

Chairman's Report – 2009

Firstly may I welcome you all to the UKSTT 2009 AGM and thank you all for your attendance.

What follows is a brief summary of the activities of UKSTT over the last year.

Again this year we have held a very successful Awards Dinner, albeit not quite as well attended as the previous few years, but which, like last year, attracted more entries than ever before, and this continues to demonstrate that, as established as no Dig / Trenchless Technology is, there is still room for advancements in technologies and techniques.

On the exhibition side, last September we held our most successful to date No Dig Live, as ever superbly organised by Westrade and I would like to record the societies thanks to Caroline and Paul. At this event we held a breakfast seminar on the transfer of ownership of private sewers to public ownership, which attracted a large attentive audience.

UKSTT continues to try and promote trenchless technology to the uninitiated by exhibiting at the HAUC conferences, this year we have exhibited at the National event in Cardiff plus the regional events in the South East, East Anglian and London.

On the education and training side, we are continuing to push universities to let us make more trenchless presentations to students, and despite many obstacles we managed to undertake another couple last year, at Brunel and Teesside, and we are now canvassing hard for this coming academic year.

During the year we were involved in the WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) national programme of seminars where we were extolling the virtues of Trenchless Technology in the reduction of waste and carbon emissions – and from what I hear these talks were very

well received. We have now been invited to take part in the next year's seminars, which will be aimed at the reduction in the environmental damage caused by reinstatement, where, of course, we will be enthralled by the virtues of trenchless technologies and minimum excavation techniques.

We have continued to respond to a number of consultative documents, for example - the Traffic Management act and the proposed New Roads and Street Works act, plus the Private Sewer debate where we are now working with SBWWI, EUS and Water UK to promote a programme of informative seminars later this year

In addition UKSTT council members represent us on the following committees: -

- National Sewerage Association

- National Working Group on Water Jetting

- Institute of Civil Engineers Expert Panel for Water

- Develop Training group

- International Trade Committee

The society, as part of our remit to further the knowledge and acceptance of Trenchless techniques continues to write technical articles for the trade journals.

We continue to receive technical enquires from the UK and around the world, last year we again received over 10 per month, which are forwarded onto interested members

Council members continue to be active and the full council has met 3 times during the last 12 months, the two sub committees (Membership Services and Technical & Education) have also met 3 times during the year and the Policy and Strategy committee has met twice

I also represented UKSTT at the International No Dig conference and exhibition, which this year was held in Toronto at the end of March. Where I met with representatives from all the other national societies to discuss our common aims and to direct the ISTT in their future plans.

The society continues take a lead role in the HSE's remit to ensure that all rotating parts on directional drilling rigs are safely guarded. A meeting was held, here at Leamington, in May of this year, at which representatives from most of the world's leading drilling rig manufactures met with representatives from the HSE to learn about the initiative and to put forward the manufactures point of view.

Membership numbers have fallen slightly over the year but we have attracted a number of key utility companies to become Patrons to the society. We welcome them to the society and look forward to a meaningful relationship. Current patrons are

Severn Trent Water

United Utilities

Sutton & East Surrey Water

Bournemouth & West Hampshire Water

Wessex Water

UK National Grid

More utility companies currently being targeted to take up this membership category.

This year we have had two resignations from council, these being Brian Syms, and Steve Orchard.

Brian is a founder member of the society and was very active member of the Technical and Education sub committee, he was a key player in getting our training programme up and running and we shall miss his contribution. For which I would like to record the societies' sincere thanks.

Steve has served on Council for the last 7 years and was our link with ICE and British Water –
Again we thank him for his contribution and wish him well for the future.

It is with sadness that I must take this opportunity to record the death of one of UKSTT's founding members, Brian McGuire. Formerly with British Gas North Western, he died earlier this year in most unfortunate circumstances, after a domestic accident.

Brian was heavily involved in the early days of Swage lining and pipe bursting and worked tirelessly for UKSTT until his retirement in 2008. Perhaps known as a 'quirky character' he was always supportive and will be remembered by all who knew him.

And so to close – I would like to thank the UKSTT for giving me the opportunity of being the National Chairman for the last two years. I would also like to thank the UKSTT Council, who have supported me over this period plus Peter and Val for giving me such great assistance, and for putting up with me. Finally may I wish the incoming chairman – Colin Tickle, every success.

Thank you.