

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

December, 2011

Secretary's Column

Last year at this time I wrote "It hasn't been a good 12 months for the UK drilling industry. In fact for many it's been one of the toughest years on record". This year has seen no improvement and the situation is even worse for within the past few months there have been further layoffs and deepening gloom.

There's no use pretending that there's going to be an easy fix. A deep realism has set in that the UK economy, along with every other European nation and others beside, is in trouble regarding future growth. When governments are in severe debt they haven't got the capability of pump priming the private sector to lead the way out. This is what makes this recession different from those in the 80s and 90s.

BDA, with its involvement at higher levels, has been pressing the case that the drilling industry is a barometer for the construction industry. Particularly in the case of ground investigation, for if it's not happening now then it's a real warning for construction and building prospects in the next few years. Construction industry is 8% of the UK's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and therefore not insignificant. Getting the BDA's message through to government is not easy but it's what the BDA is about in ensuring that the voice of the drilling industry is heard.

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WHAT DOES THE BDA DO? Let's review its activity

In November this year the BDA celebrated its 35th anniversary. The fact that it's been around for quite some time and achieved notable successes throughout its history is commendable but members, old and new, need to know that their current and future needs are being attended to.

Here's some myths that gain favour from lack of knowledge - "BDA is a ground investigation organisation" - "BDA looks after companies and not the drillers" - "BDA takes too much time over matters" - "BDA is only interested in geothermal drilling these days". Similar comments are familiar to any trade association - they all get accused at various times of not serving each sector within their membership, being too slow and losing sight of individuals.

BDA represents all drilling sectors and associated activity other than oil / gas. Its members cover a wide range of drilling and at any one time each drilling discipline is being monitored and there's a BDA programme for it. Geothermal Drilling has featured much of late and occupied the headlines but for any one to say that other sectors are being left behind is far from the truth. It's not so far back that the BDA was being portrayed as only being interested in ground investigation at the expense of activities such as drilling & grouting, anchoring etc. Currently BDA is engaged with Coal Authority / HSE in producing hazardous gas guidance which mainly affects drilling & grouting but also ground investigation and other drilling activity. BDA, being a very active member of BSI Committee B526/3 which covers site investigation & testing, helped considerably in the development of the Eurocode Standards and now leads on revision of BS 5930, Sections 2 & 3. Regarding drill rig safety standards, BDA is heavily involved in the European Committee that is revising EN 791. These are but some examples of BDA activities for various drilling sectors which prove that no one sector is being favoured.

What about the speed of delivering programmes? Is the BDA any slower than comparable activity elsewhere? Quick wins are always achievable and where it's possible to do this for the benefit of members the BDA will always commit resource. Examples of this were the inclined drilling guarding project and removing 22475-1 conflicts from BS 5930. The ground investigation and geothermal drilling sector assessment schemes were put together in relatively short time scales. Elsewhere the speed is a function of project size; what other organisations have to be involved; level of the project; priority; volunteer help available; necessary consensus, and whether grant funding can be obtained. Sometimes it's not understood that some hold ups are outside the BDA's control. An example of this is when it took considerable time for the Health & Safety Executive to appear in print on its website regarding rig guarding.

A common misconception is that BDA does not care enough for drilling operatives.

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BDA MEMBERSHIP

Membership Renewals 2012

Renewal invoices for 2012 BDA membership will be posted in the first week of January. We'd appreciate early attention to these in order that the work of the Association is not held back by delayed payment.

We thank members for their commitment to the BDA in 2011 during which many have been experiencing very challenging times.

Your BDA Committees, whose members freely give their time for the furtherance of the Association and the industry, would like continuance of your support to ensure that all matters, whatever the drilling application, are dealt with. What would you like to see covered?

Committee Assistance

The BDA has a range of committees which includes its Management Committee and sub-committees for finance; training & education; safety, standards and technical. At various times we also have working parties to deal with specific matters. We'd like more members to become involved and offer their assistance.

The opportunity to help the BDA is not reserved for a few favoured ones. It's open to any member and we'd like to see more fresh faces. It's not only worthwhile but also enjoyable to be on one of the committees. Make your interest known to the BDA Secretary and he'll give you all the information you need for you to make a decision as to whether to volunteer.

Annual Accident Survey 1st April 2010 - 31 March 2011

This year's collated results have taken longer to prepare because of late submission by some members and the more detailed information that was requested. We return our results to NSCC (National Specialist Contractors Council) of which the BDA is a member and those full results sent to NSCC will be published on the BDA website.

(Last year's figures in brackets)

Companies reported	95 (102)
Direct Employees	6186 (8002)
Sub Contract Employees	753 (798)
Total Employees	6939 (8800)
Fatalities	None (0)
Major Injuries	23 (19)
3 Day Injuries	44 (51)
Dangerous Occurences	8 (15)

Many thanks to all the members that replied. The incident rate (Fatalities, Major Injuries, 3 Day Injuries combined) was 965 per 100,000 employees compared to last year's exceptional figure of 795. In 2009 it was 1403.

BDA EVENTS

DINNER DANCE SUCCESS

Once again the BDA Dinner Dance, held this year in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, was a great success. While numbers were down on previous years which was a reflection of current times, there was still a significant amount raised for charity.

Some 142 members, partners and guests met at the Hilton Gateshead Newcastle hotel on Saturday 12 November. This was an excellent venue overlooking the River Tyne and the city of Newcastle.

After an excellent dinner the BDA Chairman, Geoff Prudhoe, formally welcomed those present and spoke about the difficult times. The BDA Accident Survey shows that we've lost over 35% of the industry workforce in the last 3 years. He brought a positive note to the evening by not dwelling on this but emphasising that BDA was continuing to look ahead. A further grant of £93,220 had been received from ConstructionSkills to improve qualifications, skills and training in Geothermal Drilling. He announced that in 2012 the BDA would be introducing three awards - the Derek Oakes Apprentice Award; the Bill Robertson Young Lead Driller Award, and a Lifetime Achievement Award. The awards would honour and encourage the young blood in the industry, as well as recognise those who've made significant industry contribution over the years.

A sum of £2,900 was raised through the normal raffle and tombola for two local children's hospices. Thanks go to Casagrande UK; BAM Ritchies; Cementation Skanska; Davaly, Soilmec and Atlas Copco for their charity sponsorship and prizes.

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

Since last reporting in the November Newsletter we can report that further progress has been made on the guidance. This follows BDA enquiry in October to Coal Authority (CA) as to when the work would recommence.

Work on the document 'Guidance on managing the risk of hazardous gases when drilling near coal' began in 2009 between CA, BDA, Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and Association of Geotechnical Specialists (AGS). As is the case when multiple bodies are involved, progress proceeded at a less than satisfactory pace owing to not everyone being available at the same time and the need to consult widely. In February this year however a final document was within sight. At this time there was a request from the Federation of Piling Specialists (FPS) for inclusion and time has been taken to take in its contribution.

CA, which has been collating the document, has devoted resource for moving this forward following enquiry from both BDA and HSE. The BDA received the latest draft in November and has spent time in reviewing it and providing further comments. BDA's David Allan and Brian Stringer have been principally involved on behalf of BDA's Safety Committee since 2009, and in past month have carried out the review.

A finalised pre-publication document will now be agreed and go out for a wider review to selected parties. The objective is for publication very early in the New Year. The industry will welcome its publication to eliminate any doubt as to what precautions must be taken.

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. CEN/TC 151/WG 3, on which the BDA sits on behalf of British Standards, met in Finland/Sweden in October and various ad hoc groups have been meeting since. BDA attended an ad hoc meeting in Paris late November. Further meetings are planned for January/February. The BDA Secretary can be contacted for further information as this work is now nearing completion.

WHAT DOES THE BDA DO?**Let's review its activity***continued from page 1*

Nothing could be further from the truth. BDA Committee members are constantly asking the question as to what further can be done for those who do the actual drilling. The creation of NVQ Land Drilling by BDA in 2000 was to provide qualifications for those individuals. It wasn't to create barriers and obstacles. The drilling workforce deserved to have qualifications so that it could be proud of what it had achieved and hold its head high with regard to other trades. BDA Audit for drilling operatives, amongst other things, is the way that those operatives can have contact with the industry other than through their employer. BDA Auditors are not dedicated to penalise and find fault. A large part of their role is to encourage operatives; provide them with help in being safer and more proficient, and provide a channel for operatives to pass on their thoughts to BDA. The BDA apprenticeship scheme is for drilling operatives to have formalised and wide ranging learning which many employers are not able to offer themselves.

One feature of BDA is that it's a non profit organisation. Any money it earns is ploughed back to support its activities. There are no shareholder dividends, directors fees, payments to committee members or the like. The Association is owned by its members and no one else. Owing to the success of obtaining grants over the years, the members collectively enjoy a range of benefits and BDA activity that would not be possible if the Association purely had to depend on membership fees. The latest grant will provide financial assistance to members for upskilling their drilling operatives.

Myths, misconceptions and misunderstandings always surround trade associations. The BDA is no exception. If you hear any then we'd like to know so that we can put them to bed, either in your own mind or to the industry at large. There will always be some, for a variety of reasons and very often from ignorance, that believe ill of others. The BDA will never attract everyone for that reason but welcomes any enquiry as to what it does so that fair consideration is made.

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

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our members.

The opportunity of spending time with our family and friends, unhindered by pressure of work, is a valuable one. It's the only time of year for most of us that this is possible.

Have a really good break.

Brian Stringer

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