

Newest IGS Chapter Formed:

A meeting held at the British Institution of Civil Engineers on 29 September, 1987 marked the inauguration of the UK section of the International Geotextile Society. The UK Section has been formed within the administrative structure of the British Geotechnical Society (BGS), to cater to the reauirements of the UK members of the IGS.

At the meeting members were introduced to the UK chapter committee which includes Peter Rankilor (Manstock Geotechnical Consultancy Services) chairman; Richard Jewell (University of Oxford) deputy chairman; Peter Jones (ICI Fibres) treasurer; James Paul (Netlon Limited) general secretary; Colin Degerlund (Civil Engineering) publicity secretary; Robert Warwick (Don & Low) activities secretary; and Tom Sangster (Rhone Poulenc UK Limited) membership secretary (see photo).

Peter Rankilor, founding chairman of the new chapter, outlined his hopes for the next two years and expressed his confidence in the strong position of the UK in geotextile design, manufacture, research and utilization. He outlined the various activities the committee is to enter into on behalf of its members, emphasizing that the committee was set to work on securing practical benefits for its subscribing members. Rankilor continued that the Section would work for the promotion of the UK national industry as a whole and he looked forward to two years of vigorous activity and growth culminating in a national effort to present the best of the British geotextile industry at the 1990 International Geotextile Conference.

Following the Chairman's opening address Dr. J.P. Giroud, President of the IGS, provided members with an insight into the rapid development of geotextiles in the last two decades and outlined the impact these materials had made on civil engineering projects worldwide.

Professor Alan McGown, deputy chairman of the British Geotechnical Society, and instrumental in negotiating the incorporation of the UK chapter of IGS into the administrative structure of the BGS, presented a paper illustrating the role played in the development of geotextiles by UK manufacturers, research establishments and forward-looking consulting practices which, he added, 'have consistently led the field in many aspects of geotextile design and application.'

The United Kingdom Chapter

For further information please contact:

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U.K. Chapter Committee at the Inaugural Meeting

Society Activity IGS Council Meets in The Hague

The Council of IGS met for the second time this year on 26-27 September and 16 of the 19 members were present.

- 1. The Council acknowledged the resignation of Mr. Cor Van den Berg (formerly at Nicolon - Netherlands) who has accepted another position in the group.
- 2. The Council welcomed the imminent publication of the 1987 directory of IGS. It also discussed the growth of the present membership; whilst individual membership grew by about 30 per cent over the last year, much more is still to be done. In particular, the Council would like to see a growth in corporate membership, especially in the field of geomembranes as well as an increase in individual membership in specific countries or sectors (such as public authorities).
- 3. The Council asked the By-Laws Committee (chairman E. Leflaive) to consider the possibility of including in the IGS by-laws, or by any other practical way, a membership category for eligible **students** at a reduced fee (with limited rights).
- 4. The Council agreed on the procedure for the coming election of half of the IGS Council. The by-laws provide for renewal of half of the IGS Council every two years with Council members being elected for a four-year term of office.

The present Council members are coming to the end of their term of office: Prof. M. Fukuoka (Japan), Dr. J.P. Giroud (USA, president of IGS until 1990), Dr. P. Jarrett (Canada), Mr. E. Leflaive (France), B. Myles (UK) and Prof. K. Van Harten (Netherlands, vice-president of IGS until 1990). Mr. C. Van den Berg (Netherlands) has resigned.

A call for candidates has been issued (see separate article). Nominations should be forwarded to the Secretariat by 15 December, 1987.

- 5. The Council discussed the use of the terms geotextiles, geomembranes and similar words. The Council agreed that generic terms should not be misused and certainly should not be treated as the exclusive property of one or more individual companies. The IGS will take it as a responsibility to make sure that these generic terms are used correctly and without any impediment anywhere in the world. This is of direct interest to companies in the field as well as being essential from a scientific point of view.
- 6. Due to the fact that the increase in the income of IGS has been less than expected, the officers presented drastic proposals to cut expenses; they suggested that in the coming years, the IGS should concentrate on only a few activities and do these well. Consequently, they recommended increasing the funds available for the IGS Newsletter while keeping some money available for promotion and for a testing standards inventory. Funding of all other projects would be suspended for the time being.

This was agreed upon by the Council after a long debate. Officers would have the responsibility to implement projects for the Newsletter: some editorial help will be hired with the view of making the IGS newsletter a focus for News from the various sectors and countries.

7. The preparation of the Vth International Conference on Geotextiles, planned for 1994 was discussed. Consideration was given to how and when the call should be made for eventual candidate countries to host this Conference.

After a lively debate, it was decided to call for proposals from **OUTSIDE EUROPE**, since the two previous Conferences (in 1986 and in 1990) would have taken place in Europe.

8. The Council heard reports from the chairmen of various IGS committees:

- terminology

Mr. Perfetti outlined the difficulties faced in the ISO workgroup. He would try to activate progress through IGS.

- awards

Prof. Schaerer distributed a proposal; this would be studied and possibly amended for the next Council meeting.

- standards

Prof. Rigo agreed to take up the task left by Mr. Van den Berg. This would include updating the inventory by the end of 1988 and extending it to geomembranes etc. in time for the IVth international Conference. - publications

In addition to the discussion of the Newsletter, relations between the IGS and other magazines or publishing groups were discussed by Dr. Giroud and Prof. Van Harten.

- promotion

Mr. S. Warner presented a draft promotion brochure in English, which was accepted by the Council.

- conferences

Mr. Sembenelli made proposals as to the policy which should be adopted regarding Conferences for which IGS is asked to give its support. Due to work pressure he unfortunately also had to announce his resignation from the chair of that committee. This was accepted with much regret. He agreed to cooperate with Dr. Giroud in the selection process of the host country for the Vth International Conference.

- by-laws

Mr. Leflaive asked opinions from Council members about possible modifications of the IGS by-laws. These should be presented at the 1990 General Assembly and voted upon.

He was asked by the Council to update and clarify the by-laws and simplify procedures wherever this obviously is needed.

Other topics might imply shifts in the philosophy and structure of IGS: e.g. chapters and their role; membership of the Council and election of its members etc. Mr. Leflaive was authorized to explore such avenues without the Council expressing prior views on such matters.

- education

Prof. Jarrett has handed in his resignation as chairman of this committee.

- research

Profs. Floss and Arman would develop their ideas for the next Council meeting.

- 9. The IGS Council members met the organizing committee for the IVth International Conference. The various measures already taken were discussed. The officers also had the opportunity of visiting the Congress and Exhibition Centre and were impressed by the suitability of the halls and the efficiency of the organizers in charge.
- 10. The Council gave the IGS support for a Conference to be organized in Liege in March 1989.

It also gave its support to a German-speaking Conference to be organized next autumn (1988) in Hamburg, ''K Geo 88''.

11. The Council unanimously endorsed the creation of a UK chapter with the proviso that a number of outstanding issues concerning eligibility be settled before the Council meets again. Eligibility for membership of the IGS must be evaluated by the IGS. The Council decided to adopt a more cautious line in future before supporting or agreeing to the creation of new chapters.

Call for Candidates for the IGS Council

The by-laws of IGS prescribe that half of the Council be elected every two years.

An election, by postal ballot, will therefore be held in March 1988 in order to elect members to the IGS Council for a fouryear term, starting in May 1988.

The seven members of the IGS Council whose term of office expires in April 1988 are:

Prof. Masami Fukuoka (Japan) Dr. Jean-Pierre Giroud (USA) Dr. Peter Jarrett (Canada) Mr. Etienne Leflaive (France) Mr. Bernard Myles (UK) Prof. Koos Van Harten (Netherlands) Mr. Cor Van den Berg (Netherlands) who has resigned.

Prof. M. Fukuoka, Dr. J-P Giroud, Mr. E. Leflaive and Prof. K. Van Harten have indicated that they would be running for re-election.

12. The North American Geosynthetic Society (NAGS) presented a proposal which involves including the IGS membership fee in the registration fee at some conferences. The NAGS also proposed that payments to the IGS should be decreased if collected by the chapter. The decrease would be related to the number of members in a given country (or chapter).

This proposal met serious objections from within the IGS Council. These objections were primarily based on the argument that the General Assembly in 1986 had already fixed membership dues until 1990 and that these dues could not be changed until the next General Assembly. Additional objections were raised concerning the concept of automatic membership. This concept was rejected.

13. A revised IGS budget for 1987 and a pro-forma budget for 1988 were adopted taking into account the lower income compared to forecasts and other decisions as to the activities of IGS. A deficit was accepted for the coming year although some Council members objected. The majority felt that it was reasonable to use part of the IGS reserves to increase IGS activities. By meeting its objectives, the Society would be best able to attract new members, thereby increasing its income.

There are SEVEN Council members to be elected.

To be eligible, an individual should be a member of IGS. If elected, candidates are expected to be able to travel and attend the IGS Council meetings.

A letter has been sent to all IGS members inviting them to put their name forward for election to the IGS Council. Signed letters of application together with a biographical note (not exceeding 12 lines) are to have reached the Secretariat of the IGS not later than 15 December 1987.

Nominations will be acknowledged by the Secretariat and elections will be held by postal ballot in March 1988.

Should you need some further information, please contact the secretary, Mr. G. Massenaux in Brussels or the President of the IGS, Dr. J-P Giroud. Both their addresses can be found in the 1987 IGS Directory and in the IGS News.

5th International Conference on Geotextiles and Geomembranes, 1994

The IGS invites organizations, societies and groups interested in organizing and hosting the Vth International Conference on Geotextiles and Geomembranes to submit their proposals to the Secretary, Mr. Guy Massenaux, c/o Edana, 51 Avenue des Cerisiers, 1040 Brussels, Belgium. At its last

Japanese Chapter

An International Symposium on Geotextiles was held in Kyoto on July 19, 1987. Keynote speakers at the conference included Professors Fukuoka, Broms and Yamanouchi as well as Dr. Kutara. A total of seven papers were presented and a poster session was held. In total, there were approximately 130 participants from 21 countries. Proceedings of the meeting, the IGS Council decided to initially exclude all European countries from consideration. The IGS Secretariat will provide interested parties with a package containing general conditions and instructions to prospective organizers/hosts.

Symposium (160 pages) are available from the Japanese chapter of the IGS.

Approximately 70 people attended a lecture on "Geotextiles in France" presented by Dr. E. Leflaive in Tokyo on July 28, 1987.

(Reported by Prof. M. Fukuoka)

NATO Advanced Research Workshop

"Application of Polymeric Reinforcement in Soil Retaining Structures"

by P.M. Jarrett

From June 8th to the 12th, 37 industrial, governmental and university researchers and engineers representing 13 different countries attended an intensive "research workshop" held under NATO Sponsorship at the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston. The workshop was held primarily to discuss the state-of-the-art of the design and construction of geosynthetically reinforced vertical retaining walls and to establish the research needs of this rapidly developing method of construction.

The initial focus on the topic was created by a comprehensive introductory paper by François Schlosser of France and by studying the results of a "prediction exercise". For the prediction exercise, two instrumented 3 m high geogrid reinforced walls were constructed and subjected to surcharges of up to 50 kPa in the laboratory at the Royal Military College. The two walls represented typical working designs and were identical except that one was built with incremental facing panels and one with full height facing panels. A number of workshop participants predicted, in advance, such aspects of the test behaviour as the strains in the reinforcement, the displacements of, and the forces exerted on the facing panels and the earth pressures across the base of the reinforced section. The results of the tests were presented to an expectant, and in some cases apprehensive, audience by Richard Bathurst of Canada. The discussion and rationalization involved in comparing these results to the various predictions was orchestrated by Bob Koerner of the USA. As a gross generalization, the predicted strains, forces and movements from the limit state analyses employed by most predictors were considerably larger than the measured values. The primary lesson learned was that we must not, in focussing attention on the ''new'' geosynthetic materials, lose sight of the difficulty in analyzing the contribution of the soil to the overall behaviour.

After this initial phase of the workshop there were four separate sessions to consider individual aspects of the problem. The sessions had leaders who presented state-of-theart papers and generated discussions on the following topics:

> *"Review of Instrumented Case Histories" -*Barry Christopher (USA), Philippe Delmas (France), Jost Studer (Switzerland).

> "Materials Evaluation and Recommendations



Row 1: H. Miki, J. Smith-Meyer, P. Delage, M. deGroot; Row 2: J. Scott, R. Berg, K. Andrawes, B. Christopher, G. Richardson, R. Bonaparte; Row 3: G. Raymond, S. Hermann, P. Jarrett, D. Bush, G. Werner; Row 4: J. Lafleur, R. Floss, J. Studer, R. Jewell, J. Perfetti; Row 5: E. Leflaive, R. Bathurst, C. Jones, F. Schlosser, Ph. Delmas, M. Sotton, S. Christoulas; Row 6: R. Koerner, R. Gopal, K. Rowe, R. Murray, A. Rollin, A. McGown, P. Rimoldi, J-P. Gourc, D. Cazzuffi

NATO-ARW, ''Application of Polymeric Reinforcement in Soil Retaining Structures'' June 1987, Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston *for Materials Testing'' -* Etienne Leflaive (France), Alan McGown (Scotland).

''Variations in Analytical Techniques and Design Methods'' - Rudy Bonaparte (USA), Jean-Pierre Gourc (France), Richard Jewell (England), Kerry Rowe (Canada), Dick Murray (England).

"Construction Methods, Economics and Specifications" - Colin Jones (England), Alan McGown (Scotland).

The final session to develop a research needs statement was led by Kamal Andrawes (Scotland).

It is obviously impossible to summarize a week of directed, intense scientific discussion in a few words. Some of the major points were: (1) most presently used design methods are very conservative which leads to the necessity of developing a better understanding of the composite behaviour of the soil-geosynthetic system; (2) the practical need to pay very strict attention to construction methods, especially the attachment of the reinforcement to the facing units and the compaction of fill near the front of walls; (3) the further definition and proof of long term chemical and biological durability so that specifying authorities will permit the use of lower quality backfills with geosynthetic reinforcement. This latter aspect may well represent the greatest economic advantage that geosynthetic reinforcement has to offer. The full proceedings of the workshop including the results of the prediction exercise, the papers presented and the summaries of certain of the discussions are to be published as a book in the NATO Advanced Study Institute Series by Martinus Nijhoff of Dordrecht, The Netherlands. Publication is expected in early 1988.

One other aspect of the NATO Scientific Affairs Division workshops is the desire by the sponsors to encourage ongoing international cooperation and interchange between scientists and engineers by providing a social ambiance in which mutual understanding can develop. It must be said that with this group there was little difficulty in promoting the socialization. Daniele Cazzuffi (Italy) organized a soccer game which was won by the "best team", although who this team represented nobody could decide. A banquet was held which included a unique event when a bottle of "Scotch" acquired by Alan McGown (Scotland) was presented, much against his better judgement, to an Englishman, Colin Jones, for his prowess in the prediction exercise. An afternoon was set aside for relaxation with a boat trip around the "Thousand Islands" in the St. Lawrence River; fortunately this was the one day when it didn't rain. In the evening, participants were able to visit the Historic Buildings and Plazas of Kingston which, although a small city, has many quite unique points of interest.

The workshop was organized by a committee chaired by Peter Jarrett and including Bob Koerner, Etienne Leflaive, Kamal Andrawes and Alan McGown.

International Standardization by E. Leflaive

The International Standardization Organization Subcommittee 21 on "Geotextiles" met in Paris from 10 to 13 March 1987. This was its second meeting of the subcommittee, the first having been held in Manchester (U.K.) in June 1985.

A total of 26 countries and 7 international organizations are represented on the subcommittee. The Paris meeting was attended by 33 delegates and was held in the AFNOR headquarters in Paris.

The main decisions made during the meeting dealt with the activities of the 4 working groups established in 1985 and with the inclusion of new items in the programme of the subcommittee.

Working Group 1 - Terminology (convener M. Perfetti)

A number of definitions had been prepared, including the definition of the term ''geotextile''. The work had involved much correspondence over a period of a year and a half. The wording of the definition started as something quite short but developed into a much more detailed and elaborate version involving a one line definition with two comments. Unfortunately, most delegations present (including a number of them who had representatives in the working group) did not approve this definition during the final vote and hence it will not be proposed through a mail ballot to the member countries and organizations of the subcommittee.

This situation indicates to some extent a lack of organization, or a lack of knowledge of the mechanisms of I.S.O., from a number of delegations. It more deeply reflects a certain hesitation from a number of users or producers about the essence of the concept of geotextile, which either has not yet been mastered or has been confused with the introduction of new types of materials; in this respect, remarks during the plenary sessions on the relative positions of geotextiles and geomembranes indicated some unclear views and misunderstandings.

If there are still misunderstandings, work must continue through the working group; in order to reinforce the group, a letter has been sent to all members of Subcommittee 21 by the secretariat to ask to confirm members of the Terminology group or to nominate new members. As far as connections with IGS are concerned (this question was raised during the discussion on terminology), this is taken care of by individuals who belong to both organizations, but an official link between IGS and I.S.O. is not established at present.

Working Group 2 - Identification and Sampling (convener M. Mortensen)

Working draft proposals have been presented on:

- determination of mass per unit area
- sampling and preparation of test specimens
- determination of thickness at specified pressures.

After discussion, it was decided to adopt as draft proposals the documents on mass per unit area and on sampling and preparation of specimens. Thus, these texts will be circulated to members for mail ballot.

The working group will establish within 3 months a modified proposal on thickness which will then be submitted to the registration procedure for a draft proposal.

For identification, the group is planning to work on a list of minimum but sufficient requirements for identification and to propose a standard data sheet giving an extensive characterization of the product.

Working Group 3 - Mechanical Properties (convener J.M. Rigo)

This group has been initially concerned with the uniaxial tensile test and tear test. For the tensile test, it is intended to propose a wide-width tensile test with three options for sample size: 200 mm x 100 mm, 500 mm x 100 mm and adapted size for grids or other materials having a periodic structure. There are no conclusions yet on the rate of testing.

The group intends to examine all aspects of tear including, tear initiation, tear propagation and residual strength.

Two new items have been added by the Subcommittee to the programme of Working Group 3:

- testing of the effectiveness of geotextile junctions (seams), and
- coefficient of friction between geotextile and soil (this question is being studied in liaison with I.S.O. Technical

Officers of the IGS

Dr. Jean-Pierre Giroud (President) GeoServices Inc. 1200 S. Federal Highway Suite 204 Boynton Beach, FL 33435 U.S.A. Dr. Guy Massenaux (Secretary) EDANA Avenue des Cerisiers, 51 1040 Brussels Belgium Mr. Charles Schaerer (Past-President) Buchenweg 2 8116 Wuerenlos Switzerland

Prof. Ir. Koos van Harten (Vice-President) Mechanical Engineering Department Technische Universiteit Delft Postbus 5036 2600 GA Delft The Netherlands Mr. Peter E. Stevenson (Treasurer) James River Corporation 545 North Pleasantburg Drive Greenville, SC 29607 U.S.A. Committee 182 on geotechnical testing).

Working Group 4 - Hydraulic Characteristics (convener M. Myles)

On water flow (permittivity), an inter-laboratory trial will be held during the year 1987 to compare results obtained from different testing equipment.

On pore size, it is intended to prepare a standard where different methods will be included (dry sieving and two wet sieving methods).

New work has been assigned to Working Group 4:

- breakthrough pressure will be included as a subsection of water flow,
- transmissivity work will start after the water flow interlaboratory trial.

Working Group 5 - Durability

A fifth working group has been established to study the question of durability.

The delegation of the U.S.A. has been asked to make a proposal to the secretariat for the convener of this Working Group.

Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled in the U.S.A. in 1988. The following meeting will be in the Netherlands in 1990 (to coincide with the fourth international conference).

Research Activity

To provide a medium for improving coordination and possible cooperation in research, it is planned to include a section on research activity in each issue of the IGS Newsletter. Researchers and Institutions are hereby requested to send the editor a short description of current and future research activities related to geosynthetics for inclusion in this report. We would also like to publish a list of theses (M.S. or Ph.D.) which have been written on geosynthetics. Former students and/or their supervisors are invited to send details of these theses to the editor on a continuing basis.

Editorial Request

Please send good black and white photos!

The value of a newsletter lies not only in the basic articles but in the presentation of useful and up-to-date information. We ask all members to provide information that they feel will be of interest to other members. Such information would include:

> Technical News Calls for Papers Announcements of Conferences and Short Courses Lists of Recent Publications and Proceedings Items for the Calendar of Events Interesting Glossy Black and White Photographs Unique Uses of Geotextiles or Geomembranes Cartoons Letters of Opinions, etc.

Please do not hesitate to provide information because you feel everybody must know of it already. If we hear of something two or three times that does not hurt us. What hurts us is if all three of the people think that someone else will tell us and then we never find out/

The editorial deadline for the next edition of the newsletter is 26 February, 1988 but you do not have to wait until then, avoid the rush, act now and send your information to:

Prof. R. Kerry Rowe Editor, ICS Newsletter Geotechnical Research Centre The University of Western Ontario LONDON, ONTARIO N6A 5B9 CANADA, TELEX 064-7134, FAX (519) 661-3292

Calendar of Events

Polypropylene & Polyolefins in Textiles

Atlanta, GA, USA 17-18 March, 1988 R.G. Mansfield Contact-65 Little Brook Road Wilton, CT 06897 USA

TRI 58th Annual Conference

Charlotte, North Carolina, USA 12-13 April, 1988 Textile Research Institute Contact: P.O. Box 625 Princeton, New Jersey 08542, USA

Mechanical Aspects of Soil Reinforcement

Grenoble, France 19-22 April, 1988

Contact:

Dr. I-P Gourc I.R.I.G.M. Universite de Grenoble l B.P. 68 38402 Sainte-Martin D'Heres Cedex France

ASCE Specialty Conference:

Geosynthetics for Soil Improvement Nashville, Tennessee, U.S.A. 9-11 May, 1988 Prof. R. Holtz Contact: School of Civil Engineering Grissom Hall Purdue University West Lafayette, IN 47909, U.S.A.

2nd International Conference on Case Histories in Geotechnical

Engineering

St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A. 1-5 June, 1988 Contact: Prof. S. Prakash Dept. of Civil Engineering University of Missouri-Rolla Rolla, MO 65401-0249, U.S.A.

Hydraulic Fill Structures '88

Fort Collins, Colorado, U.S.A. 14-17 August, 1988 Contact: J.L. Montera Dept. of Civil Engineering Colorado State University Fort Collins, CO 80523, U.S.A.

BNCOLD: Reservoirs '88 Manchester, U.K.

Contact:

15-17 September, 1988 N. Tyler The Institution of Civil Engineers Great George St. London, SW1P 3AA, U.K.

Kongress Kunststoffe in der Geotechnik (K-Geo 88) Hamburg, Germany 29-30 September 1988 Prof. Dr. R. Floss Contact: Lehr-stuhl und Prüfamt für Grundbau Bodenmechanik und Felsmechanik der TV

München, Baumbachstrasse 7 8000 Munich 60, Germany

41st Canadian Geotechnical Conference

Waterloo Ontario Canada 5-7 October, 1988 Dr. I-M. Konrad Contact: Dept. of Earth Sciences University of Waterloo Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1 Canada

International Geotechnical Symposium on the Theory and Practice of Earth Reinforcement Kyushu, Japan 5-7 October, 1988

Prof. N. Miura Contact: Dept. of Civil Engineering Saga University Saga 840, Japan

First Indian Geotextiles Conference

Bombay, India 8-9 December, 1988 Dr. J.N. Mandal Contact: Organising Secretary FIGC-88 Civil Engineering Department IIT, Powai, Bombay - 400 076, India Geosynthetics '89

San Diego, CA, USA

20-24 February 1989 Contact: Judy Dean Secretary General IFAI 345 Cedar St., Suite 450 St. Paul, MN 55101 USA

Twelfth International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 13-18 August, 1989 Contact:

Prof. Costa Nunes 12th ICSMFE Caixa Postal 1559 20000 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

Fourth International Conference on Geotextiles, Geomembranes, and Related Products The Hague, The Netherlands 27 May-1 June, 1990 Prof. K. van Harten Contact: University of Technology, Delft 2 Mekelweg P.O. Box 5036 2600 GA Delft, The Netherlands

Note: Highlighted items are organized under the auspices of or with the support of the IGS.

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