

# 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, 2012

## Secretary's Column

Is a sustainable increase in drilling market activity currently taking place? It would take a brave person to answer yes without reservation to that question but there are signs of upward movement. Confidence is still fragile and it's not the case that all companies, regions or drilling specialisms are expressing a little more optimism.

Traditionally there's always a bounce in the first quarter as a result of many clients, particularly in the public sector, working towards their March 31st financial year end. Money has to be spent as it's not guaranteed that it will roll over into another financial year. This year is no exception and many BDA members report this.

But what's also reported is that some client sectors are coming forward with more enquiries and work not related to the normal bounce. Housing has been mentioned as an improving area. One swallow doesn't make a summer but for some there's a greater level of confidence that something is happening.

Set against that however are still the concerns in other sectors. Contracts such as Crossrail will need to be followed by other work. The ground source heat pump market still needs to fully get going. The jury is still out as to when we can call an end to what will have been a deep recession.

All thoughts are welcome, call:  
**Brian Stringer**  
**01327 264622**  
[office@britishdrillingassociation.co.uk](mailto:office@britishdrillingassociation.co.uk)

## BRIAN ENGLAND

1st BDA Chairman 1976-79

Passed Away February 2012

The sad news has reached us that Brian England, one of the founders of the BDA and its first Chairman, 1976-79, died during February. His funeral was held on 24th February.

Brian, aged 89, had enjoyed an outstanding life and career. He was the 'England' in Hands England Ltd., a major UK manufacturer of rotary top drive rigs in the 1970s and onwards. There are still some HE rigs operating today although the company is long gone. Many of the current drilling industry 'seniors' will remember their earlier days being on site with either an HE, Dando or Hydreq. Those were the top drive market leaders for geotechnical work.

Brian's contribution to the setting up of the BDA was enormous. His standing within the drilling industry; his selfless commitment to industry advancement, and the respect which he enjoyed from other serious players, led him with a few inspired others to create the BDA. This at a time when trade associations were still a novelty.

On October 22nd 1976 at the Geological Society, London, Brian England led a drilling industry meeting and announced 'Gentlemen, we now have the BDA'. Brian didn't do this for himself or his company. His greatness was that the industry looked up to him; saw what it liked; believed in him; found a way forward, and knew that he was a dedicated man for the industry.

Colin Pigott, a current BDA Director, writes about Brian from his early committee days. 'He was always gentlemanly, very polite and never lost his temper. He was a serious player and his involvement with BDA gave it a great boost and much kudos.'

Personally, as one who was present at that 1976 meeting (albeit as a very junior drilling industry participant), I do remember the overall coming together of the drilling industry under Brian and its first Secretary, Barry Johnson. They inspired me which is my greatest tribute to Brian. A full tribute to Brian will be published in Geodrilling International magazine.

Brian Stringer, BDA National Secretary

## BDA MEMBERSHIP

### New Corporate Members

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

#### CC Ground Investigations Ltd

Geotechnical & Environmental Investigations, Rotary Coring, Hollow Stem Augering, Cable Percussion, Window Sampling, Rail PTS Staff, Reporting / Logging, Instrumentation

*Registered Member*

**Mark Carden**

Director

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Innsworth Technology Park  
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GL3 1DL**

tel: 01452 739165  
fax: 01452 739220

email: mark@ccground.co.uk  
web: www.ccground.co.uk

#### REC Renewable Energy Ltd

Leading Provider of Holistic On-site Renewable Energy Systems, Solutions and Technologies with Industry Leading Experts

*Registered Member*

**Mr James C Raeburn**

Managing Director

**11 Murchison Park  
Stirling Road  
Doune  
Stirling  
FK16 6AY**

tel: 0845 676 9303  
fax: 0161 868 1301

email: sales@recltd.co.uk  
web: www.recltd.co.uk

#### Specialist Hires Ltd

t/a Envirogard

Nationwide Hire Services - Specialist Safety Equipment. In particular, Hire of Mobile Safety Showers & Decontamination Units for Brownfield Sites

*Registered Member*

**John Henderson**

Director

**Lydd Yard  
Mill Lane  
Aldington  
Ashford  
Kent  
TN25 7DS**

tel: 01233 720948  
fax: 01233 720154

email: accounts@envirogard.co.uk  
web: www.envirogard.co.uk

### Membership Renewals

Many thanks to all those members who've renewed their membership. Despite the hard times it's particularly appreciated that members are staying with the BDA and paying promptly. This is a vote of confidence for the work we do as the trade association for the ground drilling industry and makes us even more determined to serve your needs.

We'd be delighted to hear from the few that are still to renew.

### BDA Events

#### BDA AGM 2nd May 2012

The BDA's Annual General Meeting will be held as follows.

**2.00pm Wednesday 2nd May  
Donington Manor Hotel  
High Street  
Castle Donington  
Derbyshire  
DE74 2PP**

This is the opportunity for members to meet with the BDA's Management Committee, hear at first hand about what the BDA is doing and take part in the Association's AGM.

Join us for lunch prior to the AGM for more informal conversations.

A booking form for this event is on the BDA website under BDA Meetings or please contact the BDA office for further details.

#### BDA GOLF DAY 7 September 2012

Always extremely popular it will be held at our usual venue at Woodsome Hall Golf Club, near Huddersfield, on Friday 7th September. There will be full details in forthcoming Newsletters or please look on our website.

#### BDA DINNER DANCE

A venue for the BDA's social event of the year to be held in either October or November is currently being arranged.

Details will be available very shortly and will appear on the BDA's website. Members will also receive email notification of the event.

### BDA on the WEB

*For latest news and updates visit our website  
Our new website contains much needed information*

[www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk](http://www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk)

**BDA WEBSITE**

[www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk](http://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 can 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.

**COAL AUTHORITY GUIDANCE**

On 30 March the Coal Authority published the hazardous gases guidance document which has been under preparation for some time. The BDA was part of the group that helped develop this good practice guidance.

The new document is titled 'Guidance on Managing the Risk of Hazardous Gases when Drilling or Piling Near Coal' and is freely available on both the Coal Authority and BDA websites. It gives guidance on the general procedures to be adopted when drilling or piling into former coal mine workings (including shafts and adits) and unworked coal. When the advice is followed, the likelihood of a dangerous incident will be greatly reduced.

The guidance follows on from serious incidents, including fatalities, involving surface emissions of toxic gases into houses during the investigation and treatment of nearby former coal mine workings. These incidents highlighted the need for guidance to ensure the safety of the public whilst undertaking such operations. Of particular concern are incidents where carbon monoxide has been measured or inferred as entering houses from the mine workings below. However mine workings can also contain methane, hydrogen sulphide, carbon dioxide and oxygen deficient air, all of which can be hazardous to health if emitted at surface.

Research carried out by the Coal Authority led to a group comprising the Health & Safety Executive, BDA and the Authority being formed to produce guidance in conjunction with the industry. AGS and FPS also contributed. The guidance addresses how coal mine workings and unworked coal can be safely investigated and treated without the flush from drilling rigs displacing hazardous gases. It gives much information and practical advice for managing the risk of these gases.

The document is available for free download or viewing on the BDA website:  
[www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk](http://www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk)  
 or Coal Authority website:  
<http://coal.decc.gov.uk/>

**LAND DRILLING APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME**

Launched in 2007, this specialist apprenticeship programme (LD-SAP) has proven to be a success for individuals, companies and the industry. Enquiries are welcomed for new batches of apprentices starting this year.

The LD-SAP was developed by BDA with CITB ConstructionSkills and is aimed at newcomers to the land drilling industry or those in the industry who require formalised training to progress to Lead Driller. The outcome at the end of 2 years is the award of NVQ Diploma Land Drilling as a Lead Driller. The apprenticeship is designed around monitored in-house company training and external training courses provided by the BDA. The training incorporates both practical skills and knowledge learning. It is formulated in accordance with specific frameworks that lay down what has to be delivered. Details of the training are in the scheme booklet.

The breadth, content and quality of the training is unachievable elsewhere. ConstructionSkills apprentice officers visit each apprentice on a regular basis to provide support and ensure that their needs are being addressed.

Employers that are in scope and registered with CITB can obtain a grant that is paid to them over the 2-year period. This is currently £5,200 per apprentice. In addition, CITB ConstructionSkills through its National Specialist Assessment Centre (NSAC) is currently offering a further £1,000 per Land Drilling apprentice registration to in scope Employers.

The BDA invites companies to consider providing candidates for this year's batches of apprentices. A batch is starting in late April. You may have a recently employed person who is showing potential to go on to Lead Driller, or one that has been with you a while who is keen to progress. Age is no barrier to who can start on LD-SAP. We've had apprentices in their forties on previous batches.

Contact the BDA Secretary, Brian Stringer, to discuss further with no obligation or to obtain the scheme booklet. Details are also available on the BDA website. We look forward to hearing from you.

### BDA Accident Survey 2012

Shortly the BDA Office will be sending out an accident survey form for Corporate members to complete and return to the office. This is required for every BDA member.

Existing members will be familiar with the annual requirement to complete an accident form. New members may require information why this is necessary and wonder what's entailed.

In order for the BDA to compile yearly industry accident statistics, each Corporate member is asked to fill in a form giving the number of accidents (Fatalities, major injuries, over 3-day injuries, dangerous occurrences etc.) to their directly employed workforce and employees under their control e.g. sub contractors. In addition the causes of these accidents need to be indicated. The information supplied is confidentially handled within the BDA office and only used to compile overall figures for the BDA membership.

In turn the BDA supplies the overall figures to the National Specialist Contractors Council (NSCC) for its compilation of specialist statistics.

### UKCG H&S Standard

The UK Contractors Group (UKCG) has published its new Health and Safety Training Standard which goes much further than its previous requirement for supervisor training.

UKCG comprised of over 30 leading contractor members, who between them claim to account for a third of all UK construction activity, has published its new Health and Safety Training Standard. It lists minimum levels of training for all those who direct, manage, supervise or work in construction related activities on UKCG sites.

The Standard, which is not yet mandatory, has arrived to a chorus of disbelief and dismay from specialist contractors within NSCC (National Specialist Contractors Council). For example it requires all construction operatives to attend a recognised 1-day safety course (even though they possess an NVQ) - this point is being debated already.

Read the new Standard on website [www.ukcg.org.uk](http://www.ukcg.org.uk) and let the BDA know what you think.

### 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 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](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.

### 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.

### AND FINALLY

Reflecting on the sad loss of the BDA's first Chairman, Brian England (see page 1), it was a reminder that it was through dedicated people like him, who freely provided their experience and help to a younger generation, that I myself benefited.

How much time do we nowadays generously give to help those younger than ourselves? It's probably less than then.

*Brian Stringer*

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