

NEWSLETTER

June 2006

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Newsletter No.3

By Bruce Gelsthorpe

IDB Review

A new edition of the Shire Group Newsletter is due and Internal Drainage Boards are still in the spotlight with DEFRA, i.e. the Internal Drainage Board Review. The JBA report has been completed and has been passed to DEFRA. A copy of the report is available on the DEFRA web site. The Review has however moved further as DEFRA have now started an Internal Drainage Board Review Implementation Project (IDBRIP). Hopefully one does not have to take the Acronym literally!! The report does recommend that Internal Drainage Boards are retained for the future, but some modernisation and management changes are necessary. Replacing Internal Drainage Boards with something better appears to be impossible when accountability etc. is considered. We should not however be complacent as there are those that would try. The JBA report points a way forward for Internal Drainage Boards, and we should take it and use it to our advantage.

ADA Show

The ADA triennial show takes place at The Showground, Snargate, Brenzett, Romney Marsh, Kent on 5th and 6th July 2006. On each day, as well as the usual exhibitors and working demonstrators, there will be presentations and seminars. Those programmed are:-

Morning Sessions:

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| 11.00 a.m. | IDB Review
Presented by Jeremy Benn,
JBA Consulting |
| 12.00 p.m. | Aquatic Weed Control and
Climate Change
Presented by Dr. Jonathon
Newman, Centre for
Ecology and Hydrology |

Afternoon Sessions:

- | | |
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| 2.00 p.m. | Environmental Stewardship
Best Practice and Internal
Drainage Boards
Presented by Michael
Oliver, Rural Development
Service (working towards
natural England) |
| 3.00 p.m. | ADA Activities - A Review of
Current Consultations
Focusing on the Internal
Drainage Board Review by
DEFRA and Implementation
Project
Presented by Jean
Venables OBE, Chief
Executive of the Association
of Drainage Authorities |

The show is being hosted by the Romney Marshes Area Internal Drainage Board. The event is Europe's largest display of engineering equipment, products and services for the drainage industry, at which ninety exhibitors attended at the last event in 2003.

Romney Marsh is described as the cradle of Land Drainage. The levels are up to 3m below sea level and are drained by 320km of Main River and 350km of Internal Drainage Board watercourses. This is the greatest density or length of watercourse per square kilometer in England. The area can also boast the oldest Drainage Authority in England - Corporation of Romney Marsh - granted charter by Henry III in 1252.

The Royal Military Canal was built between 1804 and 1806, as part of the defence strategy against the threat of Napoleonic invasion. The Canal follows the old Saxon shoreline for 45km across the Romney Marsh. Over 60 foot wide at the surface, the Canal was designed with unique "kinks" every 600m for the placement of field guns and a 35 foot soil parapet for the protection of troops. The Government abandoned the canal in 1877 and leased it to the Lords of the Level of Romney Marsh. The Canal is now used by the Environment

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Agency to manage water levels across much of the Marsh.

JBA Consulting, including the Shire Group of Internal Drainage Boards, who will be at Stand No.30, invite any client, prospective client, past client, interested party and all friends to their marquee for a discussion and refreshments on each of the two days.

The Loss of a Friend and Associate

The staff at the Doncaster office had to bite a very bitter bullet on April 13th 2006, when they were informed that Bob (Robert Davis) had died at home with his family following a short illness and stay in hospital. Bob leaves a wife, Sylvia and sons Peter and Matthew, as well as an office full of colleagues in Doncaster.

Bob became a Chartered Engineer and a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers following his graduation from Leeds University in 1975 with a BSC in Civil Engineering. His career started with Bob spending one and a half years with Wellerman Bros. Contractors in Sheffield as a Site Engineer responsible for roads, bridges and industrial foundations and two years with Husband & Co. Consultants as a Design Engineer on industrial foundations and reinforced concrete framework structures and on survey work in Morocco. He worked for four years in Saudi Arabia as a Senior Site Construction Engineer, with ARAMCO, on reinforced concrete multi-storey framed structures, pumping stations and pipelines. He joined Grantham Brundell & Farran in 1983 and moved to JBA on the firm's merger with JBA in 2004. He has over twenty years experience of feasibility studies, design and detailing work, preparation of contract documents and site supervision of water level management works, including pumping stations and other structures.

Bob has been an excellent member of staff at Grantham Brundell & Farran and JBA, a pleasure to work with but with a never ending thirst for knowledge in his specialist area of water level management. Bob will be sadly missed by all his

colleagues at JBA/GBF and by friends and associates in all parts of the industry.

Staffing at Doncaster/Bramham

New staff have been employed at both the Bramham and Doncaster offices. Jason Boasman has joined the team at Bramham as a Trainee Engineering Technician, whilst Doncaster have employed Helen Cooper as Office Secretary and Joseph Savage as a Trainee Engineering Technician.

Global Positioning System (GPS)

Survey Equipment

Doncaster will soon be offering provision of a full GPS survey package. This cutting edge technology provides a cost effective method of producing plan and cross section surveys either local to a particular site or for a full drainage system. For further information please contact the office in Doncaster.

Environmental Issues

The environment and its management continue to play a strong part in the management of Internal Drainage Boards. With this in mind, the members of the group are in the process of adopting Environmental Policy documents. These cover the Board's operations and contain specific commitments to the environment.

Each of the policy documents is tailored to the environment of each district and areas of environmental interest in the district, including national and international wildlife sites and ancient monuments are identified. In addition to this, it details the operations undertaken by the Board in managing the drainage system.

Lastly, a number of specific reporting targets are identified. These include reporting on achieving local Biodiversity Action Plan targets and increased collaboration with environmental bodies to achieve improvements in the environmental management of the system.

The Environmental Policy is designed to be an overarching document, from which more focused policies can be adopted to cover areas of significance in each district. These are likely to include protected species, archaeological sites, and environmental stewardship applications.

Health and Safety

The Work at Height Regulations 2005

In 2003/04 falls from height accounted for 67 fatal accidents at work and nearly 4000 major injuries. They remain the single biggest cause of workplace deaths and one of the main causes of major injury.

A place is 'at height' if (unless these Regulations are followed) a person could be injured falling from it, even if it is at or below ground level.

The Work at Height Regulations 2005 apply to all work at height where there is a risk of a fall liable to cause personal injury. They place duties on employers, the self-employed, and any person who controls the work of others (eg facilities managers or building owners who may contract others to work at height) to the extent they control the work.

What you must do as an employer

You must do all that is reasonably practicable to prevent anyone falling.

- avoid work at height where they can;
- use work equipment or other measures to prevent falls where they cannot avoid working at height; and
- where they cannot eliminate the risk of a fall, use work equipment or other measures to minimise the distance and consequences of a fall should one occur.

In the time it takes to eat a **PASTIE**, you could work out how to eliminate some danger of falls from your job:

- Plan:** Plan in advance
- Avoid:** Choose methods of work to avoid working at height
- Select:** Select the right equipment, plant and tools
- Train:** Make sure workers are trained to use the equipment safely
- Inspect:** Inspect to ensure that equipment, is in good condition and properly maintained
- Effect:** Carry out the task safely by effective supervision and management

Skin cancer campaign to focus on outdoor workers
26 May 2006.

New figures released by Cancer Research UK reveal that for the first time the number of men who have died from melanoma in the UK has exceeded 1000 a year, a 31% increase in the last decade.

As a result, the organisation's SunSmart campaign is to focus on men, placing particular emphasis on outdoor workers.

Cancer Research UK said it was intending to specifically target men in an effort to raise awareness of skin cancer and the importance of reporting any skin changes to a doctor. The focus on outdoor workers is natural since their exposure to the sun is much greater than people who work in an office.

Sara Hiom, Head of Health Information at Cancer Research UK, said, "People who work outside and whose faces, arms and legs are constantly exposed to sun are more likely to be diagnosed with nonmelanoma skin cancer. This is far more common and less dangerous than melanoma but it is important to have it treated as soon as possible."

NEWSLETTER

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Campaign posters and leaflets about detecting skin cancer are being distributed to the construction and agricultural industries, unions and all UK health professionals.

The SunSmart campaign website offers practical information about the changes that people need to look out for when checking their skin, and can be accessed <http://cancerresearchuk.org/sunsmart/>