

# 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*

April, 2009

## Secretary's Column

2009 is one of those years that will be remembered in the BDA for a long time in the future. I'm not referring to all the bad economic news, severe as it is and with its undoubted consequences - we've all heard plenty about that and are having to respond to events not of our making.

This year is and will be seeing many milestones in the history of the BDA. Not least we're celebrating the very first Lead Drillers who've completed a 2-year Land Drilling apprenticeship. This we report elsewhere in the Newsletter but the significance of what's been achieved will be remembered for all time.

In a few months we'll see BDA Audit firmly referred to in British Standards and the republication of SISG. This follows the auditing principle for drilling operatives appearing as a Eurocode standard. BDA work that dates back to 1991 will this year reach the highest level of specification and standards.

And then we've got BDA involvement in the revision of EN791 (Drill rig safety); publication of a new version of the Health & Safety Manual, and forthcoming award to BDA by ConstructionSkills of a Land Drilling Training Forum.

It will be a year to remember.

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

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

## Congratulations to our first ever Qualified Apprentices

In March 2007 the BDA Land Drilling Apprenticeship Scheme commenced. Two years later, the first ever drilling apprentices have been awarded their NVQ Land Drilling as Lead Drillers. They can be rightly proud that they've helped pioneer the industry's introduction of apprenticeship and formalised training.

### Congratulations to:

<b>Craig Blackett</b>	Norwest Holst Ltd., Soil Engineering Division
<b>Richard Edwards</b>	Drilling Contracting & Environmental Ltd.
<b>Robert Horsfield</b>	Drilling Contracting & Environmental Ltd.
<b>Richard Masters</b>	Discovery Drilling Ltd.
<b>Harry Moore</b>	Drilcorp Ltd.
<b>John Mullen</b>	Bachy Soletanche Ltd.
<b>Aaron Seargeant</b>	Drilcorp Ltd.

We wish them well in their future careers and hope that their apprenticeship success will encourage many more to follow them, and their companies lead.

## BILL ROBERTSON 1927 - 2009

**Bill Robertson, former BDA Chairman and its most devoted member, died on 11th February 2009 at the age of 81. It's impossible to pay enough tribute to a man who, from BDA formation in 1976 until just 12 months ago, contributed so much to our Association. His full life is published in April's Geodrilling International magazine but I take this opportunity to add a few personal words.**

**During my past 10 years as BDA Secretary, Bill was a constant companion, confidante, consultant and champion in all things BDA. Hardly a week went by when we were not on the phone to each other. He was my friend and my greatest help. Affectionately described by me as the BDA's "scribe", Bill was the BDA's draft document writer and script co-ordinator of all BDA publications we've published in my time. At home in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, he'd patiently sit in front of his computer on most days working on BDA and European standards documents. I never had to chase him - he knew instinctively when something was needed.**

**His loss is immeasurable. Yes, Bill's life was the BDA, and the Association will carry his name forward for all time in some way.**

*Brian Stringer*

## Membership

### New Corporate Members

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

#### Compass Drilling Ltd

Rotary drilling contractor - ground investigation and geothermal

*Registered Member*

**William McHale**

Managing Director

**8 Swedish Villas  
Rawcliffe  
Goole  
North Humberside  
DN14 8RD**

Tel: 01405 831882  
Fax: 01405 831882  
Mbl: 07974 027579

Email: [info@compassdrilling.com](mailto:info@compassdrilling.com)

Web: [www.compassdrilling.com](http://www.compassdrilling.com)

#### Wakehams of Modbury

Borehole drilling for water, geothermal, site investigation, mini piling and rock anchoring.

*Registered Member*

**Martin J. Wakeham**

Partner

**Park Farm  
Barracks Road  
Modbury  
Ivybridge  
Devon  
PL21 0RB**

Tel: 01548 830783  
Fax: 01548 830665

Email: [contact@wakehams.co.uk](mailto:contact@wakehams.co.uk)

Web: [www.wakehams.co.uk](http://www.wakehams.co.uk)

#### West Wight Drilling & Piling Ltd

Site investigation drilling, bored piling, waterwell, geothermal, window sampling, dynamic probing, trial pits, limited access.

*Registered Member*

**Peter Hanley**

Director

**Holmlea  
Heathmeadow  
Freshwater  
Isle of Wight  
PO40 9NQ**

Tel: 01983 754005  
Fax: 01983 755946  
Mbl: 07967 665760

Email:

[west.wightdrilling@btinternet.com](mailto:west.wightdrilling@btinternet.com)

### Membership Recruitment

It's very encouraging that the BDA continues to attract new membership applications. It's a recognition that BDA membership means something, and that we provide the services and information so essential in these difficult and regulatory times.

There are 119 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 EVENTS

#### DINNER DANCE 2009

The date and location of this year's event was announced at the BDA's Annual General Meeting in April. Be sure to put the details in your diary.

**Saturday 24th October 2009  
Radisson SAS Hotel  
Argyle Street  
GLASGOW**

This is a superb 5 star hotel situated in the heart of the city and adjacent to Glasgow Central Station. The hotel opened in November 2002 and has won awards ever since for its architectural style, comfort and services. It has 250 stylishly designed bedrooms, health club, 2 restaurants and 2 bars. In all a great venue for the BDA.

We'll once again have the best in entertainment including "The Blame" cover band who'll be travelling up from Lancashire. Gary & his band members really look forward to our "do" having continuously got us on our feet for the past 5 years. We've also been promised one or two surprises from our Scottish members.

Full booking details will be sent out. The price of tables and tickets will be similar to last year.

We've reserved 100 bedrooms for starters - a double room B & B will be £120 inclusive of Vat and you can get ahead of the crowd by booking these now. Telephone reservations on 0141 204 3333 and quote the BDA rate.

**MAKE SURE TO BE THERE  
IT'S NOT TO BE MISSED**

### 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](http://www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk)**

## BDA Annual General Meeting / Seminar

**The BDA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) together with a seminar was held on Wednesday 1st April at the National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull, Birmingham. While numbers attending was disappointing and a reflection on current times, nevertheless it was an extremely enjoyable and informative day.**

All Fools Day was not perhaps the most appropriate day to host an AGM but BDA is always one to buck superstition and carry on regardless!

AGM's can be boring if confined to the legal niceties but the BDA took the opportunity to describe to members all its activities and progress to date.

BDA Chairman, David Allan, welcomed members in such difficult times - there was no magic wand but he described possible upsides in geothermal, nuclear and government funded works. He spoke about BDA achievements in 2008, most notably apprenticeships; BDA Audit now being specified; NVQ widely adopted; setting up of a Business Planning Group, and then went on to talk about the still heavy BDA programme. He honoured Bill Robertson, and presented a silver photo frame to Roger Gaunt who retires from 17 years of Main Committee service.

BDA National Secretary, Brian Stringer, said that Association activity is immense and that it was not sometimes appreciated just how much the BDA does. While the activity was creating strain, it was not a time to limit ambition, and goals should be maintained to help members.

Keith Peacock, Chairman of Training & Education Committee spoke about four main items. The Apprenticeship Scheme was an undoubted success and now featured increased funding for in-scope companies as well as key skills training. NVQ Land Drilling had become well established. The BDA Audit for drilling operatives was becoming the thing to definitely have because of standards and specifications requiring it. Lastly he mentioned that BDA / ConstructionSkills would bring about a Land Drilling Training Forum later this year - this to cater for all Employer training & qualification needs in the sector. He stressed that a principle aim was to uplift skills and safety in the industry.

David Allan, as Chairman of the Safety, Standards & Technical Committee, brought attention to the continuing need for compliance to legislation. The "guarding" issue was still foremost in HSE. He spoke of the BDA's work on European (EN 791) and British Standards (BS 5930) committees. Ground gases, especially carbon monoxide, was a developing issue and would need a pan industry approach - guidance would need to be written, and monitoring for any gas would become an increasing requirement.

Brian Stringer on behalf of Marketing Committee Chairman, Jim Raeburn, spoke about membership recruitment; presentations to specifiers; a major seminar later in 2009, and the Geodrilling 2010 Show. He announced the Glasgow location for this year's dinner dance on October 24th and urged people to attend.

The BDA's 2008 Accounts, which showed a small surplus of £7,740 going into reserves, were explained by Brian Stringer on behalf of John Kemlo, Chairman Finance Committee. Turnover had increased by 41% over 2 years, which was a reflection of the BDA's activity. He ended by saying that Business Planning Group was looking into increasing secretarial support.

The major part of the day was devoted to a very interesting Seminar.

Jo Simcock from NSCC explained how the latter provides benefits to BDA members, and went on to talk about Fair Payment Campaign and Builders Profile. David Norbury gave a very informative talk on Eurocode Standards. Paul Gaze, ConstructionSkills, emphasised in his presentation how his organisation worked closely with BDA to provide qualification and training support. James Tweedie, GeoMEM, provided much insight into borehole path surveying. Derek Egan, Keller Ground Engineering, spoke on the need for more and better site investigation. David Allan, Raeburn Drilling & Geotechnical, clearly illustrated the hazards of buried services and called for greater vigilance and training.

## Land Drilling Apprentices Required

**BDA is recruiting now for its next batch of Land Drilling apprentices. If you have a suitable candidate or would like further details then it's time to act now.**

The BDA Land Drilling Apprenticeship Scheme is open to anyone who wishes to progress to NVQ Lead Driller qualification through a 2-year programme of internal and external part-time training. There is no upper age limit. It's ideally suited to those who've been with their Employer and the industry for a short time or those, who to date, haven't had the opportunity to train for a Lead Driller role. The potential apprentice must already be with an Employer whose consent and agreement will be necessary.

For Employers who are in-scope to ConstructionSkills a grant of up to £5,700 is available which is paid over the 2 years and for successful completion. Eligibility for this grant and entry to the scheme can be determined at point of application. The cost of the scheme is £4,500 payable to BDA in stages.

It is envisaged that the next apprentice batch will commence in June. The scheme has been highly successful with 3 batches already started of which the first has just graduated.

Contact the BDA Secretary, Brian Stringer, on telephone 01327 264622 for full details.

## 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.

This year it will become a necessity. Clients will be specifying it in order to conform to Eurocode & British Standards, and also the revised SIGS (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.

## HSE Action "Guarding"

HSE (Health & Safety Executive) has been very active in past 2 months on guarding of drill rigs. To BDA's knowledge it has put prohibition notices on 3 rotary rigs from 3 different companies. It is also in discussion with a 4th company.

The history of HSE's campaign on seeking compliance with PUWER regulations has been well documented in previous BDA newsletters. HSE considers that all drill rigs should be fitted with interlocked physical guards. Previously its approach has been to seek co-operation with the industry through education, persuasion and the occasional improvement notice. HSE is now using another of its powers - that of immediately stopping a rig from working until it complies - putting a prohibition notice on that rig.

The 3 recent incidents, where a rig has been banned from working through a prohibition notice, have all occurred in London. Two of the companies involved are not BDA members (and not FPS members either) - however the impact of what's occurring affects us all. All of the companies have been asked to provide a plan and timescale for every rig in their fleets to comply with PUWER.

The message is clear. HSE will not hesitate in closing down an individual rig, and going onto other rigs within that company's fleet for compliance. What company can risk having its total operations curtailed if unable to satisfy HSE?

BDA is staying very close to HSE and has received sufficient information from HSE and BDA members in order to report the above. A situation is developing whereby HSE may seek further information from BDA on inclined drilling, but HSE is adamant on vertical drilling in that it firmly believes that all vertical drilling can be interlocked guarded except in rare circumstances. BDA will keep you advised of all developments.

## EN 791 Drill Rig Safety

Currently in Europe the Standard makers are revising EN 791 (drill rig safety) and EN 996 (Piling rig safety). The revision will be published as a unified standard. BDA is on the European Committee that is carrying out the revision.

The process of European establishment or revision of Standards is normally a long one extending into several years. Revision process of EN 791 and 996 started in February 2008 in Frankfurt, Germany. Since when there have been a further 4 meetings (split between Frankfurt and Paris) on matters relevant to BDA with another meeting to take place in May. At a Paris meeting in early February it was announced that the revised Standard had to be ready for European consideration by October 2009! At least three further meetings are planned for 2009, the last in London in September. Such telescoping of Standard making is almost unique and many consider that it's unachievable.

BDA's Brian Stringer has been present at all meetings held to date. He follows in the feet of Bill Robertson who was on the European Committee that compiled the original EN 791 Standard in 1995.

Brian Stringer reports that the task of the European Committee is enormous. It will be a 7-part Standard of which only Part 1 is anywhere ready and this only in early draft stage. While there is commitment by all committee members to stick to the timescale, real doubts are appearing as to how good a final draft Standard will emerge. It seems likely that this has some distance to run.

Interestingly there was wide agreement, at a March meeting in Paris on protection against moving parts, that the first level of protection shall be a physical guard or "barrier" (latter introduced to allow for future innovation of workable items such as light or radar curtains). This has to be discussed further but is a considerable advance on the current Standard and nearer the stance of UK's HSE.

## 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

Did anyone notice that the BDA Newsletter did not appear in February?

Nobody has commented to me that it was missing. There should be 6 BDA Newsletters a year. I apologise for the non appearance of an issue - the first time in my 10 years.

It's extremely important that Members receive this Newsletter but I wonder who reads it; considers it essential, and misses it when it doesn't appear. Let me know.

*Brian Stringer*

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