

International Geosynthetics Society

United Kingdom Chapter



DOWN TO EARTH SPRING/SUMMER 2005 ISSUE



Official hosts of the 4th European Conference on Geosynthetics, Edinburgh Conference Centre, Heriot-Watt University, September 8th to 10th, 2008

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Members

Welcome to this Spring / Summer edition of Down to Earth (DTE). I hope you find it interesting and above all useful. We tend not to get any contributions from members for DTE, but when we do it is always included e.g. Bernard Myles details re 8IGC in this issue. Feedback on the content of DTE is always welcomed as are contributions for publication.

Our 2004/2005 session of meetings is now coming to a close. Only one event remains and that is the 2nd IGS UK Chapter one day symposium. This event is being held on 12th July 2005 at Nottingham Trent University. The committee has worked hard to ensure that the content of the symposium reflects the objective of the series that we started in 2003, i.e. 'state-of-the-art'. More details are provided later in the newsletter, but I am looking forward to seeing a lot of you on the day.

I trust that all of you have your summer holidays booked and are looking forward to a well earned rest (after you have attended the symposium, of course!). Hopefully the summer will be a little kinder in the UK than last years.

Kind regards
Derek Smith, May 2005

2nd 1-DAY SYMPOSIUM

Following the success of the 1st IGS UK Chapter one day symposium held in June 2003, the 2nd one day symposium takes place on the 12th July 2005 at the Clifton Campus of Nottingham Trent University.

The theme of the 2nd 1 day symposium is 'Geosynthetics in Hydraulic Engineering' and the keynote lecture is being given by Bob Koerner of GRI. Sessions on performance, coastal applications and drainage will be presented with subject areas including filtration, erosion control, protection, bag structures, geocomposites in landfills and lining systems all being covered.

Full details can be seen on the flyer that has been issued to all members recently and can also be downloaded from the newly revamped IGS UK Chapter website (www.igs-uk.org).

8IGC - OUT IN GOOD TIME



The 8th International Conference on Geosynthetics will take place in Yokohama, Japan between the 18th and 22nd September 2006. The idea of traveling to the other side of the world to attend a Conference is daunting. However, the task of selling this idea to your boss is even more worrisome.

In order to facilitate the conversations with your decision makers and lower the credibility barrier we thought that a "Conference travel package" might help.

The "Conference package" would include: air travel, trains in Japan (Tokyo to Yokohama), public transport pass in Yokohama, Hotel with breakfast and Conference fee.

We have had a preliminary conversation with KLM who believe that they could provide transport from several airports in the UK to Amsterdam to connect to the KLM non-stop flight to Tokyo.

In order to proceed with the idea of a UK Chapter "travel package" we would want an idea of how many members and possibly partners would take up the "package". At this stage there is no commitment, we just want an indication of interest.

I am assured by KLM that a group travel package will be less expensive than an individually arranged trip so if you have an interest in taking up the "Conference package" or if you have any comment or suggestion, please email a message to bmylesgeo@aol.com.

RANKINE LECTURE - MARCH 2005

The British Geotechnical Association's most prestigious event of the year took place on 23rd March 2005. Kerry Rowe of Queen's University and past IGS President presented on 'Long Term Performance of Contaminant Barrier Systems'. Over 700 attended the lecture and more than 300 the dinner in honour of the speaker afterwards.

Kerry was presented with a commemorative plate by BGA Chairman,

Tony Bracegirdle at the dinner after the lecture.



Kerry with Tony Bracegirdle

Kerry was accompanied at the lecture and dinner by his wife and children. Apparently this was the first ever time that his children had actually listened to him!

EUROGEO 4



Planning for EuroGeo4 continues. The next meeting of the Organising Committee is 13th July 2005. A Local Liaison Committee, Technical Committee and International Advisory Committee have all been set up. Consultation with trade associations and other organisations have taken place with the aim of ensuring the conference and exhibition satisfies the expectations of all potential delegates and also encourages more delegates to attend, particularly those that might not normally attend a geosynthetics conference.

If any member has any ideas about the organisation of the exhibition and/or conference then please don't hesitate to feed these into any member of the organising committee.

Members of the organising committee are Derek Smith (Chairman), Ian Fraser (Treasurer), Russell Jones, Neil Dixon,

David Shercliff, John Greenwood (Nottm Trent), Chris Jenner (GF rep), Prof. Michael Davies (BGA rep), Mike Winter (SGG rep) John Perry (EGGS rep) and Edinburgh Conference Centre.

GOLF DAY

The 4th IGS UK Chapter Corporate Sponsors Golf Day was held on Wednesday 22nd September at the Patshull Park Golf & Country Club near Wolverhampton.

This year's event was won by a Polyfelt team containing a number of 'ringers' from the continent! Well done to all concerned.



The Polyfelt winning team!

Spare a thought for the 2003 winners though....Their 'ringer' was on holiday for the event and they went from champs to chumps in one easy lesson, finishing in the wooden spoon (or mug) position! Mainly down to the UK Chapter Chairman I think.



The Chumps!

The event is organised by IGS to provide UK Corporate Sponsors with the ideal opportunity to entertain clients and/or treat staff to great day out without having to go to the trouble of organising a formal golf day themselves. Many thanks to Ian Fraser of Polyfelt for organising the event. Look out for details of the next Golf Day in September 2005.

IGS COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

IGS UK Chapter is represented on a number of committees. Details of your representatives on various committees are presented below.

- BSI TC B/553 Geosynthetics: Chris Jenner (Tensar)
- BS8006 revisions: Graham Horgan (Hueskar)
- CIC Innovation and Research: John Greenwood (Nottm Trent)
- Ground Forum: Chris Jenner (Tensar)
- British Geotechnical Association: Derek Smith (EDGE)
- IGS Council: Steve Corbet & Bernard Myles
- Site Investigation Steering Group: Derek Smith (EDGE)

British Geotechnical Association

Represented by IGS Chairman – Derek Smith (EDGE Consultants)

The registration of geotechnical (now amended to ground) engineers was introduced in the last edition of DTE as an issue that IGS members should be aware of. This is being driven by BGA and is proposed to be a registration/license scheme in addition to Chartership through the relevant professional body. It is intended to provide clients and other professionals with a recognised body of geotechnical professionals and also to encourage all geotechnical professionals to continue in their CPD.

BGA is currently putting together a 'business plan' for the introduction of the scheme that will be issued to the Professional Affairs departments at the ICE and Geological Society for their consideration. It is expected that, subject to approval, Stage 1 of the scheme will be launched in Spring 2006. Stage 1 is likely to require prospective members to submit a detailed CV, together with joining fee, for consideration by a panel of senior geotechnical engineers in the industry.

If any member has any queries regarding this issue, please contact the Chairman.

BS8006 revision

Represented by Graham Horgan (Hueskar). The Official Press Release (30 Nov 04) for the BS8006 revision is presented below.

When BS 8006, the code of practice for Strengthened / Reinforced soils and other fills, was first published in 1995, it was acclaimed as an international benchmark in the field. Nearly ten years on, the Standard remains the most comprehensive National Standard on reinforced soil, and is adopted as practice in many other countries. In keeping with BSI policy, the Standard BS8006 is presently undergoing its 10 year review and it is expected that new developments in the field and the development of new European standards, will be included in the revised Standard thus ensuring it remains at the forefront of good practice.

In December 2003, British Standards Institution gave the go ahead to revise the document and BSI Technical Committee B 526 / 4 met to start the process in April this year. Representatives are drawn industry trade associations and learned bodies (Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), International Geosynthetics Society, Association of Geotechnical and Geo-environmental Specialists (AGS), Institution of Highways and Transportation (IHT), Association for Consultancy & Engineering (ACE), Department for Transport, Highways Agency (DfT), British Apparel & Textile Confederation (BATC)) to provide a mix of experience from the original drafting committee combined with input from some new members, all chaired by Steve Corbet of Faber Maunsell.

Several task groups have now been formed to review all of the main sections of the documents including the design of reinforced slopes, walls, embankments and soil nailing. Comments, suggestions, and proposals for improvements are invited from users of the document and other interested parties, either via their trade association or directly to the BSI secretary Sina Talal. It is hoped to provide regular updates on progress within Ground

Engineering, as work proceeds. In the meantime, BS8006 should continue to be used until the new revision of the document is available, anticipated for 2006.

Please forward any comments or suggestions to committee secretary Sina Talal at SINA.TALAL@BSI-GLOBAL.COM.

2005 SUBSCRIPTIONS

2005 subscriptions are now overdue. You will appreciate that chasing subscriptions is very time consuming for all concerned. Please check that you have forwarded your subscription. If not, the committee would be very grateful if you could do so as soon as possible. Remember that membership of IGS now entitles you to free on-line access to 'Geosynthetics International' and 'Geotextiles and Geomembranes', so please forward your subscriptions and take advantage of this incredible offer.

INTERNET

Our internet site (www.igs-uk.org) has recently been completely re-vamped. If you have any comments on the content, including requests/suggestions for additional content please contact Russell.

UK CHAPTER FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 12th July 2005

2nd IGS UK Chapter National Geosynthetics Symposium. Geosynthetics in Hydraulic Engineering at Nottingham Trent University, Clifton Campus. 9.00am.

Wednesday 7th September 2005

IGS hosted Corporate Sponsors Golf Day at Patshull Park Golf & Country Club, Shropshire.

Wednesday 12th October 2005

IGS 5th Invitational Lecture. "Electrokinetic treatment and conditioning of soils and wastes: A new application for Geosynthetics" by Professor Colin Jones (University of Newcastle). Joint meeting with the British Geotechnical Association. Venue: ICE, Great George Street, London – Tea at 5.30pm, lecture at 6.00pm.

December 2005 (Date to be agreed)

AGM followed by Discussion on Revision of BS8006 and relationship with EC7. Joint meeting with The Engineering Group of the Geological Society. Venue: Burlington House, London. AGM at 5.30pm.

Tuesday 10th January 2006

Mind the gap - The design and construction of geosynthetic reinforced load transfer platforms used in a variety of applications by Professor Alan McGown (Strathclyde University). Another chance to hear the 4th IGS UK Chapter Invitational lecture in Glasgow.

Other meetings are planned. Exact dates and subjects to be advised.

If you would like to make a presentation to the IGS, e.g. a case history, results of research etc., then please contact Neil Dixon Email :n.dixon@lboro.ac.uk.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

20-21 October 2005

Landfill 2005 seminar in Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa. Contact Peter Davies at nphuntpld@kaymac.co.za for more details.

6-7 December 2005

International Symposium on Tsunami Reconstruction with Geosynthetics – Protection, Mitigation and Rehabilitation of Coastal and Waterway Erosion Control. To be held at AIT Conference Center, Pathumthani, Thailand. For further details please contact Prof. Dennes T. Bergado, berqado@ait.ac.th.

18-22 September 2006

8th International Conference on Geosynthetics. Yokohama, Japan. Further details can be found at www.8icg-yokohama.org.