

British Tunnelling Society

at The Institution of Civil Engineers

1-7 Great George Street

London SW1P 3AA

Telephone: 0207 222 7722

Direct Line 0207 665 2233

Direct Fax: 0207 799 1325

Email bts@ice.org.uk

Website www.britishtunnelling.org



NEWSLETTER November 2004

INTRODUCTION

The session is now well under way and we look forward to interesting meetings in the New Year.

Details are given below of the Harding Prize Competition 2005. This is open to all aged under 33 on 31st December 2004. Senior staff are asked to encourage their younger members to prepare and submit an original paper. You do not have to be a member of the BTS to enter.

Other important items are the proposed visit to the Gotthard AlpTransit in April 2005, and the request for information of historical tunnels.

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.

9 th December 2004	Rail Tunnel Refurbishment
20 th January 2005	Terminal 5 Heathrow Tunnels
17 th February 2005	Tabas: the first fully mechanised coal mine in Iran. Joint meeting with MinSouth, the London and Southern Countries Minerals Industries Institute, IoM3

HARDING PRIZE COMPETITION 2005

The Harding Prize is named after the founder Chairman of the Society, Sir Harold Harding and is awarded

biennially. The Competition is open to all aged 33 or under on 31st December 2004.

Papers must be written, submitted and presented by an individual. The paper must be original and relate to any aspect of tunnelling considered of interest to those associated with tunnelling. The papers will be reviewed by the BTS Committee and the authors of selected papers will be invited to make oral presentations at the meeting on 14th April 2005.

Copies of the rules have been circulated or are available from Gavin Bowyer, the Secretary. Entries must be submitted to Gavin Bowyer by **28th February 2005**.

The winner will be awarded a certificate, a copy of Sir Harold Harding's book "Tunnelling History and my own involvement", two tickets to the Annual Dinner and a cheque for £500 which will be presented at the Dinner.

Others entrants selected for oral presentations will receive a cheque for £100 and all other entrants submitting papers to a standard approved by the Sub-Committee will receive a cheque for £50. In addition all these will receive a year's free membership of the Society, which includes a years copies of Tunnels & Tunnelling International.

For the last few competitions we have had a very good response with up to eight papers submitted. Senior staff please encourage your younger members to prepare and submit a paper.

OBITUARY

John Benford, founder of Tunnelling Accessories, died very suddenly at the end of November. Aged 72, he still visited the office for a few hours each day. On Monday 29th November he visited the office and died later that day of a heart attack. John will have a family cremation

followed by a memorial service at the village church of Northiam, 12 miles north of Hastings on the A28, at 12 noon on 16th December 2004.

John started his career as a local authority engineer in Blackpool and was responsible for a number of tunnelling projects. In 1967 he moved to Spun Concrete in Rye and was responsible for the technical aspects of the production of their segments and pipes. In 1973 he left Spun Concrete and set up Tunnelling Accessories Ltd, a company that is still well known within the industry for the supply of tunnelling materials.

COMMITTEE

On 29th November Mr Alex Sagy, Chairman of the Israeli Tunnelling Association, visited the Institution and met Anthony Umney, Martin Knights and Gavin Bowyer to broaden the links between British and Israeli tunnelling engineers. Mr Sagy was introduced to the BTS activities, publications and the list of cooperate members. Israel has a significant programme for roads, rail and metro tunnels.

GOSSIP



Roy Slocombe, Herrenknecht, talking to the Duke of York on his stand at No Dig 2004 at Stoneleigh Park, Coventry in September

Do any of the members remember David Hislop who worked on the Kowloon Cross Harbour Tunnel? He died from cancer at the early age of 44, when his son Ian Hislop was just 12. Ian, the Editor of Private Eye, has

recently been researching his family history for a TV programme and found out a lot more than he had known of his father's lifetime. David was a civil engineer and worked in Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and in Hong Kong on the Kowloon Tunnel.

Any interesting news about members to rodneycraig@compuserve.com

TUNNEL LOBBY GROUP

The Annual General Meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Underground Space (APGUS) was held on 26th October. The officers for the 2004 – 2005 session are:

Chairman	Lawrie Quinn MP
Vice Chairman	Peter Viggers MP
Hon. Secretary	The Lord Berkeley
Treasurer	Lindsay Hoyle MP

The BTS continues to support APGUS through administrative assistance.

Following the brief AGM, Mike Ranft and colleagues of the Balfour Beatty-Costain JV gave a presentation about the Stonehenge Tunnels. It was very wide ranging, covering environment, archaeology and landscaping as well as the tunnel. It elicited a good level of interest from Parliamentarians. Though interrupted by an enormous number of divisions on the Hunting Bill in the Commons, a number of Peers stayed for the whole meeting.

We hope to organise a presentation in February/March 2005. We are organising a visit to the London sewers for Parliamentarians in May 2005 (General Election permitting!).

A good number of the BTS Committee also attended the Associate Parliamentary Engineering Group (APEG) meeting on Crossrail in October. Norman Haste, Crossrail spoke quite frankly about the programme for procurement and construction. We had the opportunity to express our support for the project by attending and by speaking informally with Parliamentarians afterwards.

Further information from Helen Nattrass h.nattrass@sir-robert-mcalpine.com
Tel 0207 808 5000

BTS TUNNEL LINING DESIGN GUIDE

The new BTS Tunnel Lining Design Guide was published in April and the sales are going well. There was an interesting meeting on 7th October to discuss the Guide.



The Design Guide Sub-Committee at the Institution

The Guide is available, at a price of £65, plus postage and packing, (UK, 10%, up to a maximum of £8 of the order, or overseas 20%, up to a maximum of £50 of the order) by post from Thomas Telford Ltd., Units 1/K, Paddock Wood Distribution Centre, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 6UU. By fax 44 (0) 1892 837272, by telephone 44 (0) 1892 832299, by e-mail orders@thomastelford.com, via the website www.thomastelford.com or from the Thomas Telford Bookshop at the Institution.

VISIT TO ST GOTTHARD ALPTRANSIT TUNNEL

Martin Smith, Rascor, has suggested that the BTS should visit the Gotthard Alptransit Tunnel and the Swiss Tunnelling Society FUS. It is proposed that a party of members of the Society will visit the tunnel during the weekend 8th – 10th April 2005. Further details will be circulated in the next few weeks.

PANEL for HISTORICAL ENGINEERING WORKS

The Panel for Historical Engineering Works (PHEW) was formed in 1968 with the objectives of identifying, recording and promoting the knowledge of Civil Engineering heritage and to encourage excellence in the conservation of its finest examples.

There are sub-panels on:

- Masonry arch bridges
- Cast iron bridges
- Watertowers
- Windmills
- Concrete bridges
- Dry docks
- Seaside piers, and
- Inland waterways

In January 2004, after attending a lecture given by Jack Knight in Preston on Victorian Tunnels, Paul Dunkerley, a PHEW Panel Member, asked Jack if he would be the PHEW sub-panel convenor for tunnels.

This sub-panel has now been formed with Jack Knight as Convenor with other sub-panel members Myles O'Reilly, Colin Kirkland, David Mather (Network Rail), Ivan Chudleigh (Tubelines) and Chris Reynard (BWB). PHEW Supervisors are Paul Dunkerley, Roger Cragg, Mike Chrimes, Peter Cross-Rudkin and Carol Morgan (researcher).

There has been an initial meeting and the hard work of gathering information is now in hand. The sub-panel is looking for help in researching tunnels. Basically the group has been divided into Road, Rail, Canal, Metro and Services (water, sewerage, utilities, pedestrian) tunnels. There may be more, but the group is busy identifying all the tunnels in the UK before it sits down and places them in some historical order of merit.

Help is needed in gathering interesting historical data on any tunnels even the ones that are now disused. BTS members are asked if they know of any interesting historical facts about any tunnel in the indicated groups, that they should contact a sub-panel member with the information.

UNDERGROUND CONSTRUCTION 2005

We are pleased to announce that Underground Construction 2005 will take place on Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th October 2005 at the Olympia Exhibition and Conference Centre, London. Please watch out for the first Bulletin and Call for Papers, which is being issued this month. It is already clear that the Exhibition will attract a high number of key exhibitors for tunnelling, and the event promises to be a feast of tunnelling discussion and interaction, and is not to be missed. Please make a note of the dates and venue NOW.

It is planned to hold the Tunnelling Industry Awards 2005 ceremony on the Thursday evening

REGISTRATION

The results of the questionnaire to members are being finalised, and are being compiled and incorporated into a short report which will be presented to the Committee next month, and reported in T&TI.

SAFETY, STANDARDS AND CODES

Nitrogen Monoxide

The lack of a definitive limit continues to cause problems for the tunnelling industry – not just for construction but for tunnel operators also. The delays are due to inactivity in Europe and the UK is powerless to influence the situation. Contrary to rumour which has been circulating, this is not a ploy by HSE to favour the use of TBMs over other tunnelling techniques, but a health-related measure which is being imposed upon the UK by Europe.

Regulatory Impact Assessment

The BTS has assisted the HSE by distributing copies of the questionnaire for HSE's formal Regulatory Impact Assessment – if you wish to contribute information, please contact Gavin Bowyer, the BTS Secretary, or Donald Lamont, HSE, for a copy. It is vital that all relevant information is submitted to HSE by early January 2005.

HAVS

BTS members should be aware that new Regulations limiting exposure to vibration are likely to come into effect in June 2005. Extensive information on the proposals and their possible impact on industry can be found on the HSE website at www.hse.gov.uk/vibration/index.htm

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 3rd European Federation of Explosive Engineer (EFEE) World Conference on Explosives and Blasting, Brighton 13th – 16th September 2005. Call for submission of Abstracts has been extended to 17th December 2004, www.efee-web.org

ITA 2006 World Tunnel Congress, and 32nd ITA General Assembly, 22nd – 27th April 2006, Seoul, Korea. Abstracts Deadline 1st March 2005. www.ita2006.com

CONFERENCES

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

Tunnelling Asia 2004, 14th – 17th December 2004 at New Delhi, India <http://cb.cbip.org:5050/index.jsp>

10th ACUUS Conference, Underground Space: Economy and Environment and ISRM Regional Symposium: Rock Mechanics for Underground Environment, January 24th – 28th, 2005 Moscow, Russian Federation. www.armorocks.org/conferences

12th Australian Tunnelling Conference 2005, 17th – 20th April 2005 Brisbane, Australia, "Tunnelling Towards Better Cities" including and accompanying workshop on

"Tunnel Waterproofing and Grouting" www.tunnelling2005.com

ITA – AITES 2005; World Tunnel Congress and 31st ITA General Assembly, 7th - 12th May 2005, Istanbul, Turkey, www.setur.com.tr

RETC 17th Rapid Excavation & Tunnelling Conference and Exhibition, June 27th - 29th 2005, www.retc.org

Tunnel China 2005, 7th – 9th September 2005, Intex Shanghai, www.tunnel-china.com

3rd EFEE World Conference on Explosives and Blasting, 13th – 16th September 2005, Hilton Hotel Metropole, UK, www.efee-web.org

Tunnelling for a Sustainable Europe, AFTES Congress 10th – 12th October 2005, Chambery, France, www.aftes.asso.fr

World Long Tunnels 2005 Taipei, Taiwan, 7th – 10th November 2005, www.longtunnel/2005.taneeb.gov.tw

ITA 2006 World Tunnel Congress, and 32nd ITA General Assembly, 22nd – 27th April 2006, Seoul, Korea, www.ita2006.com

INTER tunnel 06, 16th – 18th May 2006, Lingotto Fiere Exhibition Centre, Turin, Italy, e-mail intertunnel@mackbrooks.co.uk