

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

June, 2010

Secretary's Column

Election is over, we have a coalition government and now await the "emergency budget" on 22 June. What could happen is anyone's guess so I'll leave the speculation to others. We'll all know the detail soon enough.

I was recently at an FPS (Federation of Piling Specialists) safety meeting. From statistics presented, its members' market had collapsed from circa £450 million to £250 million in 2 years - a 44% decline. ConstructionSkills, the industry's training body, reckons that the construction workforce has shrunk by 400,000 workers, some 15 - 20%. Such figures don't make pleasant reading.

Dwelling on what's happened is for historians. What's past is past. However we're now left with the legacy of drilling rates much below where they were a couple of years ago. The fear about this should it continue is that corners will be cut, quality will drop and safety may be compromised in order to reduce cost. It's not in anyone's interest that this should happen. The industry's reputation and all that it's done to improve standards, qualify its workforce, invest in new equipment etc. can not be thrown away because of suicidal bidding by a few who seek work at any cost. It is however easy to say but far more difficult to prevent. What do BDA members think?

**All thoughts are welcome, call:
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BDA AGM & FINANCIAL RESULTS

The BDA's Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 19th May at MacDonald Tickled Trout Hotel, Preston. Financial results for 2009 were presented and sadly reflected what many members are also experiencing.

Although there were only some 30 members present they enjoyed a riverside location, lunch and a very informative AGM about the BDA's activities. David Allan finished his 2 years of being BDA Chairman and welcomed Geoff Prudhoe as the new Chairman. The guest speaker, Keith Banton of Coal Authority, gave a fascinating and descriptive talk about the legacy of coal mining which continues to involve the drilling industry in shaft location and treatment of both shafts & old workings. He emphasised the co-operation of Coal Authority and BDA in developing guidance for hazardous gas situations, whereby drilling could possibly create such gases and/or drive such created or existing mine gases beyond the site to emerge as a hazard to adjacent property and the public.

BDA AGM approved the Association's financial accounts for 2009. A loss of £13,644 was reported on a turnover of £181,149. By good planning in previous years to build up sufficient reserves for difficult times, the Association has weathered this loss. It has thus protected its members from any increased fees in 2009 and 2010, continued its support to members and progressed with an ever increasing activity level. There have been no cutbacks - the opposite is the case for there are more issues today than ever before. BDA will however review its ongoing financial position to ensure that progress is maintained.

Land Drilling Apprenticeship Scheme

Opportunity still remains to register suitable employees on the BDA Land Drilling Apprenticeship Scheme which attracts funding from ConstructionSkills for eligible companies. However grant funding levels are being reduced, subsidies are disappearing and new costs are appearing. There is one last chance for a July intake that will enable companies to claim more from ConstructionSkills than the cost of the scheme.

BDA requires at least 6 apprentices to start a Batch 5 group in July under its current pricing of total £4,500 per apprentice for the two years. Companies in scope will be able to receive more than this over the two years from ConstructionSkills.

Contact BDA now for this last opportunity to enjoy real financial support for your Lead Drillers of tomorrow.

MEMBERSHIP

New Corporate Members

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

Bridgeway Consulting Ltd

Civil Engineering Consultancy, Track Safety Training & Development. Provision of Specialist Personnel to the Railway Industry. Site and Ground Investigations.

Registered Member

Mr Pino De Rosa Managing Director

Sponsored Member

Andy Cassidy

**Bridgeway House
Beeston Business Park
Technology Drive
Beeston
Nottingham
NG9 1LA**

Tel: 0115 919 1111
Fax: 0115 919 1112

email:

enquiries@bridgeway-consulting.co.uk
web: www.bridgeway-consulting.co.uk

GeoTest Laboratories Ltd

Site investigation. Materials Testing Laboratory. Materials Site Testing. Geotechnical Laboratory Testing.

Registered Member

Derek Daniels SI Manager

Sponsored Member

Chris Eccles

**Fairclough House
Church Street
Adlington
Chorley, Lancashire
PR7 4EX**

Tel: 01257 481782
Fax: 01257 482291

email: derek.daniels@geotest.co.uk
web: www.geotest.co.uk

J J R Site Investigations

Cable Percussion, Window Sampling, Cutdown Cable Percussion, PTS Work, Trial Pitting, Waterwells, Geothermal.

Registered Member

John Rodgman Owner

Sponsored Member

Thomas Fielding

**13 Great North Road
Buckden
St Neots
PE19 5XJ**

Tel: 07969 715655
Mbl: 07515 474869

email: john.rodgman@btinternet.com
web: www.jjrsiteinvestigations.co.uk

Nicholls Countryside Construction Ltd

Borehole Drilling for Water and Ground Source Heat Pumps. Installation of Ground Source Heat Pumps. Also Construction.

Registered Member

Benjamin Nicholls Director

**Brownings Barn
Glasshouse Lane
Kirdford
West Sussex
RH14 0LW**

Tel: 01403 820750
Fax: 01403 820721

email: enquiries@nichollsltd.com
web: www.nichollsboreholes.co.uk

BDA EVENTS

DINNER DANCE 2010

The ever popular BDA Dinner Dance will be in Birmingham this year, a city that we haven't visited before but one that has a host of attractions. Be sure to put the details in your diary.

**Saturday 6th November 2010
Macdonald Burlington Hotel
126 New Street
Birmingham
B2 4JQ**

The historic Burlington Hotel is Birmingham's original Victorian four star city centre hotel. Owned by the renowned Macdonald hotel company it was built some 125 years ago as a luxury railway hotel. It lies adjacent to New Street station and is in easy walking distance of the city's main attractions and shopping areas. It is rumoured to have been Winston Churchill's favourite Birmingham hotel.

We have the exclusive use of the Horton Suite with its own private entrance, foyer, dedicated bar and dining / dancing function room. Once again we'll have "The Blame" cover band who have kept us well entertained for the past 6 years.

The hotel has 112 rooms and we've negotiated a double room B & B rate of £99.00 inclusive of Vat to make this year's event more affordable. Rooms will go fast so it's suggested that you book your accommodation now. You can telephone the Reservations Department on 0844 879 9019 but be sure to quote BRIT061110 to obtain the negotiated rate.

Price of tables for 10 people is being held at last year's rate of £825, inclusive of Vat, to follow the affordability theme but with no loss of quality.

BDA on the WEB

***Our new fully updated website still awaits re-launch.
It's been a long time coming but we hope you will like it.***

www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk

JOINT STATEMENT BDA / HSE INCLINED DRILLING - PROTECTION AGAINST ROTATING PARTS

The British Drilling Association (BDA) and the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) have worked together examining how compliance with the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) 1998 as amended 2002 should be achieved for inclined drilling by contractors.

The BDA initiated a working group to consider the feasibility of guarding rigs during inclined drilling. The working group comprised leading contractors engaged in soil nailing, anchoring and other geotechnical works, and has sat on six occasions between June 2009 and February 2010. The HSE attended two of these meetings and provided guidance, thoughts and suggestions on the way forward.

Inclined drilling is defined as drilling at any angle greater than 10 degree from vertical. It should be noted that requirements for compliance with PUWER in "vertical drilling" are already defined by HSE and have been well publicised. Most inclined drilling is for soil nailing, anchoring and ground stabilisation e.g. grouting but this guidance note can also apply to other inclined drilling activities.

Legal requirements originate from the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1999. PUWER has specific requirements for the safe use of work equipment. Regulation 11 (Dangerous parts of machinery) requires the Employer to ensure effective measures are taken "to prevent access ... or stop the movement of any dangerous part ... before any part of a person enters a dangerous zone".

The designer of any construction project, including drilling works, has a responsibility under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 to consider the health and safety of those undertaking the project. HSE considers the provision of sufficient space for contractor's staff to operate plant safely to be an essential aspect of providing for their health and safety.

The working group has concluded that it is practicable to guard drill rigs during inclined drilling. Access to dangerous parts involved in the drilling process shall be prevented by an interlocking guard or protective device such as a sensing or scanning device. Previous guidance for vertical drilling suggesting that guards should be a minimum of 2.0m high and not more than 0.5m above ground is not appropriate for inclined drilling. The extent of the area to be guarded for inclined drilling shall be from a reference plane to a point where a person cannot reach the dangerous parts while these parts are moving. The reference plane shall normally be ground level but shall also include adjacent walkways or working platforms on the machine at higher level. Inclined drilling guards should extend upwards as far as necessary depending on the angle, to provide protection to a height of 1.8m above the reference plane. The guard should extend from the breakout clamps along the mast. Exposed rods between the clamps and the point of entry should also be protected with a site management solution. The material from which guards are constructed is not restricted. Any material is acceptable provided it is durable and prevents access to dangerous parts at all times. Occasionally, inclined drilling is done in the upwards direction e.g. in tunnels, in which case it may be the end of the mast remote from the clamps which requires to be guarded.

When an interlocking guard is opened or a protective device is activated, the rotation and feed functions shall either stop or be reduced so that the rig can only be operated in a "restricted operating mode", which shall include reducing rotation capability to slow speed (approximately 15 rpm) or inching mode. This "restricted operating mode" shall be maintained until the interlocking guard has been closed or the protective device is no longer triggered. The "new" Machinery Directive requires that the interlock sequence should be "stop rotation and feed first before engaging the restricted operating mode". It is recognised that it may not always be possible to achieve this sequence with existing rigs.

The HSE considers that "trip wires" do not fulfil the requirements of a protective device but are content for them to be fitted as secondary devices in addition to guards or other protective devices such as sensing and scanning devices at the user's discretion. Importantly, guards or protective devices should not be removed or disabled in order to carry out drilling works.

Until the 30th September 2010 the inclined drilling industry shall be working towards compliance by fitting guards or protective devices to its company fleets. After this date no rig should be working on a job site unless it is suitably guarded. Rigs not in use and stored in a company yard can remain non compliant but must not be used on a job site. Up to and after 30th September there is no protection from the law in the event of an accident. HSE will take enforcement action if after 30th June a contractor cannot demonstrate that an acceptable programme to secure full compliance with PUWER is in place. HSE will take enforcement action if after 30th September guards conforming with PUWER are not in place.

Site / Project specific risk assessment is essential in providing the right guard and method of working as is appropriate training for all personnel and good supervision. The involvement of operational personnel in developing guards/protective devices that are functional will be beneficial in fostering a positive acceptance of guards or protective devices amongst those most at risk. The provision of practical guarding solutions and improvement in behavioural attitudes and safety culture are equally important in achieving best practice standards.

These requirements shall also apply to drill mast attachments mounted on booms, arms etc. of machinery - often on a 360 degree excavator.

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 5930 Amendment 2 to be published shortly and BS 22475-3 later this year) and also the revised SISG (Site Investigation Steering Group) documents.

After registering to take the BDA Audit a site visit is arranged for the auditor to carry out the first audit. On satisfactory completion, and any non-conformances closed off, a BDA Audit card is issued to the individual. Re-auditing takes place on an annual basis and a new card is issued. This therefore provides proof of on-going competence.

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.

NVQ Land Drilling

In recent years the Learning Skills Council (LSC), a government body, has been able to provide money so that NVQ level 2 assessment could be given free. This source of funding has effectively dried up and LSC was broken up into two other organisations this April.

CITB grant for NVQ achievement to eligible levy payers has also been reduced and further reductions are believed to be in the pipeline.

The days of free NVQs is being rapidly brought to an end. It may be possible to obtain assistance in some localised areas but with difficulty.

The advice to BDA members is that you make enquiry now on NVQ Land Drilling to establish the latest position. As we've consistently said it's a qualification needed by all drilling operatives. The longer it's left to obtain will inevitably incur higher cost.

Latest News

Limited funding may be available for a short while through assessors attached to CSkills NSAC Centre. Contact BDA office for details.

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.

FAREWELL TO JOE DOBBS

Joe Dobbs, a long-time member of the BDA, passed away on Saturday 24th April aged 71 years after a long period of ill health. He will be sadly missed by all former colleagues, BDA members, friends and family.

Joe was a highly respected Mud Engineer and Consultant who presented lectures on mud technology to the BDA. He was always willing to share his knowledge with Members. His early career included being a pioneer in North Sea drilling as part of the BP team for the first production gas wells in 1965. Specialising in mud, his expertise was widely employed in off-shore oil and gas drilling before he transferred those skills to on-shore operations for oil exploration, ground freezing, coal drilling and blind shaft drilling to name just a few. He joined Pigott Shaft Drilling in 1989 before becoming an independent operator and consultant.

Further details of Joe's career will appear in August's Geodrilling magazine

AND FINALLY

There was a time when many UK drilling companies also worked abroad. Since the 1980s this has not been the case. There have been fewer opportunities available.

There are however some companies still carrying out some overseas works. Is there further work out there for BDA members that hasn't yet been fully identified?

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