

British Tunnelling Society

at The Institution of Civil Engineers

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NEWSLETTER September 2004

INTRODUCTION

The new session started in September with two joint meetings with the BGA. The first on the Dublin Port Tunnel and the second on the use of Geotechnical Baseline report and a Geotechnical Design Report as Contract Documents for Underground Works. Both meetings were well attended and there was an interesting and wide discussion at the second meeting.

CHANNEL TUNNEL RAIL LINK

Members will recall the very sad and sudden death of David Wallis, the Chairman of the BTS, in November 2000 at the early age of 59. A tribute to David was given in the January 2001 issue of the Newsletter.

Union Railway, Rail Link Engineering and the contractors on the London Tunnels have always planned to place a plaque in his memory in the London Tunnels. With the completion and handing over of Contract 250, to the systemwide contractors it was an appropriate time to unveil a plaque in his memory.



Katie, Richard and Sarah Wallis in front of the plaque

On Tuesday 28th September a plaque was unveiled in David's memory by his children Katie, Sarah and Richard at the over cross passage at the Ripple Lane Ventilation shaft and portal. The unveiling was attended by Alan Dyke, Managing Director Union Railways (North), and colleagues and friends from Union Railway, Rail Link Engineering, the contractors and Halcrow. Rab Brown, Halcrow, paid tribute to David and his life and in particular his many years on the Channel Tunnel and the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.

The description on the plaque reads:

"In memory of David Wallis a dedicated tunneller and engineer, whose energy and enthusiasm was instrumental in the planning and design of these tunnels.

He tragically passed away before the construction phase got underway.

From his friends and those who knew him we salute his skill and dedication which was a major contribution to the successful completion of the works"

OBITUARY

Stuart Blackford, a BTS member who regularly attended meetings for many years until last year, died on 5th July 2004. Stuart joined Sir William Halcrow & Partners in 1951 after war service and four years with London Transport.

Stuart worked on underground works and deep foundations including the LUL Victoria Line. In the early 1970s he was appointed Head of the firms Geotechnical Section and was responsible for site investigations for several major road and tunnel developments including the first stage of the Channel Tunnel. He also worked on studies of the refurbishment of the Glasgow Underground.

He was later appointed Head of the firms Ground Engineering Department and was appointed an Associate in 1973 and later a Principal Associate and a Partner of Halcrow International Partnership.

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.

7 th October	Special meeting on Tunnel Lining Design Guide
21 st October	Uetliberg, Switzerland
18 th November	Grouts and grouting for Tunnel Waterproofing
9 th December	Rail Tunnel Refurbishment

GOSSIP

Any interesting news about members to rodneycraig@compuserve.com

TUNNEL LOBBY GROUP

The Parliamentary year began early in September. During discussions with Lawrie Quinn MP, Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Underground Space (APGUS), a date was fixed for the Annual General Meeting on 26th October. The AGM itself is a short meeting for the Parliamentarians only, where the officers for the next year are decided. This will be followed by a presentation on the Stonehenge Tunnel by Mike Ranft of Balfour Beatty – Costain JV. We hope to attract a wide audience of MPs and Peers whose interests range from technical matters to archaeology and the environment. BTS Members wanting to know more about APGUS and/or attend APGUS meetings can contact Helen Nattrass.

The Associate Parliamentary Engineering Group (APEG) will hold a meeting about Crossrail in October. The BTS Lobby Group will be out in force to give moral support to Crossrail's Chief Executive Norman Haste as he speaks to APEG. We will use the opportunities at the ensuing reception to speak privately to Parliamentarians and lobby them for their active support for the project. On this subject APGUS Chairman Lawrie Quinn MP has told us that our discussions last May with Under Minister

for Transport, Tony McNulty MP, were timely and appropriate, particularly on the question of Crossrail. BTS Members can contact the Lobby Group if they wish to bring "underground" issues to the attention of MPs and Peers. We will do our best to make your points in the most effective forum.

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 is a meeting on 7th October to discuss the Guide.

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.

COMPETENCE AND REGISTRATION

Thanks again to the 94 members (and indeed one non-member) who responded to the questionnaire. The winner of the bottle of whisky was Nick Chittenden. Congratulations Nick, and please claim your prize by contacting Gavin Bowyer if you have not already done so. The findings are now being analysed and we shall be reporting on these shortly.

UNDERGROUND CONSTRUCTION 2005

The format of Underground Construction 2005 has still to be finalised. Details will be circulated in the next two months.

SAFETY, STANDARDS AND CODES

CEN Standards

The annual plenary meeting of CEN/TC151 "Construction Machinery - Safety" was held recently in Bardolino, Italy. Amongst the reports on working groups activity was one from Herr P-J Probst – secretary of WG4 – Tunnelling Machines. Herr Probst reported that the amendment to EN 815 – hard rock TBMs – was due to complete formal vote in November 2004.

prEn 12336 – Soft Ground Shield Machines - has had positive assessments from all the necessary CEN consultants and should go for formal vote soon (in "CEN speak" this is similar to "the cheque in the post"!)

Donald Lamont has circulated Committee members with a German document on rescue and blast protection containers. It is hoped that this document may eventually become an ITA document. Any member wishing to see the document should contact Donald Lamont directly (donald.lamont@hse.gsi.gov.uk).

The controversy over nitrogen monoxide limits remains unresolved. An EC meeting is planned for late September in Brussels at which the UK will be represented. However, it is not expected to result in a resolution of the problem. HSE is continuing with its assessment of the effects of the proposed limit and would very much welcome input from Society members.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Tunnelling for a sustainable Europe, Congress 10th to 12th October 2005. Deadline October 2004 www.aftes.assoc.fr

The 3rd European Federation of Explosive Engineer (EFEE) World Conference on Explosives and Blasting, Brighton 13th – 16th September 2005. Call for submission of Abstracts by 1st November 2004, www.efee-web.org

World Long Tunnels 2005, Abstracts by 1st November 2004

ITA 2006 World Tunnel Congress, and 32nd ITA General Assembly, April 2006, 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

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.acuus-isrm05.ru

12th Australian Tunnelling Conference 2005, 17th – 20th April 2005 Brisbane, Australia, www.tunnelling2005.com
ITA – AITES 2005; World Tunnel Congress and 31st ITA General Assembly, 7th - 12th May 2005, Istanbul, Turkey

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

World Long Tunnels 2005 Taipei, Taiwan, 7th - 10th November 2005