



**DOWN TO EARTH**  
**JANUARY 2004 ISSUE**  
**Happy New Year**

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**RETIRING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The society continues to thrive as geosynthetics have become established as a major element of geotechnical design and construction. Our programme of regional evening meetings frequently linked with the local engineering and geotechnical societies offers a forum for various topics and issues to be addressed and to extend the general knowledge of geosynthetic products and their application.

Our close association with the British Geotechnical Association (BGA) and the Ground Forum keeps the IGS at the forefront of developments in the ground related industry. Links are of benefit to all parties and may be explored through the IGS UK web site ( <http://www.igs-uk.org> ) maintained by Russell Jones at Golder.

Membership of the society has been steady with currently 37 members, 4 student members and 25 corporate members. The student paper competition and links with the MSc module on geosynthetics held at Nottingham Trent University have helped to boost student numbers, and we continue to seek ways to make the society attractive to the younger membership.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> invitational lecture was held in London in October as a joint meeting with the BGA. Over 100 attended and were treated to an excellent talk by the speaker, Kerry Rowe, from Queen's University, Canada. Kerry was able to expertly describe the application of geosynthetic products in embankment reinforcement within a traditional geotechnical context.

A particular highlight of the year was our one day symposium, 'Geosynthetics – Protecting the Environment' held in June 2003 at the Clifton Campus of Nottingham Trent University. The committee put in much effort to plan, organise and present a balanced programme. Neil Dixon lead the editorial team responsible for the symposium proceedings published by Thomas Telford (available from them for £40). A report on the symposium, prepared by Joanne Norris, was published in the November issue of Ground Engineering. Our thanks go also to Ground Engineering Editor Max Soudain for on-going support of our society's activities.

Feedback from those attending the symposium indicated that it was an enjoyable and useful day and that we had

got it 'about right'. We can now look forward to holding similar events every 2 years. We are particularly grateful to the 9 Corporate Sponsors (ERA, Naue, Geofabrics, Polyfelt, CETCO, ABG, Newgrids, Tensar and Godfreys ) who gave an early commitment to exhibition spaces and thereby provided a secure financial backing for the event. Some 80 people attended and the society benefited from a financial surplus of over £2000.

The success of the 1st UK symposium has demonstrated our competence in conference organisation and we have submitted a bid to host the 4th European Geosynthetics conference, EUROGEO4, in the UK (Edinburgh) in 2008. We are optimistic that our bid will be successful and await the decision, which will be announced at EUROGEO3 in Germany in March 2004. Thanks to Derek Smith for leading the preparation of the bid.

The UK committee has nominated the following for awards:

IGS Award, for period 2000-2003. Neil Dixon (Loughborough University) and Russell Jones (Golders) for their work on assessment of Landfill Stability.

IGS Young Members Award, for period 2000 –2003. Jan Kupec for his work on Geogrids at Strathclyde University

I wish them success.

My period as Chairman of the IGS UK Chapter has now come to an end. I am delighted that Derek Smith (EDGE Consultants) will be taking over the Chairmanship with Russell Jones (Golder Associates) supporting as Vice Chairman for the period 2004 – 2005.

I wish Derek and the new Committee every success for the years ahead and look forward to offering my continuing support particularly relating to educational matters and instigation of more geosynthetic related research in the UK.

John Greenwood Dec 2003

**INCOMING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

My two year stint as Chairman has now commenced. It promises to be a very interesting two years. Many thanks to John for all his hard work, not just in his two years as Chairman, but during all his time sat on the committee. John has agreed to continue to help out as

necessary, particularly on the education side of things and we are grateful for that.

I am looking forward to the challenge of Chairmanship. As John says, the IGS UK Chapter is hopeful of being awarded the EuroGeo4 conference in 2008. If this is so, the foundations for that conference will be laid during my tenure as Chairman. We will also be holding our 2<sup>nd</sup> one day symposium in 2005.

One of my first duties as Chairman is to contribute to the geosynthetics special edition of Ground Engineering in February. I have been asked to write 'Talking Point'. Please watch out for this edition as it will be containing a preview of the Eurogeo3 conference, to be held in Munich in March.

Finally for this issue, you will all be receiving your 2004 subscription renewal invoices very shortly. I would be very grateful if you could return these with payment as soon as possible. You will note that this year, all payments are to be returned directly to Margaret Jenner, our Administrator. We hope that this will make the subscription renewal process more efficient.

Kind regards and good wishes for the New Year.

Derek Smith, Jan 2004

**THE COMMITTEE**

The AGM on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2002 confirmed the committee for 2004. Details are as follows:-

Chairman	Derek Smith
Vice Chairman	Russell Jones

Ian Fraser and Neil Dixon remain on the committee, with David Shercliffe being voted on at the AGM. There remains one place open on the committee (a minimum of 6 is usually required) and the committee would be pleased to hear from any member who would be prepared to serve. Respective positions on the committee will be decided upon at the first committee meeting in the New Year. Details will be advised shortly.

**INTERNET**

You are encouraged to visit and bookmark the IGS UK Chapter website at [www.igs-uk.org](http://www.igs-uk.org). If you have any comments on the content, including requests/suggestions for additional content please contact Russell Jones.

## GOLF DAY

The 3<sup>rd</sup> IGS UK Chapter Corporate Sponsors Golf Day was held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at the Patshull Park Golf & Country Club near Wolverhampton. The event again provided an ideal opportunity for Corporate Sponsors to entertain clients and/or treat staff to great day out.

Proceedings kicked off with tea/coffee and bacon butties at around 10.30am with 7 fourballs then teeing off from 11.40am onwards. The teams were from BBA, EDGE, Golders, Tensar and Polyfelt (3 teams). The competition format was  $\frac{3}{4}$  handicap team stableford with a difference. For holes 1 to 6 the best two scores were taken, holes 7 to 12 the best three and on holes 13 to 18 all four scores were recorded. In addition prizes were available for the best individual stableford score, nearest the pin and longest drive.

The weather was kinder than the course and neither wind nor rain provided any excuses for those of us struggling to put together a decent score. However, some were scoring with ease and the team competition could not have been closer. At the end of the eighteen holes BBA, EDGE and Polyfelt 2 were tied on 106 points so the scores on the back nine came into play. In third place with 59 points on the back nine were BBA (defending champions), second place went to Polyfelt 2 with 61 points but the winners with 62 points were EDGE (dark horses). Moyra Curtis presented team EDGE, comprising Derek Smith, Peter Whyley, Chris Brennan and John Milbourne, with the John Curtis Memorial Trophy while the others were inconsolable, so close and yet...



**The Winning Team!**

The best individual prize went to John Milbourne of the EDGE team (40 points) with Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive going to Mike Stafford of Golders and Barry Deacon of Tensar respectively. There was also a small consideration awarded to the team in last place but we feel that it would be unfair to mention that this was Golders with 77 points ....Ooops!!

Thanks to all the participants for their support and we look forward to seeing you next September.

## EUROGEO 3

The Third European Geosynthetics Conference "EuroGeo3" will be held on March 01 – 03, 2004 in Munich under the auspices of the IGS. It is organised by the German Geotechnical Society in co-operation with European and national associations of producers, and with scientific and engineering organisations. The conference chairman is Gerhard Bräu,

Technische Universität München.

This is the main geosynthetics conference event in Europe since the International Conference in Nice in September 2001. The conference will be held at the Technical University in Munich – see below.



Munich is only a stone's throw away from the UK, with access direct from most UK airports. The conference is very reasonably priced. Discounts are available if booked before 10th February and you also get a hefty discount if you are a member of IGS. Visit the website for more details. [www.gb.bv.tum.de/eurogeo3](http://www.gb.bv.tum.de/eurogeo3)

## EUROGEO 4

As stated earlier in this issue, the IGS UK Chapter have submitted a bid to hold EuroGeo4 in Edinburgh in 2008. Proposed dates are 8th to 10th September at the Edinburgh Conference Centre, Herriot Watt University. The location and dates were selected after a review of four possible locations. The IGS UK Chapter committee are looking forward to learning whether we have been successful in our bid at EuroGeo3 in Munich.



## 2004 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Letters regarding 2004 subscriptions will be forwarded to all members in the New Year. The committee would be very grateful if all Corporate Sponsors and individual members could renew their subscriptions as early as possible.

## GROUND FORUM

At the meeting of Ground Forum held on 23 October 2003 a number of subjects were tabled with the question of insurance being a very high priority to most of the member societies. Anthony Umney of the BTS gave a presentation on the "Joint Code of Practice for Risk Management of Tunnel Works in the UK" which is a joint

BTS/ABI agreed voluntary code. It is expected that it will be adopted widely both in the UK and overseas. This Code was the result of the difficulties that tunnel construction was having in procuring insurance and is perhaps a model that other parts of the ground based industries should examine. By working and negotiating with ABI the industry was able to overcome the difficulties.

The research and development needs of the ground based sector continue to be a subject of concern along with the lack of post graduate students to carry out the necessary research. From the geosynthetics side, there is still a lot of research work to do and the results of that work would benefit the clients and the public as a whole.

As the Government brings out policies for housing, education and health they are becoming more aware of their dependence on the construction industry and hence training and promotion of civil engineering as a whole is becoming an emerging issue.

The response from the Deputy Prime Minister's Office on the subject of CE Marking of Geosynthetics was that it was not a legal requirement in the UK. After all the manufacturers have gone through the process this is not a satisfactory situation as it will allow non CE Marked product into the UK but not into any other European countries. We will therefore take the route to the Construction Industry Council through Ground Forum to lobby for legislation to protect the reputable manufacturers in the UK.

## UK CHAPTER FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2004  
Stability Assessment for Landfill Lining Systems by Dr Neil Dixon (Loughborough University) and Dr Russell Jones (Golder Associates). Joint meeting with Thames Valley Regional Group of the Geological Society. Venue: Royal Holloway College, Egham, Surrey. 7.30pm.

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2004  
The Legal Aspects of Slope Stability by Mark Fallows (Hammond Suddard Edge Solicitors). Joint meeting with the ICE North West Geotechnical Group. Venue: Renold Building, UMIST, Manchester. Tea at 6pm, lecture at 6.30pm.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2004  
Student Papers Competition. Convener John Greenwood (Nottingham Trent University). Joint meeting with the East Midlands Geotechnical Group. Venue: Nottingham Trent University. Tea at 5.00pm, paper presentations at 5.30pm.

June 2004  
Provisional: Use of Geosynthetics in Gardening followed by buffet. An event for members and guests. Details TBC.

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](mailto:n.dixon@lboro.ac.uk).

## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

1-3 March 2004  
EuroGeo3. Third European Geosynthetics Conference. Technische Universität

Munich, Munich, Germany. Further details at [www.gb.bv.tum.de/eurogeo3](http://www.gb.bv.tum.de/eurogeo3).

8-10 December 2004.

International Conference on Geosynthetics and Geoenvironmental Engineering, ICGGE-2004. IIT Bombay, Mumbai, India. Abstracts (<300 words) by 31st January 2004. Further details can be found at [www.iitb.ac.in/~icgge/](http://www.iitb.ac.in/~icgge/).