

British Tunnelling Society

at the Institution of Civil Engineers

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NEWSLETTER

January 2011

INTRODUCTION

Happy New Year and welcome to 2011's first edition of the newsletter.

The meetings for the 2010/2011 season are now well underway and so far we have had presentations on Tunnelling in Seattle by Anthony Pooley of Jacobs in September, The Pittsburgh North Shore Connector by Stephen Woodrow and Andy Miller of Faber Maunsell (AECOM) and Marco Boscardin - Boscardin Consulting in November and most recently the Baggage Tunnel Design and Construction at Heathrow Airport by Arthur Darby of Mott MacDonald, Andrew Stephenson of BAA and Enrique Blanco of Ferrovial in December.



L to R: Arthur Darby, Andrew Stephenson, Enrique Blanco with BTS Chairman, Bob Ibell at the December 2010 BTS Meeting

SIR ALAN MUIR-WOOD SYMPOSIUM

The regular October meeting was this year replaced with an all day symposium at the ICE in recognition of Sir Alan Muir-Wood. An excellent day was had by all who

attended and the day was rounded with a dinner, also at the ICE. Speeches and presentations were given by many including Prof Robert Mair, Prof John Burland, Prof David Muir-Wood, Robert Muir-Wood, Andy Alder, Rodney Craig, Prof Paul Jowitt, Martin Knights, John Sharp and Colin Warren.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

TUNNELLING

In 2010 the International Tunnelling Association inaugurated a series of lectures in memory of its founding president and honorary life president Sir Alan Muir-Wood. The first lecture was given by Prof Einar Broch of Trondheim University and a long time friend of Sir Alan's. The second Muir-Wood Lecture will be given by Prof Robert Mair of Cambridge University at the ITA General Assembly in Helsinki in May 2011.

Donald Lamont

FUTURE MEETINGS and EVENTS

All meetings now start at the Institution at 18.00 unless stated, with tea and coffee on the lower ground floor from 17.30. The bar opens at 17.30 and is open until late. Flysheets on the details of the meetings are circulated in advance in T&TI and details are also posted on the website a month or so in advance of the meeting.

- 20 Jan 11 **East Side Access Project, New York**
- 17 Feb 11 **The Ingula Pumped Storage System -
BTS / MinSouth Joint Event**
- 17 Mar 11 **Green Park Step Free Access**
- 21 Apr 11 **Harding Prize Competition** The
Competition is open to all aged 33 or
under at the end of 2010. Entrants must
submit an original paper relating to any
aspect of tunnelling which they consider
of interest to those in the tunnelling
industry. The closing date for submission
of papers is 28th February 2010. For
details how to enter go to
<http://www.britishtunnelling.org.uk>
- 19 May 11 **BTS AGM + Limerick Immersed
Tunnel**
- 16 Jun 11 **High Speed Railway Tunnels in Spain**

Steve Parker

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BTS WEBSITE

www.britishtunnelling.org.uk.

Any suggestions. Contact Ken.Spiby@lbassoc.co.uk

HEALTH & SAFETY

SAFETY, STANDARDS AND CODES UPDATE

The Specification For Tunnelling 3rd Edition - The
BTS Specification for Tunnelling has now been
published and is currently available for sale priced at £45
from Thomas Telford Ltd. The committee would like to
thank Mike Francis and the rest of the sub-committee on
their excellent work in producing this document.

Remember that you can also download for free the
following documents from the BTS website. Click on the
Publications link.

Tunnelling and Pipejacking: Guidance for Designers

The Management of Hand-Arm Vibration in Tunnelling

*The Joint Code of Practice for Risk Management of Tunnel
Works in the UK*

*Occupational Exposure to Nitrogen Monoxide in a Tunnel
Environment*

The revised CEN standards for tunnelling machinery are
still out for CEN enquiry. BTS members can get copies
of prEN 16191 (TBMs), prEN 12110 (Airlocks) and
prEN 12111 (Roadheaders) by contacting Ben
McAlinden or Donald Lamont. Comments should be
submitted to Ben McAlinden by early February 2011.

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Ben.McAlinden@ice.org.uk

BLASTING QUALIFICATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION

There are several in-house qualifications for blasting
operations in the tunnel environment, but none that are
recognised industry wide. The drive to provide a
competence qualification for shotfirers and those
involved in the transportation of bulk explosives has
come from the Glendoe Project. The NVQ has been
generally accepted as the preferred method of workplace
assessment, however, a cross sector standard has been
elusive - until now. MPQC, in consultation with
TunnelSkills, ConstructionSkills and others, will
introduce the appropriate qualifications early in 2011.

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UNDERGROUND HEALTH AND SAFETY COURSE

Following the successful courses held in 2008 and 2009,
the course was held again this year on the 22nd and 23rd
November 2010.

About 50 tunnelling professionals attended the two day
course and enjoyed a series of lectures and debates on
health and safety aspects related to underground works.

The course will be held again in 2011 and details will be
posted in due course.

Ben.McAlinden@ice.org.uk

Roger.Bridge@bbcel.co.uk

TUNNEL INCIDENTS

A contractor has been fined £266,000 at Inverness Sheriff Court over a fatality which occurred in September 2008 at Glendoe.

The fine was reduced from £400,000 due to the company's guilty plea to a breach of health and safety legislation.

The court heard that a telehandler driven by the deceased was in extremely poor condition. The deceased man, from Prague, was leaning out of a large missing window and was crushed by the machine's telescopic boom as he lowered it.

Donald Lamont

TUNNELSKILLS REPORT

The Underground Safety Passport is now well-established across the industry with over 300 holders to date. The question bank and training package were updated during the summer. Assessments have been introduced to judge the competency of those holding qualifications other than the NVQ in Tunnelling Operations. Winning the Safety Initiative category at the International Tunnelling Awards 2010 recognised the true value of this Passport. Further developments and improvements are planned for 2011.

Working closely with ConstructionSkills during 2010, it is now anticipated that a CPCS category for tunnel loco drivers will be launched in early 2011. Similarly, work has also been going on to develop a learning diploma as part of the planned tunnelling apprenticeship scheme to be launched in the Spring. Revised supervisory and management NVQ structures for tunnellers should be implemented shortly.

During the coming year, TunnelSkills will also be looking at training in tunnel entry/emergency procedures and developing SCL training and certification initiatives.

Brian Earnshaw
Training Officer

For further information on the work of TunnelSkills, the Safety Passport Scheme or to be approved as trainer contact Brian Earnshaw, the TunnelSkills forum Training officer.

<http://www.tunnelskills.org>

Brian.Earnshaw@mat-consult.com
Bob.Ibell@lbassoc.co.uk

BTS DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION COURSE 2011

The 2011 course will be held again at Warwick University between the 4th and 8th July 2011.

Final details of the course and how to book will be made available early in the New Year.

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Kate.Cooksey@morgansindall.com

YOUNG MEMBERS' COMMITTEE

Monday 13th September 2010 saw the BTSYM evening meeting entitled Occupational Health in Tunnelling with Dr Donald Lamont giving young members a presentation about occupational health hazards in tunnelling.

Unfortunately the November meeting on Sustainability in Tunnelling had to be cancelled owing to the bad weather at the time but it is hoped to reschedule this soon.

Congratulations to Anita Wu who has been elected the Chair of the BTSYM taking over the reins from Kate Cooksey. Kate will continue to participate in the BTSYM as a committee member.

Join their mailing list – email
David.Naylor@mottmac.com

[Facebook](#) under BTSYM

Chair: Anita Wu (WuAnita@pbworld.com)

ANNUAL DINNER

The 2011 Annual Dinner will be held on Friday 6th May 2010 at The Brewery. Booking details will be available next year but please place a note in your diaries. For now we can confirm that the after-dinner speaker will be Sandi Toksvig.

btsdinner@jacobs.com

LOBBY GROUP

Anyone wishing to comment on or become involved in Lobby Group events or initiatives is always most welcome to contact me.

Helen Natrass

Email: h.natrass@sir-robert-mcalpine.com
telephone: 0207 220 2440

NEWS ON MEMBERS

We regret to report the death of Tony Watt, one of the industry's dedicated safety men, on 2nd January 2011. A full obituary will be printed in our next edition.

Please send any news about members to Andrew Hindmarch:

Andrew.Hindmarch@mottmac.com

OBITUARIES

Daljit Dhanda

It is with great sadness the British tunnelling industry must acknowledge that it has lost another excellent Tunnelling Engineer from its already depleted ranks. What is all the more unpalatable is that Daljit Dhanda was only 43 years old when he died in his sleep in a hotel room in China whilst on a inspection visit to a local pre-cast factory as part of his duties for the MTR in Hong Kong.

Daljit joined the Tunnelling Industry after being transferred by AMEC from the Limehouse Link Contract in London and took up his duties reluctantly as a tunnel shift engineer on the Thames Ring Main Stage 4 at Kempton. He was at that time particularly adverse to spending long periods of time underground at the face of the tunnel drive. Slowly he learned that a true tunneller gets it in the heart and, after working on the Jubilee Line at Westminster and on the Flood Alleviation Tunnelling Scheme under Ipswich, he left AMEC to work on the Taiwan High Speed Railway Tunnel. After completing his work in Taiwan he returned to work for AMEC, heading up their Post Office Tunnel refurbishment programme which was country wide before being promoted to Tunnel Project Manager on their Docklands Light Railway Thames Crossing Tunnel at Woolwich which he completed before the AMEC Tunnelling arm was absorbed into Morgan EST following its purchase by them. He remained with Morgan EST as Project Manager on the Thames Ring Main before leaving them to work for the MTR in Hong Kong.

Daljit was liked by all who knew him and was known as a hard working individual with a great sense of humour and a kind heart. It is incredible that he has passed away and he will be sadly missed. Our sincere condolences go out to his family who can be sincerely proud of his achievements as an engineer.

John Corcoran

BTS CLOSED FACE WORKING GROUP

Copies of the Report continue to sell well. The Report which costs £65.00 is available from Thomas Telford, (Tel 44 (0) 1892 832299, Fax 44 (0)1892 837272, orders@thomastelford.com or via the internet

www.thomastelford.com) from the ICE bookshop at Great George Street and other outlets.

TUNNELLING ACADEMY TRAINING MANUAL PRODUCTION

Crossrail is developing the Tunnelling Academy with the support of the tunnelling industry. The Tunnelling Academy will address the shortage of skilled underground workers required to deliver the Crossrail programme, as well as a number of other major tunnelling projects being delivered in London and the UK over the next ten years.

The Tunnelling Academy will be a purpose-built facility designed to provide high quality tunnelling operations training while increasing trainees' awareness of the tunnelling environment and its hazards.

CONFERENCES

Don't forget to look at the back pages of Tunnels & Tunnelling International and Tunnelling & Trenchless Construction for the conferences coming up over the next two years. Also the International Tunnelling Association website www.ita-aites.org

Underground Construction Technology International Conference and Exhibition
George R. Brown Convention Center
Houston, Texas
25-27 January 2011

International Conference and Exhibition on Tunnelling and Trenchless Technology
Grand Dorsett Subang Hotel, Selangor, Malaysia
1- 3 March 2011
www.iem.org.my

2011 RETC, June 19 - 22, 2011
San Francisco, California

Underground Construction and International Tunnelling Exhibition
Earls Court, London UK
29th and 30th June 2011

Underground Infrastructure of Urban Areas
Wroclaw, Poland
26-27 October 2011