

British Tunnelling Society

at The Institution of Civil Engineers

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NEWSLETTER September 2007

INTRODUCTION

The September meeting, the first of the new session, was on the London DLR Extension to Woolwich and was well attended with nearly a full lecture theatre.



Bill Grose with Harvey Pownall, Andy Alder and Daljit Dhanda

It is regretted that the one-day Conference at the Institution of Civil Engineers on 18th October 2007 has had to be cancelled.

The evening meeting on 18th October 2007 will be a talk by Doug Oakervee with an update on Crossrail and should be an excellent meeting.

The 15th November 2007 meeting is on grouting the Dounreay shaft and is a joint meeting with the BGA.

OBITUARY

EDMUND RUDGE HARDING

Many will be sad to hear of Edmund's death in July after a period of illness. The elder son of Sir Harold, our first Chairman, Edmund trained under James Rennie, with Charles Brand and Son, after National Service and Imperial College. Following a spell in the London office he moved to Scotland to work on the Clyde Tunnel and the Fort William surge shaft. Whilst in Scotland he met and married Diana, a happy marriage that lasted nearly 50 years.

He later left Brands to join Mott, Hay and Anderson where he was Resident Engineer on the Jubilee (Fleet) Line Station at Bond Street whence he moved to the penultimate and frustrated Channel Tunnel works (shades of his father's pioneering work) and then to M25 work at Thurrock. He worked on overseas tunnelling projects in several countries, including the Kluvi Cleft in Helsinki, Cairo Main Drainage and two projects in Caracas, Venezuela.

Edmund took early retirement in 1981 and turned from the large scale of engineering to the smaller scale of pottery while also running a restaurant. Later, he and Diana turned their hands to the production of wooden items, many of which went for export. In his last years he was an enthusiastic and highly versatile wood turner.

A few years ago, Edmund and Diana returned to Scotland, to an idyllic spot in Lower Foyers, by Loch Ness. Here he was to follow with avid interest the early workings of the Glendoe Hydro-electric scheme, but, sadly, he was not to enjoy either for long: he died in the Highland Hospice in Inverness on July 9th 2007. He is survived by his wife Diana, daughter Amanda and son Gavin and we extend our deepest sympathy to them.

Mike Duggan

With kind permission of Tunnels & Tunnelling International we reproduce their obituary to Mike Duggan in their September 2007 issue.

"It is announced with sadness that Mike Duggan died suddenly in early August. Mike was a well known personality in the UK tunnelling industry and a tunnelling engineer with a busy career.

Mike worked mostly for contractors starting his career on the Kielder hydro project in the early 1970s, and continued to the Heysham power station; the Redcar ocean outfall project; as site agent on NATM trial tunnel for the Saltash road tunnel project, in Cornwall; and the Piccadilly Line extension to Terminal 4 as an agent for the Taylor Woodrow/Thyssen GB JV – where he was responsible for spoil handling works and the procurement of rolling stock, this, coupled with his enthusiasm and energy, contributed much to the success of the project. He worked as contract manager for Donelon in the later 1980s on the challenging Royal Docks Drainage tunnels and subsequently moved to the Bristol interceptor scheme.

Mike then moved onto the Channel Tunnel Project where he mobilised the UK undertaking from the office at Ashford before moving onto site at Shakespeare Cliff to oversee the removal of the old TBM from the aborted 1974 heading as a starter. A recent contribution from Mike to T&TI in the July 2007 issue (p43) was a testimonial about his association with Mühlhäuser and his selection of rolling stock and equipment for the Channel Tunnel UK operation.

Following Channel Tunnel, Mike was project manager on the Cromer long sea outfall contract, in Norfolk, for Sir Robert McAlpine and worked with Jeff Aslett at Molegrove on shaft sinking projects in London.

Most recently and before retiring in April, he worked with TubeLines, the company in charge of the Jubilee, Northern and Piccadilly Lines of the London Underground.

Mike is missed by his wife, Michelle, by his two daughters Helen and Ruth, and by so many in the UK tunnelling society."

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.

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|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 18th October 2007 | The One Day Conference at the ICE has been cancelled |
| 18th October 2007 | Crossrail
An Update on the Plans for London's Major Cross City Rail Infrastructure |
| 15th November 2007 | Joint Meeting with BGA Dounreay Shaft
Isolation of Shaft used as Depository for Radioactive Waste by Innovative Grouting |
| 6 December 2007 | From our Own Correspondent
A View of Tunnelling Worldwide from the Tunnelling Press Correspondents |

BTS COMMITTEES

The Office Bearers and Chairpersons for the Society's Committees are as follows:

Chairman	Bill Grose
Vice Chairman	Paul Hoyland
Past Chairman	Dave Court
Papers & Meetings	Geoff Bateman
Training & Education	NA
Awards	Michael Francis
Finance & General Purposes	Paul Hoyland
Health & Safety and Standards	Donald Lamont
Technical Committee	Michael Francis
Parliamentary Lobby Group	Helen Natrass
Crossrail Working Group	NA
Annual Dinner	John Scholey
Bi-Annual BTS Awards	Ian Williams
T&TI Advisory Board	Myles O'Reilly
Newsletter	Rodney Craig
Website	Chris Bambridge
ITA Affairs	Donald Lamont
Monitoring Ground Movements	Damian McGirr
Sustainability	David Donaldson

Compressed Air Working Group	Donald Lamont
NO Working Group	Paul Hoyland
HAVS	Helen Natrass
BSI Committees	Donald Lamont
CEN Standards	Donald Lamont

If you have any queries please contact the Chairpersons through the secretary.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Revision of HSE's Guide to the Work in Compressed Air Regulations 1996 (L96)

Stocks of HSE's Guide to the Work in Compressed Air Regulations, are getting low and rather than reprint the existing text which does not include the Addendum for oxygen decompression, HSE has decided to take the opportunity to revise the document. The 1996 Regulations themselves, are not being revised as they are generally considered to remain fit for purpose – a reflection on the considerable effort which went into drafting them in a manner which accommodated future changes in tunnelling practice.

The pattern and extent of compressed air working has changed markedly since the Regulations were drafted over 10 years ago. Now compressed air is more likely to be used for short interventions for face inspection or TBM maintenance purposes rather than for extensive tunnel excavation operations.

CAWG has been invited to contribute to the revision process and a number of CAWG members have already contributed ideas. Among suggestions from CAWG members is one for a hyperbaric supervisor to have day to day control of the hyperbaric operations and another for less rigid requirements for compressor attendants to reflect the greater reliability of modern plant.

More freedom for the compressed air contractor to apply to use one of a number of European decompression tables is another proposed change from CAWG members.

A recent concern of CAWG has been the impression created by some European press coverage that work in compressed air can only be undertaken up to 3.5 bar after which divers are required.

Medical requirements will be reviewed to reflect recent restrictions on exposure to x-rays and advances in hyperbaric medicine over the past 10 years.

BTS members are encouraged to contribute to the revision process either now or later when formal consultation on the document is undertaken.

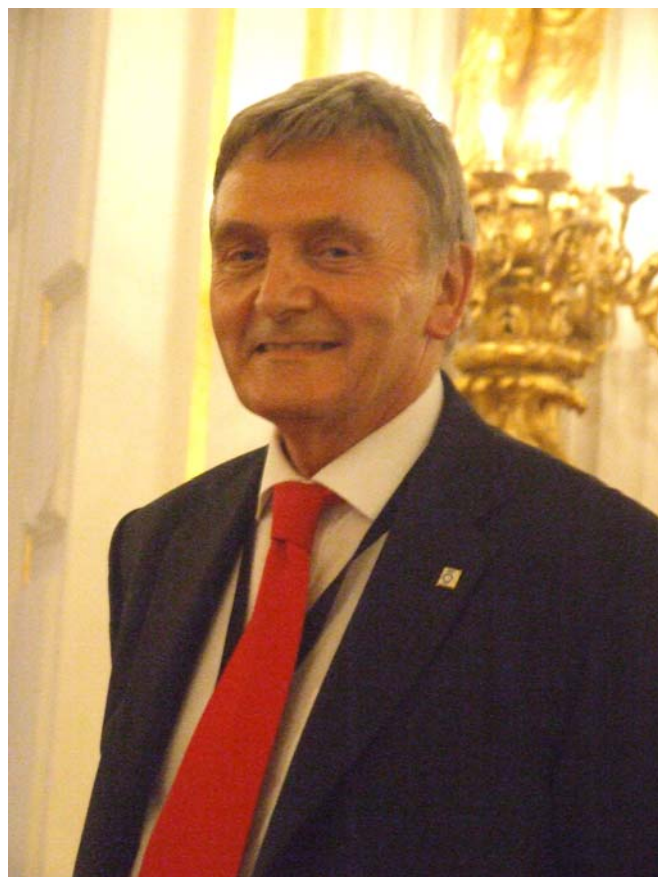
Contact: Donald Lamont donald.lamont@hse.gsi.gov.uk.

INTERNATIONAL TUNNELLING ASSOCIATION

Martin Knights, Director of Operations Jacobs Ltd, has provided a report for the Newsletter of his first 3 months as President of the ITA.

"It's been 3 months now since the ITA Congress in Prague and my election to the Presidency. Since that time we've held two ad-hoc meetings with the ITA Executive Committee in Toronto and Lisbon though the next full Excom meeting is in Madrid in November before the joint International Congress "Tunnels, drivers for change" arranged by the Spanish Tunnelling Association(AETOS) together with the Swiss, French and Italian national Tunnelling organisations.

At the Lisbon meeting in late June ITA signed an agreement for closer co-operation with the International Society of Rock Mechanics where there would be more integration and participation of ISRM at ITA functions and events, where appropriate. Prof. John Hudson, the new President of ISRM is based at Imperial College in London, so the two respective Presidents being based in London should be able to ensure close co-operation!



Martin Knights

I am due to participate in the forthcoming PIARC Congress in Paris in September and the inauguration of the new Tunnelling Master Courses in Lausanne in September and Turin in December his year.

At present ITA has been invited by the Chinese Government to organise a rolling programme of Technical and Management tutorials and lectures to be held in China this November and thereafter at regular intervals. They will be similar to the successful Seminars that ITA organise each year just before the start of each annual World Tunnelling Congress. ITA is very excited about this opportunity to spread its influence in China and bring together the best experts. Hopefully this will be a model for imparting knowledge and good practice for other countries that wish to promote the Art of Tunnelling in countries where underground infrastructure will play a significant part in transport/water and other construction needs.

I plan to attend the Congresses on Tunnelling in various parts of the world and coincide these visits with opportunities for the ITA Exco to meet and also to hold talks with the host tunnelling organisation. For instance Thailand wishes to promote more tunnelling and in this respect an ITA sponsored conference is being held in December this year, which ITA truly wishes to encourage.

Our plans to develop the newly agreed strategy for ITA over the next 3 years are beginning in earnest which will include a new appointment to replace our current Secretary General, Claude Berenguier, in the next 12-16 months and to ensure that the organisation of resources at the ITA HEADQUARTERS in Lausanne are appropriate and sufficient to deliver our strategy.

We have been having great success in attracting major Sponsors to ITA and we want now to focus on attracting a category of supporters and new members to ensure that ITA is actively supported in its aim to be the International Voice of tunnelling. Our intention is to upgrade our website and to design a template that fulfills the requirements of our membership and is attractive and useful for our many visitors.

The intensity of my programme will therefore increase from September this year and the first full ITA Excom meeting in Madrid will see a number of decisions made regarding progress towards achieving our strategy aims.

My final observation is that contemporary issues such as security of infrastructure and climate change will have direct consequences for our industry. Recently a conference was held in London on safeguarding the operation of subaqueous tunnels and recent droughts, rains and floods in western Europe are causing Water Utilities to consider the adequacy of existing underground infrastructure to cope with the future meteorological predictions."

GOSSIP

Any interesting news about members to rodneycraig@compuserve.com

LOBBY GROUP

The All Party Parliamentary Group for Underground Space held a very successful meeting about the Thames Tideway Project in mid-July. John Greenwood of Thames Water gave a well-crafted talk. He and his colleague Steve Walker then answered questions from the floor.

Parliamentarians from both houses were present. Their questions showed that they had found the presentation both interesting and informative. A large number of BTS supporters also attended.

We have arranged a visit to the Combe Down Stone Mines, near Bath, for late October. This visit is for a small group of Parliamentarians.

We hope to hold a joint meeting with the All Party Group for Earth Sciences and the Associate Parliamentary Engineering Group in January 2008.

We are considering the most effective way of drawing the Government's attention to the question of where and how to dispose of spoil from forthcoming London tunnelling projects. A number of people have raised this matter in the past months. Concerns centre on conflicts of interest between political aspirations and local practicalities.

The BTS Lobby Group would like to hear from anyone who has an opinion on or practical experience of these matters. By collating such information, we can prepare a good case to demand attention from Ministers.

Further information from Helen Nattrass h.nattrass@sir-robert-mcalpine.com
Tel 0207 8427500.

NITROGEN MONOXIDE WORKING GROUP

The Working Group has issued an Interim Advice Note which is on the website. Go to the website www.britishtunnelling.org, click on Working Group, and then on safety and download the Advice Note.

Work is nearing completion on its main Best Practice Guidance document.

BTS CLOSED FACE WORKING GROUP

Copies of the Report are selling 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.

HAVS BEST PRACTICE GUIDE

The HAVS document which has had a significant contribution from the HSE provides the industry with a Current Best Practice Guide to the management of HAVS and is essential reading for all and is available on the website. www.britishtunnelling.org, go into Working Groups and then safety.

CONFERENCES

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

AETOS Conference Tunnels, Drivers of Change, 5th – 7th November 2007, Madrid, Spain www.congresoetos.es

STUVA Conference, 27th – 29th November 2007, Cologne, Germany www.stuva.de

Netherlands Symposium Thinkdeep – Underground Space Challenges in Urban Development, 28th – 30th January 2008, Amsterdam, Netherlands www.thinkdeep.nl