

# 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, 2009

## Secretary's Column

Elsewhere in the Geodrilling International magazine there are tributes to Les Nichol and Bill Barrett, two former BDA Chairmen who have passed away in recent months. Earlier in the year we also lost Bill Robertson, another ex Chairman, so 2009 has not be kind to those who've led the BDA. Others that we've lost in previous years have been John Whitehead and Tony Kent.

Since its inception in 1976, sixteen people have stepped up to chair the BDA. Through my long involvement with the Association I've known each of the five who are sadly no longer with us. and I've attended each of their funerals. Our current Chairman, David Allan, has accompanied me to those held in 2009.

It's important to remember and respect those who have gone before but the relevance to today may not be apparent to all. We continue to benefit from individuals who gave their time freely, furthered the work and provided leadership of the BDA in its ongoing commitment to industry recognition, improvement and safety. We continue to benefit from those who carry on serving the BDA in the tradition of those in the past. John F. Kennedy said in 1961, "Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country". On a BDA level we're grateful that individual service still continues.

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

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

## Land Drilling Apprenticeship Scheme

**First launched in 2007, this specialist apprenticeship programme (LD - SAP) has proven to be a success to individuals, companies and the industry. The second group of apprentices has completed the scheme and a third group is approaching its half way point. The BDA now seeks candidates for a February 2010 batch 4 start.**

We earlier reported (April Newsletter) of the seven first-ever apprentices that had qualified as Lead Drillers after finishing their 2-year LD - SAP. We can now honour another five who started in November 2007 as the second batch and have completed their two years.

### Congratulations to:

<b>Thomas Bacon</b>	Allied Exploration & Geotechnics Ltd.
<b>Colin Dougherty</b>	Drilcorp Ltd.
<b>Michael Eland</b>	Drilcorp Ltd.
<b>Stephen Morrison</b>	BAM Ritchies
<b>Kenneth Pardoe</b>	BAM Ritchies

Developed by BDA with ConstructionSkills, formerly CITB, the LD - SAP is an apprenticeship scheme 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 Land Drilling as a Lead Driller. Unlike traditional apprenticeships which are college based, the LD - SAP is designed around monitored in-house company training and external training courses provided by the BDA. The training incorporates both practical 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. Much care was taken in the scheme development to ensure that apprentices would be the best taught in the industry. ConstructionSkills apprentice officers visit each apprentice on a regular basis to provide support and ensure that their needs are being addressed. Proof of the pudding is in the eating. The apprentices and their companies who have taken part so far have nothing but praise for the scheme.

The BDA invites companies to consider providing candidates for the next batch of apprentices who will start in February 2010. 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. Grants may be available depending on whether the company is in scope to ConstructionSkills. Contact the BDA Secretary, Brian Stringer, to discuss further with no obligation. We look forward to hearing from you.

## MEMBERSHIP

## BDA EVENTS

### Change of Address

**Boart Longyear  
E & I Drilling Services Division**

From 16 November it has moved to new premises.

**Unit D  
Greenfield Complex  
Greenfield Street  
Alloa  
Clacks  
FK10 2AL**

tel: 01259 727780  
fax: 01259 727781

email:sonicdrilling@boartlongyear.com

### Change of Name

**Envirodrilling UK Ltd** will henceforth trade as part of the overall group **TECKNA GROUP LTD**

Address and contact numbers remain the same but please note the email address to be used.

**Saddle Hill Farm  
277 Preston Road  
Standish  
WN6 0NZ**

tel: 01257 421700 / 472399  
fax: 01257 472647

email: enquiries@tecknagroup.co.uk

### Membership Renewals 2010

Renewal invoices for 2010 BDA membership will be posted in the first week of January. We'd appreciate early attention to these in order to ensure that the work of the Association is not held back by delayed payment.

We thank members for their commitment to the BDA in 2009 during which many were under hardship. Your BDA Committees have striven hard to keep ahead of current industry difficulties to keep building what is required for the future of the industry. To stand still has not been an option and they'd like continuance of your support to ensure that all matters on radar fringes are tackled now rather than become real problems down the line.

### GEODRILLING 2010 April 13 - 14

The BDA is a major supporter of this Exhibition & Conference being held at the East of England showground, Peterborough, and encourages its members to consider booking a stand.

We've been helping the organisers line up an impressive list of speakers and talks for the free conference. This is to ensure that the event attracts both the quantity and quality of visitors that exhibitors would expect. The conference has been well attended on previous occasions but promises to be an even greater success in 2010.

Given the current times it's even more important that companies seize the opportunity to market themselves. We hope to see you there for what will be the largest specialist UK event of 2010.

### DINNER DANCE SUCCESS

**Once again the BDA scored a great success with its Dinner Dance held this year in Glasgow. A new record was set for the amount raised for charity.**

296 members, partners and guests met at the Radisson SAS hotel in central Glasgow on 24 October for the BDA's Dinner Dance. Not held in Scotland since 2003, this was a record number of attendees for north of the border and was particularly impressive given the recessionary times. Good food and an entertainment packed evening were enjoyed by all at this impressive venue. For the 6th consecutive year, "The Blame" cover band had no problems filling the dance floor and other entertainment was Scotland's own "Gutty Slippers", a manic pipes and drums cabaret.

Through the normal raffle and tombola, and an auction which was ably conducted by John Henderson, a record sum of £9,759.98 was raised for 2 charities. CHAS (Children's Hospice Association Scotland) received £5489.98 while Ayrshire Hospice benefited by £4,270.

We are especially grateful to the generous sponsors of the raffle and tombola - AEG, Casagrande, Cementation Skanska, H & F Drilling, Norwest Holst Soil Engineering, Raeburn Drilling & Geotechnical and SAL. Thanks go to Jim C. Raeburn for providing and organising auction prizes to support the Ayrshire Hospice. Jim had lost both his parents within a week a short while ago - his mother passed away in the hospice while his father "Willie", known to drilling circles especially in Scotland, passed away in a hospital.

## 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***

## Eurocode 7 will be here in March 2010 What's it all about?

**Those that are unaware of Eurocode 7 need to rapidly catch up. Those who have heard of it but are unaware of what impact it will make also need to develop full awareness. Those who are fully prepared for it are unfortunately few and far between. For the majority, Eurocode 7 is not understood and yet within a couple of months it will have to be followed. BDA Ground Investigation members particularly have to take note of it.**

A full description of Eurocode 7 appeared in the August 2008 Newsletter so it is not intended in this article to repeat all that appeared there. Members can contact the BDA office for a back copy.

Put simply, Eurocode 7: Geotechnical Design is the seventh component of European Community Rules and Standards for construction which become "legal" in March 2010. Eurocode 7 deals with rules / standards for geotechnical matters including ground investigation and testing (but also piling, grouting, anchoring etc.). Eurocode 7 is published in 2 parts by BSI as follows:

BS EN 1997-1 2004 Geotechnical design, General rules (we shall call it 1997 Part 1)

BS EN 1997-2 2007 Geotechnical design, Ground investigation and testing (we shall call it 1997 Part 2)

1997-2 Part 2 covers soil/rock description; sampling methods and groundwater measurement; field testing, and geohydraulic tests. It's essential for anyone specifying or carrying out ground investigation to be familiar with this document.

Life would be simple if it was only one document that needed consulting. 1997-2 Part 2 refers to 45 other documents (Standards or Technical Specifications) - in these lie the specific details of what needs to be complied with. For example one of these is SPT testing (BS EN ISO 22476-3) - there are others for each specific in-situ test (including 8 for pile, anchor and nail testing).

Concentrating on what a ground investigation contractor immediately needs to become familiar with, in addition to 1997-2 Part 2, are the following:

BS EN ISO 22475-1 technical principles for execution

BS EN ISO 14688 (2 standards on soil)

BS EN ISO 14689 (rock)

BS EN ISO 22476-3 (SPT testing)

The above can be purchased from BSI ([www.bsigroup.com](http://www.bsigroup.com) or <http://shop.bsigroup.com>)

Note: You may also need other Standards if carrying out other activity e.g. dynamic probing

It's impossible to list or describe all that Eurocode entails or go further in providing guidance as to how to implement. It's a big topic. The BDA welcomes however any questions you may have, and will endeavour to provide information or point you in the right direction for further clarification, training etc.

### BILL BARRETT 1937 - 2009 LES NICHOL 1956 - 2009

**The BDA is saddened at the loss of two of its former chairmen in recent months. Bill Barrett who died on 7 November was the 6th BDA Chairman, 1987-1989, and Les Nichol who passed away on 10 August was the 13th, 2002-2004.**

**I had the real pleasure to know them both. Bill and Les were different generations but shared one overriding quality - that of encouraging, supporting and bringing on others. Their selfless approach to life in offering their time and attention was evident to all that met them.**

**Within the BDA their time was given freely for the benefit of the drilling industry at large. Both believed in improving safety, quality, standards, recognition, qualifications and training for individuals and enterprises.**

**The BDA is indebted to both Bill and Les for their time with the association and the industry. Their lives have provided and continue to provide an example to us all.**

*Brian Stringer, BDA Secretary*

### 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 EN ISO 22475-3 which is being published shortly and Amendment 2 of BS 5930 which is being prepared) and also the revised SISG (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.

## EN 791 - 996 Revision

**The European Committee dealing with revision and combination of existing safety standards for drilling and piling rigs has announced its timetable for the new Standards. Work has been slow and it will be 2 years before publication.**

CEN TC 151/ WG3 (Working Group 3) commenced revision work in February 2008 on combining EN 791 Drill rig safety and EN 996 Piling rig safety. These Standards relate to the manufacture of new machines. There have been seven meetings since and various ad hoc meetings. From the UK there has been BDA, FPS and HSE participation throughout. Other countries chiefly taking part are Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Italy and Sweden.

The process of EN standard making is invariably slow and this has been no exception. In fact more time has had to be requested from CEN to complete all the work.

The new timetable is:-

### October 2010

Last date for submission by WG3 to CEN of 1st draft

### December 2010 - May 2011

Public Enquiry. Every European country has the opportunity to send in its comments.

### January 2012

Last date for WG3 to have reviewed all the comments and prepared the final draft.

### May, June 2012

Formal vote of all European countries. If a positive vote then:

### January 2013

Publication of the new EN Standards.

The first half of 2010 will be the critical period for UK manufacturers and others to look at preparatory drafts. This to ensure that there is the widest possible involvement. Please contact the BDA Secretary for further details.

## Santa Claus & Rotary Drilling

Trying to find a link between drilling and Christmas is not easy. However we learned that Santa Claus is about the same age as the rotary drilling industry as they both came into recognition and modern existence in the latter part of the 1800s.

Santa Claus was first pictured and named by American illustrator Thomas Nast in the 1862 Christmas edition of Harper's Weekly. When Nast created his image he was thinking about the German tradition of Saint Nicholas, a 4th century bishop known for his kindness and generosity.

Of course we all know that Santa is ageless and has been around as long as drilling - this for our younger readers who peer over daddy and mummy's shoulders whenever the latest BDA Newsletter is being read. Shame on those BDA members who hide the newsletter from their children!

Rotary drilling using hollow drill rods such that "matters cut or moved by the tools employed may be circulated by water" was patented by Robert Beart (1801-1873) of Godmanchester, Huntingdon, England, on 9th January 1845. He doesn't appear to have capitalised on this for in 1852 he was revolutionising brick making and making his fortune by introducing mechanical presses to that industry. Here's a link to the present - bricks and drilling - which at least one if not more BDA members will immediately identify - and for a member of the 'Barmy Army' because Beart's son and grandson played cricket for England and the 'Europeans' in 1871 and 1921 respectively.

Back to Santa who's now bracketed between Robert Beart in 1845 and P. Sweeney who took out an 1866 US patent for a "stone drill" which displayed many features of a rotary rig. As contemporaries we look forward to you dropping by on 24 December to fill our stockings with contracts and orders.

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

Which reminds me. Is 2010 pronounced two thousand and ten, or twenty ten? Think about it in terms of your birth year. I'm sure that all of us hope that it brings a little more prosperity than 2009. We've got the Winter Olympics (officially "twenty ten Olympics"), football World Cup and final mission of the Space Shuttle to enjoy otherwise! And of course the BBC swingometer!!

*Brian Stringer*

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