

# DOWN TO EARTH

SPRING 2006



## **The official publication of the International Geosynthetics Society (United Kingdom Chapter)**



### **Down To Earth explained**

Long-standing Chapter members will be familiar with *Down to earth*. But, for new readers, what's it all about?

*Down to Earth* is published by the IGS UK Chapter and, starting with this issue, it will be released in the Spring and the Autumn. *Down to Earth* exists to disseminate news and views, so that members can express their opinions and allow the Committee to stay in contact with the membership.

You are invited to share your news and views with the industry. Send your submissions (text and photographs) to Gary Fowmes.

### **Chairman's Message**

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### **The Committee**

Following an exemplary term as Chairman, Derek Smith has stood down from the committee and been replaced, as Chairman, by Russell Jones. Newly elected to the committee at the AGM were David Young and Shahid Raza.

Roles are now:

Chairman - Russell Jones  
[rjones@golder.com](mailto:rjones@golder.com)  
Vice Chairman - Neil Dixon  
[n.dixon@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:n.dixon@lboro.ac.uk)  
Secretary - Peter Langley  
[plangley@geofabrics.com](mailto:plangley@geofabrics.com)  
Treasurer - Ian Fraser  
[fraser@polyfelt.co.uk](mailto:fraser@polyfelt.co.uk)  
Publicity - Gary Fowmes  
[gfofmes@golder.com](mailto:gfofmes@golder.com)  
Activities - David Young  
[david@abq ltd.com](mailto:david@abq ltd.com)  
Membership - Shahid Raza  
[shahid.raza@donlow.co.uk](mailto:shahid.raza@donlow.co.uk)

Please feel free to contact us with issues and suggestions.

### **IGS Council**

Currently Steve Corbet & Bernard Myles represent the UK Chapter on the IGS council. However, Steve Corbet stands down mid 2006. The UK Chapter Committee intends to support Neil Dixon in the 2006 elections and we hope you will join us in support for his application.

### **Membership**

2006 subscriptions are now due. Annual fees for membership of the IGS UK chapter remain at:

£30 for individual membership  
£7.50 for student membership  
£100 for Corporate Sponsors

Membership currently stands at 24 Corporate Sponsors, 52 Individual Members and 5 Student Members. If anyone in your organisation is interested in membership, please pass their details to Shahid Raza.

Membership is one of the best-value professional memberships around, with on-line access to two leading journals:

- > **Geosynthetics International**
- > **Geotextiles & Geomembranes**

### **Treasurer's section**

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### **EUROGEO 4**

Steady progress is being made towards EuroGeo4. As a departure from the traditional conference format, a series of training courses will be run along side a conventional conference, with both delegates and those attending the training course having access to an exhibition mounted by manufacturers and distributors of geosynthetic products.



The format has still be finalised. Updates will be available very soon and more information will be available in the next edition of *Down to Earth*.

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



## Golf Day

The annual IGS golf day was held at Patshull Park Golf & Country Club, Shropshire, on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2005. The day was a great success and the committee would like to thank all of those who attended.

The individual prizes went to:

Longest Drive: Adam Philips (EDGE)  
Nearest Pin: Craig Roberts (Tensar)  
Individual Winner: John Starmer (Golder) 37pts

Team Positions and points were:

Geosynthetics 108  
Polyfelt (2) 100  
Golder 98  
Polyfelt (1) 95  
EDGE 90  
Tensar 86  
Maccaferri 85  
Naue 75



Congratulations to the Geosynthetics team members: Chris Foxtton, Bob Wilson, Guy Duncombe and Martin Robbins.

The next IGS Golf day will be held in September 2006 and we hope to see many of you there.

## Web site

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 or suggestions for additional content, please contact Russell Jones.

## White carpet for the stars

Question: *Where would you find Kate Winslet, Cameron Diaz and Jude Law walking around on a geosynthetic?*



Answer: On the set of the new film *The Holiday*. Due to the lack of real snow they covered Shere village in artificial snow, which is a white textile flock, and all the grass was overlaid with white non-woven geotextile under the artificial snow.



## Corporate sponsor Tensar Int meets the continuing demand with official opening of £15M plant in China



Following the purchase of a £15M manufacturing unit in China, ground stabilisation and soil reinforcement specialists Tensar International, announced the official opening of the facility this month. The manufacturing unit has been set up to meet continuing global demand from the civil engineering sector.

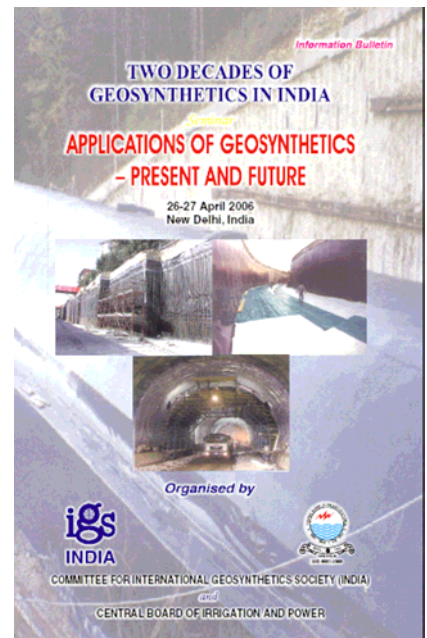
## Forthcoming events - UK

If you would like to make a presentation to the IGS e.g. a case history, results of research, etc, then please contact David Young.

## Forthcoming events - International

**Geo-Environmental Engineering 2006**, 6th Japan-Korea-France Joint Seminar on Geoenvironmental Engineering, Kyoto, Japan, 3 - 4 April 2006  
<http://geotech.gee.kyoto-u.ac.jp/gee2006/>

**Two Decades of Geosynthetics in India** – Seminar: *Applications of Geosynthetics – Present and Future*, New Delhi, India, 26 - 27 April 2006

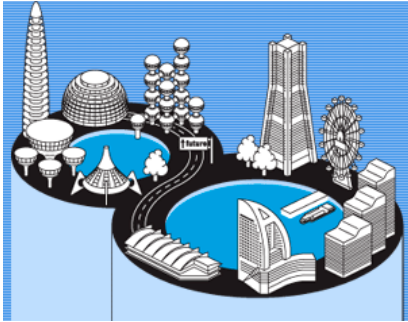


**Danube-European Conference on Geotechnical Engineering**, *Active Geotechnical Design in Infrastructure Development*, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 29 - 31 May 2006  
<http://www.danube-conference2006.si/>

**ISSMGE - 5th International Congress on Environmental Geotechnics**, *Opportunities, Challenges and Responsibilities for Environmental Geotechnics*, Cardiff, Wales, 26 - 30 June 2006.  
<http://www.grc.cf.ac.uk/5icceg/>



**8th International Conference  
on Geosynthetics**, Yokohama,  
Japan, 18 - 22 September 2006  
[www.8icg-yokohama.org](http://www.8icg-yokohama.org).



***Down to Earth*** is a twice-yearly publication circulated to all IGS (UK) members. Forward news, views & features to Gary Fowmes, [gfowmes@golder.com](mailto:gfowmes@golder.com) for consideration.

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

