5930. One possibility is that there'll be a 5930 Amendment 2.

Part 2, Qualification criteria for enterprises and personnel, is being published shortly.

Part 3, Conformity assessment of enterprises and personnel by third party, is being published shortly. This contains the principle that drilling operatives shall be audited on a regular basis by an independent body. The BDA AUDIT scheme will satisfy this requirement.

22476 Field testing (13 standards and technical specifications)

This suite of standards and technical specifications covers the following testing:

Electrical cone and piezocone; Dynamic probing; SPT; Menard pressuremeter; Flexible dilatometer; Self boring pressure meter; Borehole jacking, Full displacement pressuremeter; Field vane; Weight sounding; Flat dilatometer; Mechanical cone, and Plate loading.

Most are still under preparation but due to appear over the next 12 months. Weight sounding test and Flat dilatometer have been published as technical specifications (and therefore not mandatory in UK).

However the following two have been published and should already be being used:

BS EN ISO 22476-2 Dynamic probing: 2005

BS EN ISO 22476-3 Standard penetration test: 2005

The parts of BS 1377 that refer to the above two tests have already been withdrawn.

Of particular change is the new requirement that all SPT hammers shall be tested for their energy efficiency every six months. This means that it is no longer sufficient for the results of an SPT test to stand alone without a correction factor being applied (derived from the energy efficiency of the particular hammer that was used). All SPT hammers will have to be specially tested. The equipment for such testing is believed to be made in the USA and several companies are in the process of importing it. One company will be offering a testing service for any contractor unable to afford the equipment.

22282 Geohydraulic tests (6 standards)

This suite of test standards covers Water permeability (without packer); Water pressure in rock; Pumping; Infiltrometer, and Closed packer. None are yet published but will be over the forthcoming months.

It is of prime importance that all geotechnical enterprises, whether acting as consultant, contractor or sub-contractor, familiarise themselves with what's happening. There will be a period of confusing specifications appearing in tender documents - some referring to 5930 & 1377; some referring to the new standards above, and some carrying a mixture of both old and new. It's a recipe for disaster if a blind eye is turned to Eurocode and its standards. Look out for further updates in the BDA Newsletter but make your own enquiries now.

COMPANY IDENTITY THEFT - Be Warned

Keith Peacock, Managing Director of Allied Exploration & Geotechnics Ltd., warns against a current fraud:-

"Our Bank Manager rang to ask if we had changed our Registered Office address. I told him we had not, to which he asked why had the company entry at Companies House been changed to 30a Manor Road, London E15 3BJ. Alarm bells began to ring. After contacting Companies House and further discussions with bank / legal advisors, it became apparent this was not an admin mix up but that we had been the victim of a potential company identity theft for fraudulent means.

Along with many companies, we lodged our company documents with Companies House by sending hard copies of completed forms after downloading the relevant forms. These forms would carry one or two directors' signatures for authentication purposes. Unfortunately the ready access of company information and forms on the web also makes it ridiculously easy for others to post bogus information by the same process. Thus with the aid of one counterfeit signature on Form 287 it allows the company identity to be taken over. It was frightenly easy to do - Companies House do not seem to carry out any checks nor can it validate apparent signatures.

The feeling from our Bank, solicitors and the police was that, if the interference had not been noticed, new directors would have been registered and trading carried out under our credit arrangements for fraudulent purposes and to obtain credibility for crooked deals. Luckily for us, our Bank's monitoring system worked well in quickly raising the alarm.

We have subsequently changed to an electronic transfer system with Companies House that has safeguards - specific passwords, authentication codes etc."

IN MEMORIAM David Michael Drage 1955 - 2008

Dave Drage, one of Norwest Holst's most experienced rotary Lead Drillers, passed away 26th June 2008 after a long battle against cancer.

Born 1st November 1955 in Corby, Northamptonshire, Dave started work with Norwest Holst in March 1981 as a secondman. He rapidly learnt his trade and after only 2 years had progressed to Lead Driller, a role which he fulfilled for over 25 years for NH Soil Engineering Division until his untimely death. He became a BDA Accredited Driller in 1991 at the start of the scheme.

During this time, Dave worked throughout the UK and Eire on major ground investigation projects, carrying out rotary drilling on land and overwater. He was often deployed to "difficult" sites because of his wealth of knowledge and experience of drilling in difficult ground. His dedication and commitment to the job bears testament to the achievements of Soil Engineering Division, working on many of the country's major site investigation projects over the past 27 years.

Over the years Dave shared his knowledge of drilling, passing on his experience to many a secondman whom he mentored to become Lead Drillers themselves. To every project he brought his experience and enthusiasm for a job which he loved; he took pride in all areas of his work, and his workmanship was second to none. Dave was a key member of any site team, always ready to help others, offering guidance to less experienced drillers.

Dave was a private, quietly spoken gentleman - affectionately known as "The Vicar" to his work colleagues. He was a modest man, refusing any lime-light or attention for achieving 25 years unbroken service with NHSED - instead preferring his daily routine of completing the Telegraph crossword between core runs rather than attend his presentation.

Dave's dedication and loyalty to the company was ever more apparent when he requested to return to work almost immediately after a second operation and a course of chemotherapy. He worked at the Leeds depot until 3 months prior to his death. Dave spent his remaining days at home in Leyburn, North Yorkshire, looked after by his wife Oonagh and son, John.

Dave will be sorely missed by all his friends and colleagues at Norwest Holst.

BDA ACCIDENT STATISTICS

Many thanks to each and every BDA Member for sending us their completed return for year ending March 31st 2008.

For the third year running we've achieved a 100% return. This is a considerable achievement.

Full results will be published in our October Newsletter. The incident rate (fatality, major and 3-day) is 1382 per 100,000. In 2007 it was 1383 so little change. However there is a 27% reduction in major injuries which is very welcome.

AND FINALLY

To be respected and admired by your work colleagues, and the company you work for, is not that easy to achieve on a continuing basis.

I never had the opportunity to meet Dave Drage, whose death is reported above, but his obituary supplied by Norwest Holst speaks volumes about the man and his love for this industry.

Drilling is team work and we've lost a real team player at the early age of 52. May his life be a shining example to us all.

Brian Stringer

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