

British Tunnelling Society

at the Institution of Civil Engineers

One Great George Street

London SW1P 3AA

Telephone: 0207 222 7722

Direct Line: 0207 665 2233

Direct Fax: 0207 799 1325

Email: bts@britishtunnelling.org

Website: www.britishtunnelling.org.uk



NEWSLETTER September 2008

INTRODUCTION

Firstly, thank you to Rodney Craig who has edited most editions of the newsletter since 1995. Taking on the tough act of following in Rodney's footsteps are committee members Chris Bambridge and Andrew Hindmarch.

The final meeting of the 2007/2008 programme was held on 19th June 2008 with a presentation on Tunnel Operations, Fire Life Safety.

The BTS Committee meeting on the same day saw a proposal to revise the logo of the British Tunnelling Society. You will be pleased to know that the committee voted on the new logo and a unanimous vote was reached. The new logo is above, if you haven't noticed already.

The Committee would like to extend their thanks to all those involved with the development of the new logo for a job well done.

All members, please note that the 16th October meeting of the BTS will be held at Earls Court following the end of the Tunnelling 2008 Conference (www.tunnelling2008.co.uk) and will be followed by a drinks reception for all those attending both the conference and the evening meeting. More on the conference later in the newsletter.

NEW LOGO

After many years with a logo that has served us well, the BTS has adopted a new updated and more modern identity for going forward.

We trust you too like our new look and ask that members use the new logo to update our logo on your website and hold in your files for all future print and web publishing purposes. We also ask that you discard all copies and versions of the old logo that you might hold on file.

INTERNATIONAL TUNNELLING ASSOCIATION

ITA matters – no apologies for the pun! The ITA does matter to BTS members not least because its President is our own Martin Knights. Martin will be chairing his first ITA General Assembly, as President, in Agra in September this year.

BTS was a founder member nation of ITA in 1974 and Sir Alan Muir Wood remains its Honorary President. The late Colin Kirkland also held office as ITA president. Some years ago the BTS committee decided to make another bid for the presidency of ITA and selected Martin as its candidate. It has been a long process. Martin first had to get elected to the Executive Council, then serve as a vice-President before being elected President at last year's ITA meeting in Prague.

ITA now has 52 member nations not all of whom attend the General Assembly. Nevertheless many of them undertake more tunnelling works than we do in the UK but don't have as active national societies as the BTS.

A small core of BTS members participate in ITA activity through ITA Working Groups. The BTS/ABI JCoP has

been metamorphosed into an international version - the International Tunnelling Insurance Group Code.

Unfortunately both recent bids by the BTS to host the World Tunnel Congress in Edinburgh have been unsuccessful but it will be a long time before the memory of our bid presentations in Singapore and Seoul with pipers, kilts, whisky and shortbread will be forgotten.

This year in Agra, BTS representation may be less than ever but those who are going will no doubt put as much effort into representing BTS interests as before – expect a report in the next newsletter. Contact: Donald.lamont@hse.gsi.gov.uk

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.

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| 18 th Sept 2008 | Kings Cross Station Colin Eddie, Morgan Est |
| 16 th Oct 2008 | Dubai Metro Tunnels |
| (At Earls Court) | Dr Abdusamie RTA Junichiro Nakayama JTMJB Paul Groves Atkins |
| 12 th Nov 2008 | Joint Meeting with BGA Second Avenue Project |
| 11 th Dec 2008 | Debate Early Contractor Involvement |
| 15 th Jan 2009 | TBD |
| 19 th Feb 2009 | Joint Meeting with MinSouth |

TUNNELLING 2008

This is to be held at Earls Court on 16th October 2008. Organized jointly by the BTS and NCE the event will be gathering leading players in the industry to answer key questions facing our sector. With lots of major projects in the pipeline, including those for the National Grid, Crossrail and the Thames Tideway, make sure you keep up to date with the latest opportunities and techniques in tunnel design and build. We believe that the conference will provide an excellent venue for members of the Tunnelling profession to gain an insight into all that is up to date and relevant in Tunnelling in the UK and will provide a great opportunity for networking.

Please visit the website www.tunnelling2008.co.uk

Registration begins at 8:30 am with an opening address by the BTS Chairman Paul Hoyland at 9:15. Contact Andy.Whitfield@emap.com

CIVILS 2008

This is to be held at Earls Court from 18 – 20 November 2008. In a move that confirms the growing importance of tunnelling and underground space within civil engineering, Civils 2008, the UK's largest exhibition and conference for the civil engineering industry, and the British Tunnelling Society (BTS) have today jointly announced the creation of a new Underground Space Zone at Civils 2008.

The Underground Space Zone at Civils 2008 will promote all aspects of tunnelling. The BTS will be taking a stand in the middle of the zone. The society will also participate in the show's comprehensive seminar programme. Exhibition space adjacent to the BTS is currently also available for booking by corporate members of the society and other companies involved in the world of tunnelling. Contact Gerry Sherwood or Heather Kerr, Emap Construct, Tel: 020 7728 5000 E-mail: gerry.sherwood@emap.com or heather.kerr@emap.com

BTS WEBSITE UPGRADE

Members are reminded again that the site address has changed to www.britishtunnelling.org.uk. This has been required so that we can bring the domain name into UK registration and ease future management of the site. The old site will still function and you will be redirected to the new site in a seamless manner. Please update your favourites list to reflect this change. We are continually seeking to improve and we welcome suggestions. Contact: christopher.bambridge@mottmac.com

HEALTH & SAFETY

SAFETY, STANDARDS AND CODES UPDATE

BS 6164:2001 – the revision of BS 6164 is now fully underway. Much of the initial work in drafting a revised text is being done by three task groups – one led by the BTS and two by the PJA. The BTS-led group will be considering the clauses of BS 6164 dealing with risk control, pre-contract investigations and planning. All members of the BTS are invited to provide recommendations for revision of the existing document. It will also be liaising closely with the PJA-led group dealing with excavation and ground support techniques. All recommendations should be directed to [David Court](mailto:David.Court@emap.com)

the co-ordinator of the steering committee no later than 1st September 2008. Recommendations should be sent electronically to David.Court@edmund-nuttall.co.uk and entitled BS6164 Recommendations.

CEN standards – all four CEN tunnelling machinery standards are currently being revised.

- EN 12110 – Air locks – at the most recent meeting in Hamburg in early July, the text for CEN enquiry was almost completed. A major issue for discussion was the extent to which EN 12110 should set out requirements for working pressures beyond the traditional European national pressure limits of 3 - 4 bar and address the use of saturation techniques. The task group decided that such techniques were not yet sufficiently commonplace to be included in EN 12110 (contact [Donald Lamont](mailto:Donald.Lamont)).

The meeting was hosted by Germanischer Lloyd in their river front offices opposite the famous Bhlom and Voss dry docks in Hamburg and not far from the 4th Elbe tunnel. It was impossible not to be impressed at the volume of shipping using the Elbe.

- EN 12111 – Roadheaders – at a meeting in Hannover in late June, the first draft of a revised text for EN 12111 was completed. Some outstanding detail remains to be resolved by e-mail. The revised standard will reflect changes in roadheader capability over the past decade including remote operation and laser guidance along with greater compatibility with generic standards for crawler excavators (contact [Donald Lamont](mailto:Donald.Lamont)).
- ENs 12336 and 815 – shield machines and hard rock TBMs – at a meeting in Hannover in late June further progress was made with the drafting of a combined stand reflecting the increasing commonality between these machines (contact [Arthur Moss](mailto:Arthur.Moss)).

The Hanover meetings were held in the BGBau offices but extensive recreational use was made in the evenings of a nearby beer garden enjoying barbeque food and German beer in a traditional outdoor setting.

Revision of L96 – HSE's Guide to Work in Compressed Air Regulations – much of the revision work is being done in conjunction with the BTS Compressed Air Working Group. Two special CAWG meetings are being held specifically to agree important changes in the guidance affecting both the engineering and medical aspects of compressed air working. This highlights the reputation of CAWG as the leading forum for issues affecting compressed air working in tunnels (contact Roy Slocombe: roy@herrenknect.co.uk).

Nitrogen monoxide – remember the definitive BTS guidance is now available on the Society's website!

Contact: Donald.lamont@hse.gsi.gov.uk

TUNNEL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION COURSE 2008

The BTS tunnelling course was successfully run in June 2008 and proved as popular as ever. We will be running the course again in 2009 and bookings will be taken early in the year

ANNUAL DINNER

This will be in May 2009. The venue is yet to be decided. More on this in the next newsletter.

ONE DAY UNDERGROUND SAFETY COURSE

The BTS has decided to supplement the weeklong tunnelling course in June with a one day Health & Safety course. This could become a regular feature depending upon attendance.

The course is intended for engineers and supervisors who have broad health and safety knowledge but who are not familiar or only slightly familiar with underground working. The course will therefore concentrate almost exclusively on the hazards posed by tunnelling and the underground environment.

The course will be held in late October at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, and will be a low cost course with discounts for BTS members.

LOBBY GROUP

We have engaged in discussions with the Institution of Civil Engineers lobbyists to co-ordinate our higher level lobbying with theirs and to harness their influence when required. We hope to give assistance to their campaigns with the Royal Academy of Engineering to attract more young people into the engineering profession. We will also be co-operating with the initiatives of various Institutions to address the current concern about allocation and pricing of risk in major projects. In addition the BTS hopes to engage soon in discussions with the Government about Landfill Tax for major tunnelling projects.

Further information from Helen Natrass: h.natrass@sir-robert-mcalpine.com
Tel 0207 8427500.

GOSSIP

Any interesting news about members to Andrew Hindmarch: Andrew.Hindmarch@mottmac.com

The ITA-AITES World Tunnel Congress 2009 "Safe Tunnelling for the City and Environment" will take place in Budapest/Hungary on 23-28. May, 2009.

BTS CLOSED FACE WORKING GROUP

Copies of the Report continue to sell 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.

HAVS BEST PRACTICE GUIDE

The HAVS document which has had a significant contribution from the HSE provides the industry with a Current Best Practice Guide to the management of HAVS and is essential reading for all and is available on the website www.britishtunnelling.org.uk go into Working Groups and then safety.

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

"InnoTrans 2008", 23-26 September 2008, Berlin, Germany.

"Underground Factors for better Environment and Safety", 22nd – 27th September 2008, Agra, India, www.wtc2008.org

"Building Underground for the Future" Monaco.. 6-8 October 2008

"Underground Urban Infrastructure 2008" 22-24 October 2008, Wroclaw, X International Conference

"Tunnelling Technology & the Environment" 20th National Conference, 27th-28th October 2008, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada.

"ICDE 2008", 10-12 November 2008, Singapore.

"World Tunnel Congress & 35th ITA General Assembly 2009 "Safe Tunnelling for the City and Environment" 23-28 May 2009, Budapest

"5th Symposium of Strait Crossings", 22-25 June 2009, Trondheim,