



DOWN TO EARTH **EASTER 2002 ISSUE**

177.2-020109-X1.2-dte_mar02.doc

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

Firstly, my sincere thanks to Chris Jenner for his steady guidance as UK Chapter Chairman over 2000 and 2001. Also, the good work put in by the committee members over that period. In particular, the on-going meetings programme arranged by Derek Smith has been much appreciated, although attendance at some off the meetings has not been as high as we might have hoped considering the good speakers, technical knowledge and discussion opportunity provided.

We welcome two new committee members, Ian Fraser of Polyfelt and Neil Dixon of Loughborough University. As you will note from the list of committee members, we have a reasonable spread of representation from the Academic, Manufacturing/distributing and Consulting sides of our industry. Thank you to others who offered their services on the committee following the AGM last December. For the moment it is considered that the committee is of appropriate size to represent the membership, but the names are recorded for future election opportunities. Please tackle myself or the committee members about any particular issues that may be of concern to you.

A reminder about the benefits of Membership (still only £30 per year) are stated in this newsletter and on the back of the membership forms. Talking of Membership I hope that most of you have been able to take advantage of the free copy of the Belgian Geosynthetics Society publication 'A short guide to European Geotextile Standards' which has been given out to members renewing before 31 March 2002

The support of the Corporate sponsors is much appreciated. They will have the opportunity to meet at Lancashire County Cricket Club, Old Trafford for an informal social gathering on Wednesday 13 March with opportunity for an exchange of views with the committee and discussion on the future activities and direction of the Chapter.

From my academic base at Nottingham Trent, education will be a high priority over the coming period. I was grateful for the contribution of many academic institutions to my survey of teaching of Geosynthetics in UK universities (Eurogeo 2, Bologna,

October 2000). It was pleasing to conclude that major steps forward have been achieved in including geosynthetics teaching at appropriate stages in Undergraduate and postgraduate courses. However, there is still much to be done including the development of demonstration tests suitable for laboratory practical sessions. I will be liaising with testing houses and would welcome suggestions for simple practical tests on low cost equipment which would be of significant educational value.

The Masters course in Geosynthetics and Retaining structures was held at NTU over 2 weekends in January 2002 and attracted over 25 delegates. The contributions from IGS members were welcomed and left delegates with a much-enhanced interest in the subject. We are hoping that some of the delegates may even be inspired to enter the competition for the 'free' place at the 7th International Conference in Nice in September. (application details are elsewhere in this Newsletter).

We are hoping to introduce a one-day national symposium on Geosynthetics perhaps on an annual basis. The committee is considering the most appropriate format for the event and again would welcome any suggestions from IGS Members.

One word of warning. Watch out for imposters! There is another John Greenwood around who claims to be the 'real' one. Seriously though, we are happy to pass on messages sent in error to the wrong one. Just a reminder that our friend Dr John H Greenwood at ERA Technology Ltd is an expert on durability. I, Mr John R Greenwood, am mainly interested in Teaching related matters, and mechanical reinforcement of slopes including the use of vegetation. I bet you will still get us mixed up!

I am delighted to be serving as Chairman of the UK Chapter and look forward to meeting you at the various meetings and events.

Good wishes

John Greenwood

NEWS

If you have any news that you would like to share with the membership in future issues

of DTE, please send details to our administrative secretary, Margaret by email:- margaretienner@lineone.net.

A booklet published by the Belgian Geosynthetic Society entitled 'A Short Guide to European Geosynthetic Standards' is now available through IGS UK Chapter for £6 each. This is a very good summary of what standards are around and will provide a useful addition to all IGS members bookshelves. Those members who have already renewed their membership will have received a copy free of charge. If you renew your membership before 31st March, then you too will receive a free copy. Anyone wishing to purchase additional copies please contact Margaret.

THE NICE CONFERENCE



This conference is only 6 months away now. Authors will have had their papers accepted. Visit the conference website (<http://www.7icg-nice2002.com>) for more information on this very important event in the geosynthetic calendar.

STUDENT COMPETITION

UK Postgraduate students are being offered the chance to win a free trip to the South of France this autumn. The trip, to the 7th International Conference on Geosynthetics is the prize in the Students Papers Competition. The prize includes the registration fee, travel, accommodation and subsistence at the conference, which takes place in Nice from 22 to 27 September 2002.

The papers competition is open to full or part-time masters or PhD students aged 35 or under in 2002, who must also be student members of the IGS UK Chapter (for an annual fee of £7.50).

Entrants must prepare an original paper of no more than six pages on a geosynthetic-

related topic and submit it to the Chairman, John Greenwood or Russell Jones by 12th April 2002. Finalists will be notified by 17th April and on 8th May they will give a short presentation to the IGS and East Midlands Geotechnical Group joint meeting at Nottingham Trent University. The winner will be announced on the night.

The IGS UK Chapter committee will judge entrants on quality of written and oral presentations, content, interest to the reader/audience and originality. Papers will remain the intellectual property of the entrants and they will be encouraged to seek publication in technical journals. Students should notify John Greenwood (john.greenwood@ntu.ac.uk) or Russell Jones (rjones@golder.com) of their intention to enter, providing full contact details.

INTERNET

The new IGS UK Chapter website is up and running. Please visit and bookmark the site at www.igs-uk.org. We hope you find the site useful and informative. Any comments, positive or negative, will be gratefully received. You can send your comments, via the website, to Russell Jones.

THE COMMITTEE

Your new committee held its first meeting on 15th January 2002. The shape of the committee is as follows:-

Chairman	John Greenwood
Vice-Chairman	Derek Smith
Hon. Secretary	Ian Fraser
Hon. Treasurer	Russell Jones
Activities	Neil Dixon
Membership	Chris Jenner

Many of the more astute members will have noticed that two of the previous positions do not now appear on the committee list, being 'Publicity' and 'Education'. Please be assured that both rolls are still being fulfilled within the committee structure.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

8th JANUARY 2002

Peter Atchison presented Geosynthetic Solutions to Contaminated Land to a joint meeting between IGS and the Thames Valley Regional Group of the Geological Society. An attendance of 16 were provided with a very well presented talk and there was some interesting discussion following the presentation. Peter provided a short history of the development of the use of geosynthetics in contaminated land applications. He explained the legislative definition of contaminated land and explained that geosynthetics were normally used to break the pathway within the source-pathway-target linkage. He then provided a number of examples of how geosynthetics can provide this function and showed how geosynthetics have developed to provide more cost effective and efficient solutions.

4th FEBRUARY 2002

Steve Corbet presented Geosynthetics – CE marking is here!! – what does it mean for you? to a joint meeting between IGS and the Midland Geotechnical Society at Birmingham University. Although Steve confessed that the subject matter was

pretty boring in itself, he did stimulate some lively debate regarding the

requirement to provide CE marking for geosynthetics (and indeed for all construction materials in the long run. Copies of his PowerPoint presentation can be seen on the IGS UK Chapter website. MGS meetings are generally fairly well attended, and an attendance of 74 was registered on the night.

12th FEBRUARY 2002

Dr Neil Dixon and Dr Russell Jones presented Geosynthetic Interface Shear Strengths to a joint meeting of IGS and the Scottish geotechnical Group in Glasgow. In addition to the evening meeting, Neil and Russell, together with other co-authors have also published related details in Ground Engineering. The paper was published in two parts in the January and February 2002 editions. About 29 people attended, although an accident between Edinburgh and Glasgow apparently (according to Neil and Russell) kept a further 250 from attending.

CASE HISTORIES

The IGS UK Chapter are always interested in case histories relating to the use of geosynthetics in civil engineering. If you have a short article, perhaps with a picture that would be of interest to the membership, then please forward details to Margaret Jenner (email: margaretjenner@lineone.net).

INLAND REVENUE

It has been brought to the Committee's attention that members who have been claiming tax relief on subscriptions to IGS over the years have not actually been entitled to do so. The Inland Revenue have advised one of our members that IGS – UK Chapter is not registered with them. The Committee are currently in correspondence with the Inland Revenue to investigate this matter and will advise all members of the result of our communications in due course.

PEOPLE

IGS-UK Chapter would like to give you the opportunity of letting fellow members know when you move companies. Also, announcements of key staff appointments or promotions within companies can be made within this column. If you have any announcements of this nature, please send details to Margaret Jenner (email: margaretjenner@lineone.net).

UK CHAPTER FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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. There is only one more IGS UK Chapter Event this session, as shown below.

Planning for the 2002/2003 session meetings is underway and details will be advised when the programme is finalised.

Wednesday 8th May 2002

Student Papers Competition at Nottingham Trent University. Prize as described elsewhere in this newsletter.

BENEFITS OF IGS MEMBERSHIP

Become a member of the International Geosynthetics Society today!

Enjoy the immediate benefits of:

- Receiving the Annual IGS Handbook with your name and UK and International contacts.
- Receiving IGS News (International) 3 times a year.
- Receiving 'Down to Earth' (IGS UK Chapter) newsletter – keeping you in touch with all the UK news and events as they happen.
- Regular topical seminars/meetings organized across the Country, offering members a full subject range to our Industry and an opportunity to participate and voice opinion.

Also

- Reduced registration fees at all Conferences organized under the auspices of IGS.
- Reduced subscription fees on selected journals.
- Free training lectures on disc.
- Opportunity for students and young persons to compete for free places at International Conferences.

Joining the IGS would offer an opportunity for members to contribute to the further development of our profession by:

- Supporting the aims of the IGS, especially the development of all forms of geosynthetics.
- Contributing to the advancement of the art and science of geosynthetics as well as their application.
- Providing an active forum for designers, manufacturers and users, where new ideas can be exchanged and contracts improved.

For membership details please contact: Mrs Margaret Jenner (Secretary to the UK Committee).

E-mail: margaretjenner@lineone.net

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

16-17 April 2002.

International Symposium on Clay Geosynthetic Barriers, Nuremberg, Germany. gbza@lga.de

16-18 April 2002.

II Spanish Geosynthetic Symposium, Madrid, Spain. info@atc-piarc.com

22-27 September 2002.

7th International Conference on Geosynthetics, Nice, France. <http://www.7icg-nice2002.com>.

20 – 22 November 2002

The 2nd China International Geosynthetics Exhibition & Conference, INTEX, Shanghai, China.

If anyone is interested in this conference, a copy of the first announcement can be obtained from Derek Smith. Please email dms@edgeconsultants.co.uk with China Conference as the title and Derek will email details back to you. If you would like to correspond directly with the organising committee please Email - info@canta.org.

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of DTE is due for publication on August 31st 2002. Please forward any articles for inclusion to Derek Smith by 16th August 2002.