

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, 2011

Secretary's Column

This issue coincides with the Geodrilling Show being held on June 7th and 8th at East Of England showground, Peterborough. BDA has been an active supporter since it was first launched in 2005.

During Geodrilling we'll have met many BDA members which is always a welcome pleasure. We'll have also met those unfamiliar with the BDA and its work together with industry personnel who are not BDA members.

We hope that this Newsletter which is freely distributed at the Show will provide an insight and reminder to BDA non members of some of the Association's activities and what it's engaged in. More information is on our website www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk

The importance of belonging to a trade association that is collectively owned by its members; has full democracy & representation, and is not commercially driven is sometimes not readily understood. It is through trade associations that national qualifications are developed; BS and European Standards formed; Health & Safety guidance issued; Apprenticeship Schemes started, and a host of other requirements dealt with including industry promotion, government lobbying etc. We therefore encourage all those in the industry to support and join the BDA.

All thoughts are welcome, call:

Brian Stringer

01327 264622

office@britishdrillingassociation.co.uk

BDA AGM & FINANCIAL RESULTS

The BDA's Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 12th May at MacDonald Tickled Trout Hotel, Preston. Financial results for 2010 were presented and showed an improvement over 2009.

There were some 30 members present who enjoyed a riverside location, lunch and a very informative AGM about the BDA's activities. Geoff Prudhoe, BDA Chairman, welcomed all and spoke about the continuing hard times but provided some early indications that commercial property enquiries were starting to be seen and that geothermal drilling had potential. The guest speaker, Andy Howley of Loopmaster (Europe) Ltd, gave a fascinating appraisal of how large the UK ground source heat pump market could grow to as economic conditions improve and energy strategy changes. Drivers for this were the government's view that electrical heating had to become the norm for new build and gas boiler replacement. This not only met a renewables and low carbon agenda (with electricity generation moving over from fossil fuels) but also national energy security with less dependence on imported gas. (*Read page 3 for some more details*)

BDA AGM approved the Association's financial accounts for 2010. A loss of £4,487 (2009 £13,644) was reported on a turnover of £184,863 (2010 £181,149). The Association has thus improved its position and has plans in place to return to a small profit in 2011. Good financial management, by building up reserves in earlier years, has enabled the BDA to weather two years of losses while continuing to provide its full services and carry on dealing with all the issues that affect the industry and future industry growth.

LAND DRILLING APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME ConstructionSkills provides more financial assistance

Government has been widely reported that it wants to encourage and fund the uptake of apprentices. Further money is now available for eligible Employers to register suitable employees on the Land Drilling Apprenticeship Scheme which is provided and managed by the BDA.

ConstructionSkills through its National Specialist Accreditation Centre (NSAC) is offering £1,000 per Land Drilling apprentice registration to Employers who are in scope and registered to CITB. The BDA welcomes this as it has been pressing for some time for additional funding to support the Apprenticeship Scheme. The offer from ConstructionSkills only applies until such time as its pot of money is exhausted. Therefore early application to join the scheme is necessary in order to take advantage of this boost to funding. The BDA should be contacted directly to learn more of this opportunity and how to sign up.

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BDA MEMBERSHIP**Membership Renewals**

We wish to thank all those companies who have renewed their membership for 2011. Your support is very important as it enables the BDA to continue bringing you services and carrying out its work programmes.

There are some members who, for various reasons, have not renewed. Hardship has been a common reason that has been given. BDA does however have enquiries for new membership which is warmly welcomed and encouraged.

BDA Accident Survey 2011

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. This year there are some changes.

In previous years we've only required the number of accidents. This in itself has been hugely beneficial in compiling a report, examining trends and reporting back to members. However the cause of accidents has always been an unknown other than to each individual member.

As a condition of BDA membership to NSCC (National Specialist Contractors Council) we've supplied the BDA accident statistics for some years. NSCC now requires us to list the causes of fatalities, major injuries and over 3-day injuries. Hence the BDA 2011 accident form has been modified to collect this information. We trust that BDA members will appreciate the need for this and fully co-operate. BDA itself welcomes having more information.

BDA EVENTS

Dates for your diary. We look forward to seeing you.

**BDA GOLF DAY
2 September 2011**

Always extremely popular it will be held at our usual venue at Woodsome Hall Golf Club, near Huddersfield, on Friday 2nd September.

The course is challenging and picturesque. The regulars to this event consider it a gem whatever your handicap status. The clubhouse is 16th century being a former manor house. The day comprises 10 holes in the morning and 18 in the afternoon. Bacon sandwiches on arrival, lunch and evening dinner are all provided. The evening "do" is held in a magnificent dining room complete with minstrels' gallery and period fireplace. Prizes to play for and excellent company complete what's on offer apart from the opportunity to stay overnight in Huddersfield and enjoy some of its attractions with other BDA members.

Price is £98 per person inclusive of Vat. For further details please contact the BDA Secretary or book through the BDA website (see Events).

**ANOTHER BDA GOLF DAY
in Scotland**

Plans are underway to organise a golf event in Scotland, the home of golf, in September. Proposed by our Scottish members it is hoped that this will be on a well known course that will also attract those south of the border.

Details will be on the BDA website shortly once the details are ironed out. You can also contact the BDA Secretary for up to date information.

Secretary's note: BDA is always looking for new ideas for events. Let me know what else you'd like.

**BDA DINNER DANCE
12 November 2011**

Bookings are now underway and many members have already signed up. It promises to be another BDA success and we encourage everyone to attend.

**Saturday 12th November
Hilton Newcastle Gateshead
Bottle Bank
Gateshead
Tyne & Wear
NE8 2AR**

We last visited the Hilton Newcastle Gateshead hotel in 2005 when we had 362 people attending, a record for any BDA Dinner Dance.

The hotel is marvellously located on the south bank of the Tyne overlooking the river, Tyne Bridge, the Quayside and Newcastle. It has 254 rooms, extensive leisure facilities including a 15 metre swimming pool, and excellent catering. It's a short walk from Newcastle city centre and many other attractions, including the Sage music venue, Baltic Arts Centre, and Millennium bridge.

The evening features a four-course dinner and once again (at popular demand) our entertainment is headed by The Blame, a 4-piece cover band who never fail to amaze us with their energy, performance and ability to keep the dance floor fully occupied.

Tables seating 10 people are available at £860 (inclusive of Vat) but individual tickets are also available. Double or twin bedrooms can be booked at a special rate of £120 (B & B inclusive of Vat). For full details check the BDA website where you'll also find a booking form, or contact the BDA office tel: 01327 264622.

BDA on the WEB

**Our new website is finally here.
It's been a long time coming but we hope you like it.**

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.

LAND DRILLING APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

ConstructionSkills provides more financial assistance

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Developed by BDA with ConstructionSkills, the Land Drilling Apprenticeship Scheme is aimed at newcomers to the industry or those already 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. Unlike traditional apprenticeships which are college based this specialist apprenticeship programme is designed around monitored in-house company training and external training courses. The training incorporates both practical and knowledge learning in accordance with specific frameworks that lay down what has to be delivered.

The breadth, content and quality of the training is unachievable elsewhere. Much care was taken in the scheme development to ensure that the apprentices would be the best taught in the industry. ConstructionSkills apprentice officers visit each apprentice 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. 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. Grants, in addition to the £1,000 offer, 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.

Ground Source Heat Pump Market

How big could it grow to?

Any estimation of the size of the future market for GSHPs (Ground Source Heat Pumps) is fraught with difficulties. Consider however some government modelling of possible scenarios which were contained in a July 2010 report "2050 Pathways Analysis". This report was looking at an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 relative to 1990 levels. It quite rightly said it is not possible to predict the future. The report described a number of pathways to achieve the 80% but said that none of the pathways was a preferred route.

Pathway Alpha (there were 6 altogether) described a "largely balanced effort across all sectors". It assumed for example a equivalent level of effort from large scale sources of low carbon electricity (renewables, nuclear and 'green' fossil fuels). It is fair to assume that government (behind closed doors) regards Pathway Alpha as the more realistic of the pathways.

Pathway Alpha says that "by 2050 up to 30-60% of domestic heat demand would be met by electric technologies" - that's mainly heat pumps to you and I. How many households is that? The report says that there could be 40 million households in 2050 (it is reckoned to be about 23 million today). So we're talking anywhere between 12M and 24M homes having electric heating by 2050. Not all will be GSHPs however. There's the matter of air source heat pumps which could take 70% of the heat pump market. That still leaves potentially 3.6M to 7.2M domestic GSHPs over the next 40 years, and of course there's also the commercial and industrial sectors. But, and it's a big BUT, it is only one scenario.

We're dealing with some pretty big numbers. However Andy Howley said at the recent BDA AGM we shouldn't get hung up on the actual numbers but we should appreciate the potential scale of what's happening. It is anyone's guess as to the numbers, timescales, growth per year etc. The best indicator that there will be growth is that DECC civil servants, to which the BDA speaks, are firmly into the need for heat pumps. They mention Pathway Alpha; the switch required to electrical heating; the advantage of ground source heat in terms of not being weather dependent etc. The questions for all of us are when will it really start happening, and what will the next 5-year growth curve be like? If we knew, then planning would be easy. It must however be on every drilling company's radar.

BS 5930 Revision

BS 5930, Code of practice for site investigations, underwent its last major revision in 1999 some 12 years ago. It has been amended twice since then to bring it into alignment with several of the Eurocode Standards i.e. conflicts with Eurocode were removed. For information the latest version of BS 5930 is 1999 + A2 (Amendment 2) issued in 2010. All previous versions should not be referenced in specifications etc.

The process has now started to carry out a full revision of this Standard and it is being conducted by BSI Committee B526/3. BDA sits on this Committee along with other representative bodies such as AGS, FPS, BGA etc. The revision work is anticipated to take a couple of years (hopefully shorter from a BDA position but probably longer such is the nature of these things).

BDA will be leading and co-ordinating the revision drafting of certain sections of BS 5930, as well as being involved in all the B526/3 discussions and review of the other sections. We'll keep all BDA members informed at every stage of the way. Several BDA members will be directly involved in a BDA Working Party that will do initial drafting.

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 (see page 1) and Amendment 2 of BS 5930 - and also the revised SISG (Site Investigation Steering Group) documents.

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.

Geothermal Drilling Certification

We reported in April's Newsletter that BDA had been awarded a ConstructionSkills grant to develop a Land Drilling Sector Scheme for certification of geothermal drilling enterprises. The project to achieve this has been moving at a fast rate. A cross industry Advisory Committee of clients, trade associations, contractors and consultants was formed and had its first meeting on 5th May in London. A further meeting was held in Derby on 2nd June and other meetings will be held in late June and late July.

Development of this UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service) certification scheme, which will be ready in September, has received wide support and interest. Government (DECC), Environment Agency, MCS (certification scheme for heat pump contractors) and GSHPA (Ground Source Heat Pump Association) have all expressed support to BDA in the work it is doing. September through November will be the launch of the scheme through six nationwide seminars to which all BDA members and every side of the geothermal drilling sector will be invited.

AND FINALLY

BDA has a diverse membership - many drilling sectors; the supply chain; operative level to company level.

Keeping every member comfortable at the same time that BDA is looking after their particular interest is difficult to achieve. Some win, some lose in their thinking at any point in time as to what BDA is doing or providing for them. We'd like to hear from those who feel this month that BDA hasn't got a programme for them.

Brian Stringer

British Drilling Association Limited

'Wayside', London End, Upper Boddington, Daventry, Northampton, NN11 6DP

WEB: www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk

Tel: 01327 264622 Fax: 01327 264623 Email: office@britishdrillingassociation.co.uk