

# International Geosynthetics Society

## United Kingdom Chapter



## DOWN TO EARTH SUMMER 2004 ISSUE



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

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### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Members

The summer (\*?!\*) is nearly over and it's time for us all to settle down to work again.

Neil Dixon has organised a great programme of evening meetings for the coming session. Of particular interest is our Invitational Lecture this year to be given by Prof. A. McGown, our first British presenter. We are also looking forward to the 2nd in our series of one-day symposiums next June. But first, EDGE will be defending the John Curtis Memorial Trophy on 22nd September in the 4th IGS UK Chapter Corporate Sponsors Golf Day – good luck to all competing.

You will all now be well aware that EuroGeo4 is coming to the UK. The committee are all very excited at winning the bid. Although seemingly a long way off, arrangements for the conference are already progressing. Summary details are provided later in this Newsletter. We will need plenty of help in the coming months and years in planning the conference and are delighted to have already received many offers of support both financially and in providing resources. We will keep you all informed of developments throughout the planning stages.

One major initiative the UK Chapter has implemented over recent months has been to ensure that the Society is well represented on relevant committees steering the geosynthetic industry. I am very pleased to say that Chris Jenner (Tensar), John Greenwood (Nottingham Trent), Graham Horgan (Hueskar) and myself all representing IGS UK Chapter. Further details are provided in the newsletter. Each representative is responsible for seeking the views of the IGS membership and reporting back on committee developments as appropriate. I would encourage all members to provide feedback to the IGS representatives on the various aspects being progressed within these committees at the appropriate time.

Finally, I am looking forward to seeing as many of our members as possible at the various events we have planned throughout the 2004/2005 session.

Kind regards  
Derek Smith, August 2004

### THE COMMITTEE

Your current committee is as follows: -

Chairman	Derek Smith
Vice Chairman	Russell Jones
Secretary	David Shercliff
Treasurer	Ian Fraser
Meetings	Neil Dixon

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.

### EUROGEO 4

As most IGS UK members will be aware, the UK Chapter was successful in their bid to host EuroGeo4 in 2008. The announcement was made at EuroGeo3 in Munich this March, preceded by a taste of things to come with whisky, shortbread and men in kilts on offer in the foyer to the main auditorium!



Now the hard work begins. The organising committee has been formalised and two meetings have been held to start the organising process. The conference has the support of the British Geotechnical Association (BGA), Ground Forum (GF) and the Scottish Geotechnical Group (SGG). All three organisations have agreed to assist in the publicity and organisation of the event.

Members of the organising committee are Derek Smith (Chairman), Ian Fraser (Treasurer), Russell Jones, Neil Dixon, David Shercliff, John Greenwood, Chris Jenner (GF rep), Prof. Michael Davies (BGA rep), Mike Winter (SGG rep) and Edinburgh Conference Centre.

The organising committee recognise the importance of the exhibition and the fact that delegates new to geosynthetics must be attracted to the conference to ensure the best possible exposure of exhibitors. We are working on initiatives to ensure this is the case. If any of our members have particular ideas, please feed them through Derek Smith.

### GOLF DAY

The 4<sup>th</sup> IGS UK Chapter Corporate Sponsors Golf Day is being held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at the Patshull Park Golf & Country Club near Wolverhampton. Previous events have been very successful and enjoyable – especially for the winners (EDGE – 2003; BBA – 2002 & 2001)! 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. Please contact Ian Fraser for further details.

### IGS COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

IGS UK Chapter is represented on a number of committees. Reports from the various committees are presented below. IGS UK Chapter has developed a protocol for committee representation, a copy of which will be issued to all members shortly.

### British Geotechnical Association

Represented by IGS Chairman – Derek Smith (EDGE Consultants)

The Chairman of the IGS UK Chapter attends the BGA committee meetings as a guest four times every year. This ensures that the IGS is kept up to date with developments in the field of geotechnical engineering, a field that is of the utmost importance to the geosynthetics industry. It also ensures that the geotechnical engineering fraternity are regularly exposed to geosynthetics, in particular the joint evening meeting that we hold with BGA every October. In addition, next year the BGA has selected Kerry Rowe to present the Rankine Lecture. This is the most prestigious lecture in the geotechnical engineering calendar, attracting an audience of more than 700. Further details will be provided in due course.

The main initiative currently being pursued by the BGA that has direct relevance to the geosynthetics industry is that of registration of geotechnical engineers. This is intended to be a registration in addition to Chartership through the relevant professional body. At present, this is proposed to be a joint scheme of the BGA, the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Engineering Group of the Geological Society, the Institute of Materials, Metallurgy and Mining and the British Tunnelling Society. 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. Further details including programme of implementation will be provided in due course.

#### **Ground Forum**

Represented by Chris Jenner (Tensar)

The Ground Forum meeting in July was a wide-ranging meeting which requires some response from the Member Societies as initiatives are developed.

The subject of training has become a major concern to the extent that a Sub Committee has been set up to consider how the ground industry as a whole can attract young people to enter the appropriate trades and professions. A folder containing careers literature to be circulated to schools has been considered and CITB has been approached regarding funding for printing etc. The CITB careers website [www.bconstructive.org.uk](http://www.bconstructive.org.uk) offers opportunities for all sectors to have their own pages and this is being investigated for the "ground" sector. All members are encouraged to look at the site and identify the trades and professions that should be featured. Any thoughts from IGS members will be gratefully received. We are all also asked to think about web content eg. person profiles, and also to think about inserts for the folder. Please take this initiative as an opportunity to promote our industry and contribute.

There have been initiatives on the Insurance front as well and the Federation of Piling Specialists has submitted details regarding health and safety to ABI and a report has been produced to be circulated to all insurers. The hope is that this external audit of procedures will reduce premiums or at least be considered when premiums are being evaluated.

The situation regarding CSCS cards is still causing some difficulties with the areas where no NVQs are available. There are moves for the Professional Institutions to map their professional requirements onto the relevant NVQ, with adjustments where necessary. The ICE has done this for Construction Site Manager and Construction Site Supervisor and the cards can be achieved on the basis of chartered status. Where no NVQ exists a regular visitor card can be obtained after an appropriate health and safety test and with a letter of non-availability from CSCS. If an NVQ is developed then this route would be lost. Difficulties regarding the status of geo-engineers during training and before chartership will need to be addressed.

The Sector Skills Agreement (SSA), an agreement between the sector and the

Government that sets out the collaboration between Government and the Employers with regard to training, must be finalised before the end of the year. This has already been agreed for trades but the SSA will extend this to Universities and professionals to set targets of numbers of trained people in specific disciplines required by the industry. The professions have been found to be lacking in areas of university training, providing an adequate supply of graduates, professional development training for lifelong learning in the workplace and the teaching of business development skills.

Liaison through CIC is a very powerful part of Ground Forum with a number of subjects being aired. The Review of the Construction Act has been set up under Sir Michael Latham and views on the appropriateness of adjudication in claims involving professional negligence are being sought. Any member who wishes to raise any matters should let me know and I will pass them through.

A meeting is taking place to consider how CIC can deal with innovation and research issues in terms of both the representation of the research community and the development of effective policy. A representative of IGS (UK) will attend this meeting and a report will be circulated. Research and innovation have been a vital part of our development.

There will be Geodrilling Conference at Donnington Park, probably April 2005, which will include an exhibition and the Geodrilling Awards Dinner. The subject of the conference can be widened to include other ground based applications as the delegates will have a much wider interest than the drilling alone. More information will become available and I will circulate it for information and comment.

Chris Jenner

#### **BSI Technical Committee B/553 Geosynthetics**

Represented by Chris Jenner (Tensar)

Chris will be attending his first meeting as an IGS representative in September. Details will be provided in the Christmas edition of DTE.

#### **BS8006 revision**

Represented by Graham Horgan (Hueskar)

Graham will be attending his first meeting as an IGS representative in September. Details will be provided in the Christmas edition of DTE.

#### **CIC Innovation & Research Review (see GF notes above)**

Represented by John Greenwood (Nottm Trent)

John attended his first meeting as an IGS representative in July. Details will be provided in the Christmas edition of DTE or sooner by direct mail if deemed necessary.

#### **2004 SUBSCRIPTIONS**

2004 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 (normal price = £325), so please forward your subscriptions and take advantage of this incredible offer.

#### **INTERNET**

Our internet site ([www.igs-uk.org](http://www.igs-uk.org)) is due an update. Work is in hand to bring the site up to date in the near future. If you have any comments on the content, including requests/suggestions for additional content please contact Russell Jones.

#### **UK CHAPTER FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

*Wednesday 22nd September 2004*

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

*Wednesday 13th October 2004*

IGS 4th Invitational Lecture. "MIND THE GAP" – The Design and Construction of Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil Layers Spanning Voids or Within Embankments Supported on Piles by Professor Alan McGown (University of Strathclyde). Joint meeting with the British Geotechnical Association. Venue: ICE, Great George Street, London – Tea at 5.00pm, lecture at 5.30pm.

*Tuesday 9th November 2004*

Reinforced Soil – Novel Technique or Established Technology by Rod Smith (Elwood International Ltd.). Joint meeting with the Scottish Geotechnical Group. Venue: To be advised.

*Wednesday 8th December 2004*

AGM followed by lecture on Filter/Separator Design for Coastal Defence by David Shercliff (Geofabrics Ltd). Joint meeting with The Engineering Group of the Geological Society. Venue: Burlington House, London. AGM at 5.30pm.

*Tuesday 18th January 2005*

The Current Theory of Reinforced Soil Design – Is It Inadequate and Incorrect? by Dr Peter Rankilor (Rankilor Associates). Joint meeting with the Thames Valley Regional Group of the Geological Society. Venue: Royal Holloway College, Egham 7.30pm

*Wednesday 16th February 2005*

Ashton Moss Development Enabling Works – Accelerated Consolidation Settlement of CDEW Using Horizontal Geocomposite Layers by Nigel Robinson (TerraConsult Ltd) and Dr Jack Cheetham (Consultant). Joint meeting with the ICE North West Geotechnical Group. Venue: Renold Building, UMIST, Manchester.

*Wednesday 23rd February 2005*

The Design of Basally Reinforced Pile Supported Embankments Over Soft Ground by Dr Jerry Love (Geotechnical Consulting Group). Joint meeting with the Wales Ground Engineering Group. Venue: Pontypridd.

*April 2005*

Corporate Sponsors Evening  
Speakers and venue to be advised

*June 2005*

2nd IGS UK Chapter National Geosynthetics Symposium. Geosynthetics in Hydraulic Engineering. Venue: 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](mailto:n.dixon@lboro.ac.uk).

#### **INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME OF EVENTS**

*19-21 October 2004*

Geofilters 2004. Stellenbosch, South Africa. Further details can be found at [www.wis.ac.za/geofilters2004](http://www.wis.ac.za/geofilters2004).

*27-29 October 2004*

1<sup>st</sup> National Conference of Geosynthetics, Peru. Further details can be found at

*8-10 December 2004.*

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

*24-26 January 2005*

Geofrontiers 2005. Texas, USA. Further details at [www.asce.org/conferences/geofrontiers05/index.cfm](http://www.asce.org/conferences/geofrontiers05/index.cfm).

18-22 September 2006  
8th International Conference on Geosynthetics.  
Yokohama, Japan. Further details can be found at  
[www.8icg-yokohama.org](http://www.8icg-yokohama.org).