

British Tunnelling Society

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NEWSLETTER

October 2005

INTRODUCTION

In the last week in October we have the Underground Construction 2005 Conference and Exhibition on 26th and 27th October and the Tunnelling Industry Awards on the evening of 26th October at Olympia, in west London. It is not too late to register for the Conference and we hope that there will be a good attendance at the Awards and to the Exhibition.

The sales of the BTS Design Guide, the BTS Closed Face Working Group Report and the Insurance Code of Practice are going well and order forms will be available on the BTS stand at the Exhibition. We hope to see you all there.

GOSSIP

Jack Knight has recently joined Scott Wilson as a Consultant.

Martin Knights has recently joined Jacobs Babtie

Any interesting news about members to rodneycraig@compuserve.com

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.

26 October 2005

4.30pm: Olympia, London
The Design and the
Construction of the SMART
Project in Kuala Lumpur: A
dual Use Tunnel

Meeting in conjunction with
Underground Construction
2005, at Olympia. Please note
date, time and location

17th November 2005 Victorian Railway Tunnels

8th December 2005 Design and Construction of
Additional Emergency
Escapes for the Mersey
Queensway Road Tunnel

INTERNATIONAL TUNNELLING ASSOCIATION

At the September Society meeting we welcomed Harvey Parker, the President of the International Tunnelling Association, from Seattle, USA, to co chair the meeting.

David Court, in his introduction said that the Society had decided to make the annual presentation of an international paper a joint ITA BTS event as a symbolic reminder of the links that the BTS has with the international community. The BTS was a founder member of the ITA and two BTS Chairmen have been Presidents of the Association – Sir Alan Muir Wood, its Honorary President and the late Colin Kirkland. Today the Society is represented by Martin Knights who is a Vice President and Donald Lamont the National Delegate.

Harvey Parker thanked David and the Society for inviting him. The focal point for the ITA has always been the annual congress held in different venues around the world, generally around May. The congress is attended by 500 to 1000 delegates depending upon the venue with three days of technical sessions and an Open Session on a relevant topical theme – next year for the Open Session in Seoul, Korea, it is Risk Management in Tunnelling.

The Congress is also an excellent opportunity for delegates to build up their personal contacts and networks and to participate in the Working Groups – these Working Groups are the life blood of the ITA because it is this collegiate sharing of expertise in all aspects of tunnelling that results in the publication of ITA guidelines for use in the International Tunnelling Community.

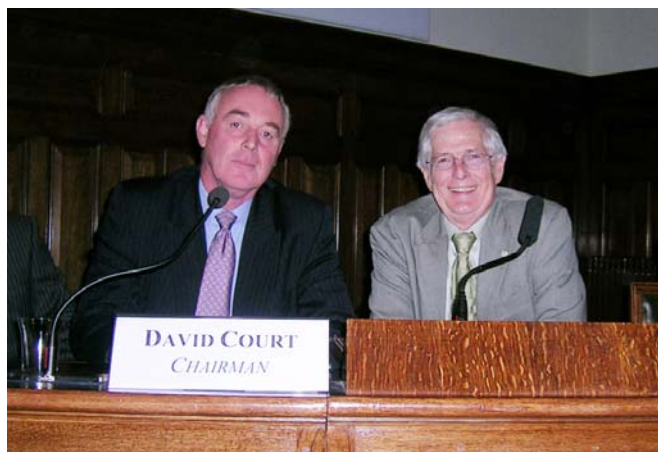
The ITA has developed an excellent website which allows proactive members to share technical issues through private forums, there is an excellent database and an abundance of references to projects. The ITA produces an electronic newsletter – not unlike this one.

Membership of the ITA entitles you to copies of Tunnelling and Underground Space Technology – TUST – which publishes Working Group publications as well as leading research and development papers.

Prime Sponsor Status allows additional advertising opportunities on the website and the ability to give papers/publicity alongside the ITA Executive Council at regional seminars held three times a year.

The main benefit though is for the individual member to use the ITA for his own specific purposes and to give and take out what you can to suit your individual or corporate requirements in the International Community – whether it be technical, research and development or contacts.

If members wish to read more about the ITA, to join the Association or be on a Working Group, please visit the website www.ita-aites.org or contact Martin Knights or Donald Lamont through the Secretary, Gavin Bowyer.



David Court and Harvey Parker Co Chairs of the September Meeting

UNDERGROUND CONSTRUCTION 2005

Underground Construction 2005 is being held at Olympia, London, on 26th and 27th October 2005. The Conference and exhibition is being organised by Brintex on behalf of the British Tunnelling Society and the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining.

The Sessions are as follows:

Wednesday 26th October

09.30 – 11.00 International Projects
12.00 – 13.30 Practical Aspects of Tunnelling
14.30 – 16.00 Tunnel Maintenance and Remediation
16.30 – 18.00 BTS Discussion Evening
18.00 – 20.00 Awards and Drinks reception.
(Reception sponsored by Brintex)

Thursday 27th October

09.30 – 11.00 European Projects
11.30 – 12.30 Tunnel Planning, Contracting and Risk
13.30 – 15.00 Tunnel Design and Innovation (1)
15.30 – 17.00 Tunnel Design and Innovation (2)

In addition to the Exhibition, there is a Showcase Theatre Programme each day with talks every hour from 10am to 3pm in the Exhibition Hall. All sessions are available on a first come, first served basis.

The programme, list of papers for each session, the Conference details and booking form are on www.tunnelling-show.com.

TUNNELLING INDUSTRY AWARDS

The Tunnels & Tunnelling International and BTS Tunnelling Industry Awards will be presented after the BTS meeting at Underground Construction 2005 at a reception from 6pm to 8pm at Olympia on Wednesday 26th October. The drinks reception which is sponsored by Brintex is open to all Entrants, Conference Delegates and Exhibitors and BTS Members.

There has been a good entry for three of the six Awards – UK Project, International Project and Young Engineer of the year. Details of the nominations for these three awards are in the September issue of Tunnels & Tunnelling International.

BTS CLOSED FACE WORKING GROUP

After more than two years of research, data collation, text composition, review and re-write, the report of the Closed-Face Working Group (CFWG) has now been published by, and is available from, Thomas Telford. Some 130 copies have already been sold.

The title is “Closed-Face Tunnelling Machines and Ground Stability - A guideline for best practice”. The report is similar in size and design to the BTS/ICE Tunnel Lining Design Guide. The report, which is a 76-page A4 publication, provides state-of-the-art information about the application and safe operation of closed-face tunnelling machine systems.

There are 10 separate chapters illustrated with tables, graphs, and photographs and the report takes the reader through the technical development of the two types of closed-face tunnelling systems (slurry and EPB); the methods by which each system is selected for a given tunnelling project; a description of hazards associated with urban tunnelling; the use of risk management systems; a review of site investigation methods; and an examination of the tunnelling process from the construction as well as the monitoring, recording and data reviewing points of view.

The report also includes an analysis of data collated from more than 100 international incidents of closed-face TBM ground instability and collapse in an effort to identify common factors associated with such events.

Given the amount of tunnelling completed each year using closed-face tunnelling machines, the incidents of ground instability are rare. It is, however, critical that the incidence of such events is minimised and avoided through awareness and best possible working practices.

The report ends with a set of conclusions and recommendations that provide a checklist for best possible working practice and establishes a baseline upon which future development and use of closed-face tunnelling machine systems can be tracked and updated.

The report has been written by a committee of highly experienced and knowledgeable BTS members and industry professionals. Included on the steering committee were Alastair Biggart, Chairman, David Court, and Bill Grose, the report is addressed to all those involved in soft ground and closed-face tunnelling machine development and operation as well as those managing development of major tunnelling projects in urban environments.

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.

WORKING TIME DIRECTIVE

Recently representation was made to the BTS Committee from members regarding their concerns at the possible removal of the UK Opt-out clause from the European Working Time Directive with particular concern at the effect this could have on tunnelling shift work. Following meetings and discussions between the Chairman, Vice Chairman and a representative from the BTS Member it was agreed that the BTS would investigate the situation.

Following discussions between the Chairman of the BTS and the Chief Executive of the Construction Confederation and other members of industry bodies the present situation is as follows:-

Within the Construction Confederation there is a lobbying group dealing specifically with the Working Time Directive. The Confederation is the leading representative body for Contractors representing some 5000 companies who in turn are responsible for over 75% of the construction industry's turnover and encompasses such bodies as the Major Contractors Group, the Civil Engineering Contractors Association and the National Contractors Federation.

The Confederation is presently working with the DTp and Government to present a case to Europe for the UK to maintain a form of Opt-out and the Confederation is looking for any assistance from companies who can provide information and examples on where the use of the Opt-out is required or where the removal of the Opt-out could be detrimental to their business.

The BTS therefore recommends that any of its members who have concerns should contact the Confederation and present their concerns so that they can be included in the lobbying information. The Confederation can be contacted by e-mail on enquiries@thecc.org.uk or by phone on 0870 898 9090.

BTS DATABASE

The Society, four years ago, decided to prepare a database of UK tunnels constructed in the last 30 or 50 years. The data are being collated from published information in UK and from conference papers and covers the basic information on a single sheet on each project. There is a search system based on keywords or project names.

The first 200 projects covering large and small projects across the whole spectrum of tunnel uses from road tunnels to water, sewer and service tunnels will be placed on the website on Monday 24th October before the start of Underground Construction 2005. Flysheets on the database with examples will be available on the BTS stand.

Over the following months further projects will be added and those on the database updated as necessary.

LOBBY GROUP

The Associated Parliamentary Group for Underground Space (APGUS) has not yet been reformed following the election. However, we were very pleased to receive a letter from The Rt Hon Nick Raynsford MP in early October saying that he would be delighted to accept the offer to Chair APGUS. We can now move forward and arrange events for the coming session.

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

STUVA CONFERENCE

The German biannual STUVA Conferences are the largest tunnelling conferences in the World with 1200 to 1500 attending. Up to this year the conference language has been German and so the conference has normally only been attended by German speaking delegates.

The 2005 Conference is being held in Leipzig from 28th November to 1st December. There will be simultaneous German/English translation and STUVA hopes that many non-German speaking delegates will attend. The Conference is a two day conference with site visits on the Thursday attended by many of the delegates.

Further details of the Conference on www.stuva.de

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

Underground Construction 2005, 26th and 27th October 2005, London, UK. www.tunnelling-show.com (see above)

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

International No-Dig, 19th – 21st November., Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

STUVA Conference '05, 28th November – 1st December 2005, Leipzig, Germany, www.stuva.de

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