

## UKSTT Dinner

On 24 April the United Kingdom Society for Trenchless Technology held its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner & Awards Ceremony at the Holiday Inn, Birmingham. Attended by around 175 guests from a national array of companies and trenchless organisations the evening was conducted by toastmaster, Norman Brown, and compared once again by the well known environmentalist, presenter, broadcaster, photographer & author, Chris Packham.

As part of the evening's 'entertainment' Steve Kent, the current UKSTT national chairman, and owner and manager of Pipe Equipment Specialists Ltd, brought guests up to date on the workings and progress achieved over the past year by UKSTT. Thanking Westrade, No-Dig Live 2008 organisers, for the most successful exhibition to date. Steve announced that a series of Roadshows were being planned for late 2009 / early 2010. The UKSTT continues to promote trenchless technology to the uninitiated by exhibiting at various national & regional HAUC conferences as well as the ongoing developing programme of lectures to undergraduates with invitations from repeat visits starting to increase & canvassing for further presentation already underway for 2010.

Highlighting the current national programme of free seminars that UKSTT is undertaking with WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) where the virtues of Trenchless Technology were extolled, industry developments highlighted & a focus placed on the potential reduction of waste & carbon emissions that the use of trenchless systems can offer.

The UKSTT continues to respond to a number of consultative documents, e.g. the Traffic Management Act, the proposed New Roads and Street Works Act, plus the Private Sewer debate. We are now working with SBWWI, EUS and Water UK to promote a programme of informative seminars later this year.

In addition council members represent UKSTT on a number of national committees, e.g. National Sewerage Association, National Working Group on Water Jetting, Institute of Civil Engineers Expert Panel for Water.

Touching on the HSE investigation & concerns about the issue of unguarded rotating parts on directional drilling rigs he reminded us that UKSTT has taken a lead role here in acting as the liaison medium between the HSE and the HDD manufactures and suppliers in order to ensure that all the objectives are met in a uniform and controlled manner.

The society received more than 150 technical enquiries from both national & international clients and these are all co-ordinated through, or resolved by, the Technical Secretary, Peter Crouch. This service has proved very beneficial to members.

The Patron initiative continues and UKSTT will shortly be adding a number of familiar company names to its expanding list of utility companies which wish

to support the UKSTT aims and objectives in a more active role than simply being a corporate member.

Whilst attendance numbers for the Dinner this year were down a little on 2008, Steve did comment that membership has not been adversely affected by the current economic climate with membership subscription which fund the organisation's activities, being slightly up on this time last year.

Presenting the Awards for the sixth consecutive year, Chris Packham and his friends, the TenRec, entertained the diners with his usual stylish opening address, revealing much about the life of his 'companions' for the evening. The animal was provided by Paradise Wildlife Park, Broxbourne, Hertfordshire. Chris then gave an overview of the short-listed award finalists. As in previous years, awards were given for 6 categories. The short list was drawn up from over 40 entries which were more than last year.

### AWARD WINNERS

The number of 2009 event award entries were higher than ever before, indicating that even in these economically challenging times, Trenchless Technology continues to make advances. The winners & highly commended can be seen in the table below:

Category	Sponsor	Winner	Highly Commended
New Installation – Large Project	South West Water	<b>Barhale, Severn Trent &amp; Grontmij</b> : Albrighton FWS Flood Alleviation	<b>Saint Gobain</b> : Tyneside North Circular Main Replacement Projects
New Installation – Small Project	Barhale Bournemouth & West Hants Water	<b>Farrans (Construction) Ltd</b> : Moira Trunk Main Specialist Crossing	<b>Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions</b> : Rock by Name, Rock by Nature <b>Land &amp; Marine Project Engineering</b> : Dunstable Cricket Club
Renovation – Large Project	Adien McElroy	<b>The Waterflow Group</b> : Banbury Station – Sewers Under Railways	<b>Severn Trent Water</b> : Matlock & Matlock Bath Rising Mains <b>United Utilities</b> : Houghton Green – Winwick Water Pumping Main
Renovation – Small Project	DynoRod Severn Trent	<b>Lanes Group plc</b> : Conway Bridge	<b>Adien</b> : Dublin Water Mains <b>U Mole</b> : Replacing Temperature affected pipe using Pipebursting keeps Brewery Running
Small Scheme	Wessex Water	<b>Hermes Technologie / Habilitas Solutions</b> : Rehabilitating 25m deep Victorian Shaft	<b>DynoRod</b> : Croft Street, Hebben Bridge UV Lining & Multiple Top Hat Installation <b>U Mole</b> : UK Water Company expands Pipe Bursting Technology Experience for Operatives
Product Innovation	South West Water	<b>DynRod</b> : Top Hat Innovation – 100mm diameter at acute angles (30 deg)	<b>The Waterflow Group</b> : Banbury Station – Sewers Under Railways <b>TT-UK</b> : Grundoram to the Rescue in long undersea HDD Recovery Operation
Young Engineer	Wessex Water	Jonathan Gisbourne, Barhale	Leanne Ford, Wessex Water James Kitching, Wessex Water Laurence Turner, Aqualiner

The event was also sponsored by Land & Marine Project Engineering Ltd, May Gurney, Pipe Equipment Specialists Ltd, TT-UK & U Mole.

In common with other similar events, UKSTT also operates a charity draw during its Annual Dinner event. This year, in keeping with a policy of a choosing a UK based national charity, the chairman's chosen charity was

Shelter – the housing and homelessness charity. As well raising money for the charity the collection also offers a prize, this year the Draw prize was a top of the range iPod, kindly donated by C J Kelly and Brawoliner. The charity event raised a total of £1,175.00 with the iPod being won by Steve Andrews of Adien.

Following the Award Presentations, the after-dinner entertainment was provided by Siren, an all female string quartet. The evening was rounded off by the usual visit to the bar & a major networking opportunity for the gathered guests.

The 2010 Annual Dinner and Awards ceremony will again take place at the Holiday Inn, Birmingham on 23 April. Details will be available from the UKSTT offices shortly.

Don't forget to start thinking about which entries you will be making for next year's Awards.