

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 October 2006

INTRODUCTION

The new session began in September with a talk by John Gillard, Mersey Tunnel, on the Road Tunnel Operators Association and the operation and maintenance of road tunnels.



Bill Gross with John Gillard before the Meeting

The next two meetings are in October on the Dublin Port Tunnel and in November on the Nicoll Highway collapse. There are different things to be learnt from both these two projects and they should be very interesting talks with hopefully detailed discussion.

The December meeting is a little different with Oliver Bevan and Douglas Parkes talking about two projects constructed in the 1950s/1960s. There have been many innovative improvements and new techniques since then, but the old established methods of hand mining, face boarding and timbering are still required.

Incidentally the Society is considering a proposal to set up a Working Group to prepare a Best Practice Guide on Timbering and would welcome any support from members of their experience in timbering.

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.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 19 th October 2006 | Design and Construction of the Dublin Port Tunnel, Ireland |
| 16 th November 2006 | Nicoll Highway Collapse Inquiry, Singapore |
| 7 th December 2006 | Tunnelling Fifty Years Ago – Oliver Bevan and Douglas Parkes |

SOCIETY'S NEW SECRETARY

We mentioned the change in Secretary in the August Newsletter. The BTS Committee and Chairman are delighted to welcome Jade Donovan as the new Secretary to the Society. Jade replaces Janice Leung, who has moved to a different role in the Institution of Civil Engineers.

Jade's enthusiasm and orderly approach will become increasingly valuable to the Society, traditionally one of the most active Associated Societies of the Institution.

GOSSIP

Any interesting news about members to rodneycraig@compuserve.com

LOBBY GROUP

Further information from Helen Natrass
h.natrass@sir-robert-mcalpine.com
Tel 07803 612556.

HARDING PRIZE COMPETITION

Every two years we hold the Harding Prize Competition which is held for our younger engineers. The Competition is open to all aged 33 or under on 31st December 2006.

Entrants must submit an original paper relating to any aspect of tunnelling which they consider of interest to those in the tunnelling industry. The papers will be reviewed by a BTS Sub-Committee and a number of papers, usually three, will be selected for an oral presentation at the April 2007 meeting.

The winner will be given two tickets to the Society's Annual Dinner in May 2007 where there will be a presentation of a cheque for £500, a certificate and a copy of Sir Harold Harding, the founder Chairman of the Society, book "Tunnelling history and my own involvement".

Runners up who give oral presentations will receive a cheque for £100 and all the entrants whose papers are considered to be of an adequate standard will receive a cheque for £50. In addition all these participants and the winner will also receive a free membership of the Society for the next year, which includes a year's copies of Tunnels & Tunnelling International.

The closing date for submission of papers is 31st January 2007.

Senior tunnellers, please support your younger engineers and encourage them to write a paper for this Competition. In 2005 and 2003 we had 8 or 9 papers which was excellent. We wish to have a similar number next year.

The rules are on the website and have been issued with the September Tunnels & Tunnelling International. Copies can be obtained from the Secretary.

In broad terms the papers must be written by one person and should be a length of 2500 to 4000 words. The oral presentations will be or 15 – 20 minutes with 10 minutes of questions.

The Sub-Committee will assess the papers for:

- Content and understanding of the subject and its interest to the tunnelling profession
- Presentation and illustrations
- Quality and elegance of writing
- Clarity and fluency of presentation

- Whether the paper was prepared as part of an academic activity or as part of the author's job activities.

Allowance will be made for the age of the entrants and for any obvious assistance received.

ANNUAL DINNER 2007

Next year's dinner will be held on **18th May 2007** as usual at the Brewery in London. **Please note that this date is a week later than our usual "Slot"** because of venue availability (or rather lack of it).

The format will be along the lines of previous very successful dinners.

Plans are being finalised, and details will be announced in the New Year. The ticket booking website will open for business as usual in February.

INTERNATIONAL TUNNELLING ASSOCIATION

The ITA General Assemblies comes round on a very regular basis with the 2007 Assembly being held in Prague from 5th – 10th May 2007. However, you will have to wait until September 2008 for the next one in Delhi, but then we will be back on the usual time of year for the 2009 meeting in Budapest in May 2009.

If you are considering attending the Prague meeting or are interested in joining one of the Working Groups (see the August Newsletter for details (or visit the ITA website ita-aites.org), please contact Donald Lamont through the Secretary.

NITROGEN MONOXIDE WORKING GROUP

As mentioned in the April Newsletter, a British Tunnelling Society led Working Group has been set up to address the issues raised by the Chemical Hazard Alert Notice (CHAN) 28 on Nitrogen Monoxide (NO) issued by the Health and Safety Executive in April 2003, revised July 2004.

The Notice withdrew the Nitrogen Monoxide (NO) Occupational Exposure Standards (OES) from EH40 and stated, "...long term (8-hour TWA) exposures to nitrogen monoxide should not exceed 1ppm". The Notice also advised "... employers should determine their own working practice and in house standards for control so that repeated exposure does not cause ill health".

The Working Group has issued an Interim Advice Note which will be should be on the website any day. Work is still proceeding on its main Best Practice Guidance document.

MONITORING GUIDE BEST PRACTICE

The Committee has recently set up a Working Group to prepare a "Guide to Best Practice for Monitoring during Underground Construction Works" as there is currently no generally recognised standard or best practice guidance on monitoring principles and systems for underground works.

This document will not deal with technical details of monitoring systems but will provide guidance on how to go about procuring appropriate and effective monitoring for underground works. It is anticipated that the guide will be along the lines of "questions you should ask when monitoring is required for underground works". The anticipated audience is wider than just tunnel engineers and might well include groups such as clients and property developers.

The document will be relevant to:

- Ground movements
- Monitoring to validate design assumptions
- Integration with other strands e.g. tunnel advance rates
- Structures/utilities/infrastructure monitoring
- Existing tunnel monitoring – verification of safe operation
- Grouting works (e.g. compensation grouting) – the management of complex data and quick decision making.

A Working Group is currently being set up under the Chairmanship of Damian McGirr, Donaldson Associates.

ROAD TUNNEL OPERATORS ASSOCIATION

At the meeting of the Road Tunnel Operators Association held on 3rd October, the Association was officially constituted. John Gillard is the first Chairman. The Society looks forward to a close relationship with the Association.

The Road Tunnel Operators Forum followed the meeting and on 4th October.

INTERNATIONAL TUNNEL INSURANCE GROUP CODE

The Code was published on the IMIA website www.imia.com at the end of January 2006. It should be noted that the BTS is not the publisher of the Code.

NUCLEAR WASTE: THE CHALLENGE OF UNDERGROUND STORAGE

The Society is supporting a 2-day conference titled Nuclear Waste: The Challenge of Underground Storage to be held at the London Congress 23th - 24th January 2007. The Conference is being organised by Tunnel & Tunnelling International and Nuclear Engineering International.

The Conference programme will be published very shortly in the journals and will be placed on the website. International storage research and projects will be discussed. More detailed information will be given in the December Newsletter.

THAMES TUNNEL CLUB

The Society has supported the placing of a plaque in the Upper Room at the Mayflower Pub, close to the Brunel Museum, to remember the inaugural toast to Marc Brunel in 1834.

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.

HAV's BEST PRACTICE GUIDE

The HAV's Best Practice Guide is now on the website

The document which has had a significant contribution from the HSE provides the industry with a Current Best Practice Guide to the management of HAV's and is essential reading for all.

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

International Symposium on Utilisation of Underground Space, 6th – 7th November 2006, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt www.egyts.com