

# British Tunnelling Society

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## NEWSLETTER

### January 2001

#### INTRODUCTION

##### David Wallis

Most members will have already heard of the very sad news that David Wallis, the Chairman of the BTS, died on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2000, at the early age of 59. He had been at a joint meeting of the ICE and the BTS the evening before and died of a heart attack at home within a few hours of leaving the Institution

Many of his colleagues and friends attended his cremation to show their appreciation of David's life and to support his three young children. There was a tribute to David's life in the December issue of T&TI.

David Joined Halcrow in 1961 as a sandwich course trainee. He passed his examinations in 1964 and initially worked on the Victoria Line at Oxford Circus and then on the running tunnels at Seven Sisters. He was responsible for the coordination of the E & M design for the Heathrow Cargo Tunnel and for the design of a twin road tunnel under Bath, which was soon to be cancelled.

In 1974 he became Deputy Resident Engineer for the Channel Tunnel preliminary works, until it was cancelled in 1975. He then worked on the design of the Lewes Cuilfail Tunnel, before becoming Resident Engineer on the tunnel construction. In the early 1980s he spent two years in Baghdad, as Detailed Design Co-ordinator on the Baghdad Metro. On his return he was appointed Resident Engineer for the Isle of Dogs trunk sewer and later Chief Resident Engineer for the Royal Docks drainage works.

In 1986 David began his second spell on the Channel

Tunnel where he first became the Halcrow's senior representative on the Maitre d'Oeuvre. In 1988 he became Project Manager responsible for the UK tunnelling works for Eurotunnel and in 1990 Specialist Tunnel Advisor.

He returned to the Halcrow London office in 1991 and was involved on a number of project giving technical and contractual advice based upon his long and wide experience in tunnelling. He was responsible for a detailed technical report into the reasons for the collapse at Heathrow.

He worked on the successful LCR bid for the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and in 1996 he was appointed Tunnel Construction Manager for the London tunnels. Recently he was Deputy Project Engineer for the London tunnels and Design Manager for Contract 250. He had completed the review of tenders for that contract the day before he died.

David was elected Vice Chairman of the BTS in 1997 and Chairman in 1999. He regarded being Chairman as a great honour and the pinnacle of his career. He put a considerable amount of energy into the Chairmanship and during his stewardship he planned to ensure that his initiatives were completed. These included the tunnel design guide; the 30 year celebration book; the website; the UK data base and the training and education survey. He also set up several sub-committees to review problems and concerns within the industry.

David was well respected within the industry and inspired confidence. Colleagues and friends knew him as a bright, versatile, enthusiastic, reliable, hard working, conscientious and practical tunneller.

David had a lively mind and a commonsense, practical approach to all problems. He accepted challenges and was ingenious in finding solutions. Above all he was confident in his convictions and was persuasive in debating his case.

David was looking forward to his retirement in 2001 and had great plans to do the many things that a very active life had prevented him from doing.

David will be greatly missed by many within the industry.



David with colleagues Jes Jesudasen, Colin Warren, Guy Lance and Denis Lawrensen at the Eurotunnel Exhibition Centre

## **BTS COMMITTEE**

At the Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November, the Vice Chairman, Peter South and the members paid tribute to David Wallis. Peter South, the Vice Chairman was elected the Chairman of the Society for the remainder of David Wallis' term of Office, to the Annual Meeting in October 2001. Tony Umney, Maunsells, was elected the Vice Chairman for the same period.

## **GOSSIP**

### **London Bridge Associates Ltd.**

Eight senior staff, all ex-Taylor Woodrow Tunnelling and Foundation Division, have established a company to market construction skills; named London Bridge Associates Ltd, the company will assist in dealing with the peaks of a Contractors' workload, provide experienced advice to Clients and bring contractors' viewpoints and experience to

Consulting Engineers. Bo Ibell is the Managing Director, Dave Sharrocks and Harry Glennie the other two directors, and Bob Allen, Terry Crabb, Frank Ellis, John Keys and John Northfield the other associates.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Two new Committee members were elected at the Annual General Meeting: Anthony Deane, Mott Macdonald, and Eddie Woods, Ove Arup & Partners. As there was no candidate for the third elected position Hadyn Davies, Union Railways, was coopted on to the Committee to continue his work on the website, the Tunnelling Lobby and the UK database.

David Wallis presented Dr John King with a telescope in recognition of his Sir Harold Harding Memorial Lecture.

The James Clark Medal was presented to Denis Lawrensen for his long and distinguished career in tunnelling. As Mrs Clark was unable to attend David Wallis, the Chairman, presented the medal to his long time friend and colleague Denis Lawrensen.

Denis Lawrensen had his initial training with Sir Robert McAlpine and Willment Bros. Denis joined Edmund Nuttall in 1951 and had a long and very distinguished career with the firm until he left in 1983.

The many projects on which he worked with Nuttalls included the Haweswater Aqueduct, the MWB Staines to Kempton Park aqueduct, cooling water tunnels at Aberthawe, the first Dartford Tunnel, the Victoria Dam and Hydro-electric project in Sri Lanka, the Mersey Underground Railway Extension in Liverpool, the Second Mersey Tunnel and the phase 2 works for the Channel Tunnel.

Denis joined Watermayer, Legge, Piesold & Uhlmann in 1984 as Resident Engineer on the Kiambere Hydro-electric project in Kenya. Following the completion of the project in 1987 he became a consultant to the firm.

Denis joined Halcrow in January 1988 on the Maitre d'Oeuvre for the Channel Tunnel responsible for the construction works for the UK Tunnels.

Since his retirement in 1993 Denis has carried out a number of short term consultancy assignments.

Those that regularly attend BTS meeting will know Denis for his questions to speakers which invariably bring us back to the Mersey Tunnel and the success of the various techniques used on the project, and in particular dealing with the large quantity of water encountered.

Sadly we have to report to Denis that the Mersey twin Tunnels which were, as he often told us, the largest known machine driven sub-aqueous tunnels in the world, do not now hold this record. Recently larger diameter road tunnels have been built in Japan and this year the Elbe Tunnel under Hamburg now has the record.

The James Clark Memorial Medal was presented to Denis Lawrensen for his life-time achievement in tunnelling.



David Wallis presenting the James Clark Memorial Medal to Denis Lawrensen

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

You will be shortly receiving notification of the Membership fees for the Society. These are:

UK Corporate	£450
Overseas Corporate	£700
UK Member	£45
Overseas Member	£70
Retired UK Member	£17.50
Retired Overseas Member	£20
Student UK Member	£15
Student Overseas Member	£20

Please pay your subscription promptly to avoid the necessity of sending out reminders. You are reminded that if you have not paid your subscription

by the end of March 2001 you will not receive the issues of Tunnels & Tunnelling International.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

All meetings at the ICE at 17.30 unless stated below:

**18<sup>th</sup> January 2001 Hong Kong West Rail Tunnels.** Jayananda Jesudasen (KCRC), Howard McKay (Canton Railway Corporation) and Charles Perrier (Dragages-Zen Pacific Joint Venture)

**18<sup>th</sup> January 2001 Views from the Sites with at Tunbridge Wells Town Hall. North Downs Tunnel.** Andy Axton and Andy Kendal (Miller Civil Engineering Ltd)

**1<sup>st</sup> February 2001 Views from the Sites with Midlands Association. 6 for 6.30 at Midlands Engineering Centre, Austin Court, 80 Cambridge Street, Birmingham. Derby Sewerage.** Steve Feely, (Haswell)

**22<sup>nd</sup> February 2001 La Esperanza to Poza Honda, 11km long tunnel in Ecuador.** Fernando Luiz Reis (Odebrecht)

**7<sup>th</sup> March 2001 Half day meeting on Lessons to be learnt from Recent Shotcrete Tunnelling in London Clay.** Speakers to be announced.

**22<sup>nd</sup> March 2001 Are Tunnels faster by TBM – The new 'Q' - TBM prognosis model.** Nick Barton (Nick Barton Associates)

**10<sup>th</sup> April 2001 Views from the Sites with Teesside Association.** Projects and location to be announced.

**17<sup>th</sup> May 2001 ADECO approach to the design and construction of tunnels.** Giovanna Cassani (Rocksoil Milano)

**21<sup>st</sup> June 2001 Debate** Details and speakers to be announced

## INTERNATIONAL TUNNELLING ASSOCIATION

The next Annual Meeting of the International Tunnelling Association will take place in Milan, Italy, as a joint meeting of the Italian and the Swiss Tunnelling Societies, on the 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> June 2001. More details of the meeting will be given in the April Newsletter.

Don't forget to visit the ITA Website [www.ita-aites.org](http://www.ita-aites.org)

## HARDING PRIZE

Younger members are reminded that time is running out for your papers for the prestigious Harding prize. This Competition is held every other years and the winner receives a cheque for £500, two tickets to the Annual Dinner, a copy of Sir Harold Harding's book and a free membership of the Society for one year. Papers selected for the presentation in April 2001 receive prizes and all other authors of papers to an approved standard receive a year's free membership of the Society. **You cannot loose.**

**Senior members of the Tunnelling fraternity, please encourage and support your younger members to submit papers. They do not have to members of the Society, but will be so the next year if they submit a good paper.**

## TRAINING and COURSES

Details of the five day, two module, comprehensive tunnelling course to be run in June 2001 will be distributed early in the new year. The course is being held at the Royal Holloway College, Egham, from 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> June 2001, and will cover a broad range of tunnel design, construction and health and safety topics, presented by a series of highly experienced tunnelling specialists. Please register early to ensure your place.

We are seeking the views of the membership on training and education matters. A questionnaire was distributed with the November issue of Tunnels & Tunnelling International. If have not yet responded, please could you do so as soon as possible. Your input is important to enable the Society to form its policy with regard to encouraging the development of future training requirements for the UK tunnelling industry.

## HEALTH & SAFETY EXECUTIVE

The progress of the CEN Standards has been rather slow. The EN 815 on Hard rock TBMs was published in 1997. However, the Standards on Shield machines, Airlocks and Roadheaders will not be available until well into next year.

## DINNER

The application form for tickets for the Annual Dinner will be issued with the February T&TI. The Dinner will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2001 at the Brewery, Chiswell Street. The Committee has listened to the feedback from members and have discussed many of the problems with the Brewery. There will be a good speaker, there will be a small dance band after dinner and above all the after dinner bar will be well manned.

## LOBBY GROUP

Your website, [www.britishtunnelling.org](http://www.britishtunnelling.org), has now been available to access since 20<sup>th</sup> October.

We would appreciate your comments which should be sent to the BTS Secretary, [dionne.jacobs@ice.org.uk](mailto:dionne.jacobs@ice.org.uk). As a service to our Corporate Members, we have invited them to give us their URL addresses and company logos, in addition to their postal addresses etc., so that we can provide links to the corporate website.

The format of the database of completed British tunnel projects has now been produced and Rodney Craig has agreed to take on the task of transferring the engineering data from a number of consultants' files, and published data, onto a central database which will be handled by the eservice department at the ICE.

## CONFERENCES

**Underground Construction 2001** is being held at ExCel in Docklands from 18 to 20 September 2000. Put the dates in your diary and tunnelling organisations, please contact Brintex about exhibition space. E-mail [d.palfreman@hemming-group.co.uk](mailto:d.palfreman@hemming-group.co.uk)

**Engineering and Health in Compressed Air Conference** is being held at St Catherine's College Oxford from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September 2002. A call for

papers has recently been issued. E-mail  
[rachel.coninx@ice.org.uk](mailto:rachel.coninx@ice.org.uk)