



Association for Structural Engineers of London Boroughs

**MINUTES OF THE ASELB STEERING GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 22nd JANUARY 2009,  
AT REDBRIDGE COUNCIL OFFICES, LYNTON HOUSE, ILFORD**

**PRESENT**

Barry Ayres	-	L B Bromley (Chairman)
George Furmanski	-	L B Greenwich (Secretary)
Jaspal Sehmi	-	L B Newham (Treasurer)
Colin Palmer	-	L B Redbridge
Steve Davis	-	L B Enfield
John Peck	-	L B Havering

**MINUTES OF THE STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 20th NOVEMBER 2008**

The minutes were agreed and accepted as a correct record.

**MATTERS ARISING**

1. "Garden walls – better safe than sorry" ASELB note – SD has nearly completed drafting ASELB documents on freestanding wall conditions and leaning walls. Drafts to be e-mailed to Steering Group for comment. **Action – SD**
2. EA statistics for groundwater levels – BA has contacted Doug Pittam (HM) who will set up a meeting with EA to discuss this issue. Borehole records need to be monitored (not done at present) particularly as flooding incidents are on the increase.
3. Draft 2008 Autumn seminar minutes had been issued by GF prior to the meeting. Following a couple of minor amendments it was agreed they could be issued to members with the 2009 Spring seminar invitations. **Action – GF, CP**
4. The Eurocodes questionnaire results were circulated by GF and reviewed. It was agreed they be issued to members with the 2009 Spring seminar invitations and be put on the ASELB website. **Action – GF, CP**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

JS reported the following :-

Current Account Balance - On 31st December 2008 (date of last statement) there was £1,356.90 in the bank. No payments have been made since then.

Invoices for 2008 Autumn Seminar - Payments for the five Associate members who attended the seminar have been received.

2009 Annual subscriptions – Invoices have been issued and no payments have been received so far.

Outstanding Payments due – There are no outstanding payments to be made at present.

## **2009 SPRING SEMINAR**

Friday 24th April 2009.

Draft agenda tabled by BA and reviewed by Steering Group. Second practical topic speaker required, BA would contact ISE and JP will contact a consultant. CP to arrange lunch venue. **Action – BA, JP, CP**

SD suggested a future presentation could be by WYG on sustainable engineering.

## **ASELB REPORTS**

### **ASELB WEBSITE**

Various updates done to the site.

Minutes of the 2008 ASELB meetings will be posted on the site.

**Action - CP**

## **BUILDING REGULATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS**

BA advised of letter in 2/12/08 issue of ISE Journal's Verulam section mentioning the reduced level of checking by Local Authority Building Control departments.

BA circulated new SCOSS report from ISE, CROSS newsletter No.13, January 2009.

LDSA piling guidance document still awaited.

## **EUROCODES & STANDARDS**

To date only one member of the Steering Group has attended a training course. It was a half-day at ICE for a small cost. Two Steering Group members have been given one Building Regulation submission to check to Eurocodes.

## **LoTAG**

BA circulated copies of his report issued to LoTAG Group 2 meeting held on 13th January 2009.

## **ISE**

Nothing to report.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. BA has received an e-mail from David Rumsey (Ealing) saying he has been invited to the car parks structural safety group.

## **NEXT STEERING GROUP MEETING**

Thursday, 5th March 2009 at 1.00pm, Lynton House, Ilford.

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**MINUTES OF THE ASELB STEERING GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 5th MARCH 2009,  
AT REDBRIDGE COUNCIL OFFICES, LYNTON HOUSE, ILFORD**

**PRESENT**

Barry Ayres	-	L B Bromley (Chairman)
Colin Palmer	-	L B Redbridge
Steve Davis	-	L B Enfield
John Peck	-	L B Havering

**APOLOGIES**

George Furmanski	-	L B Greenwich (Secretary)
Jaspal Sehmi	-	L B Newham (Treasurer)

**MINUTES OF THE STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 22nd JANUARY 2009**

The minutes were agreed and accepted as a correct record.

**MATTERS ARISING**

1. "Garden walls – better safe than sorry" ASELB note – SD will circulate a draft of the ASELB documents before the Spring seminar. **Action – SD**
2. EA statistics for groundwater levels – BA discussed the outcome of recent meeting with Nigel Hoard who has agreed to discuss concerns regarding potential damage to structures caused by rising water table with colleagues at EA and provide feedback to BA. Potential costs of pumping could be an issue. Thames Water to set a lower limit but no upper limit.

BA has acquired a copy of relevant publication "Management of London Basin Chalk Aquifer".

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

JS reported the following :-

Current Account Balance - On 30th January 2009 (date of last statement) there was £1,496.60 in the bank. Since then £770.00 has been received in respect of annual subscriptions making the current balance £2,266.90.

2009 Annual subscriptions – Invoices were sent to 26 Boroughs, 13 have paid so far. Sutton has returned the invoice unpaid and there are no members from Southwark and Westminster.

Outstanding Payments due – There are no outstanding payments to be made at present.

BA reminded all of the necessity to support other members during these exceptional times of financial downturn which has had a significant impact on the construction industry.

## **2009 SPRING SEMINAR**

Friday 24th April 2009.

Revised draft agenda tabled by BA and reviewed and agreed by Steering Group.

SD to raise topic of boundary walls and JP may re-visit effective lengths and another subject yet to be decided.

BA to mention aspects of Building Control checking etc. as Verulam and highlight requirements for snow loads on roofs - Eurocodes Actions suggests 0.3 KN/m<sup>2</sup>.

## **ASELB REPORTS**

### **ASELB WEBSITE**

CP has various items to upload to website including Spring seminar agenda and possibly boundary walls notes. **Action - CP**

## **BUILDING REGULATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS**

Part A will be available for comment for a three month period from mid-Jul. References to disproportionate collapse, British Standards and Eurocodes likely.

## **EUROCODES & STANDARDS**

As noted above.

## **LoTAG**

HSE meeting to be held.

## **ISE**

Re-branding and website. Benefit with clarity by reference to Institution of Structural Engineers.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. CP to send out Spring seminar invitations w/c 24/3/09.

## **NEXT STEERING GROUP MEETING**

After the Spring seminar, date to be agreed.

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**MINUTES OF THE ASELB SPRING SEMINAR  
HELD ON FRIDAY 24th APRIL 2009  
AT THE INSTITUTION OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS**

**1. PRESENT**

- 1.1 25 Engineers from the member boroughs, 1 Honorary member, 4 guest speakers. The attendance list is attached.
- 1.2 Apologies were received from Richard Bradford (Harrow), Peter Hackley (Hillingdon), Paul Jones (Hammersmith & Fulham), Trevor Pennell (Enfield), David Rumsey (Ealing), Doug Pittam (Honorary Member), Chris Rajaratnam (Honorary Member).

**2. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING ADDRESS**

- 2.1 Chairman (Barry Ayres – Bromley) introduced himself and welcomed members, associate members and the guest speakers. He then read through the agenda for the seminar.

He highlighted a growing trend of engineers being under pressure to make cuts to their services, their inspections, their statutory and non-statutory duties to reduce costs. He invited Ray Aldrich (Barking & Dagenham) to briefly share his experiences at his borough. Ray explained his borough used to have a rolling programme of High Rise inspections but this is no longer the case. However, in the last six months the HR issue has re-appeared since there are 19 No. LPS blocks remaining to be inspected. The BRE recommended 20 year inspection is due for many of these blocks but he has only got funds for binocular surveys only. He said unless something happens this matter is pushed to one side and left especially as Council's are reducing budgets.

Steve Davis (Enfield) said his borough undertook a full High Rise (HR) appraisal in 1985. In 2001 a balcony fell off a HR block, since then his borough undertake a periodic visual survey and they have a 5 year programme of intrusive investigations. These investigations should be seen as reasonable action in the event that an incident happens.

Richard Lavender (Tower Hamlets) mentioned his borough uses powers under the Highways Act to deal with balconies, canopies, cradles built over and next to the highway.

Chairman asked members to let Steve Davis (Enfield) know of "concrete falling off buildings" incidents.

### **3. MINUTES OF THE AUTUMN SEMINAR HELD ON 10th OCTOBER 2008**

3.1 The minutes having been previously issued to all members were taken as read and were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

#### **3.2 Matters Arising :-**

3.2.1 Groundwater level in London – Chairman has had a meeting with the Environment Agency (EA) on the rising groundwater which could cause problems with soils and pore water pressures. EA are not taking this forward, Thames Water are not willing to pay for extraction of water because they are a private company and the problem is not their responsibility to resolve.

Steve Davis (Enfield) informed members of his knowledge of one site where the water table in a sand and gravel subsoil rose from 6m to 1.8m below ground level.

3.2.2. Eurocode survey – The survey results had been issued with the minutes of the Autumn seminar. Secretary read through the survey result sheet.

Keith Sellwood (Waltham Forest) commented that his enquiries with software companies gave different answers, some design programmes are available now, others will be adapting their programmes, some will be free and others at cost.

Chairman reminded members of the Public Procurement Directive which requires the use of Eurocodes for public funded works.

### **4. FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Treasurer, Jaspal Sehmi (Newham), reported as follows :-

#### Current Account Balance

On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 (date of last statement) there was £2,476.90 in the bank. Since then a further £350 has been deposited in the account making the current credit balance £2,826.90.

#### 2009 Annual Subscriptions

Invoices for the 2009 annual subscriptions were sent out to 26 boroughs.

21 boroughs have paid so far. The invoice to Sutton was returned unpaid leaving four payments outstanding.

#### Outstanding payments due

There are no outstanding payments to be made at present.

### **5. PRACTICAL STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING ISSUES**

#### **Introduction**

Steve Davis (Enfield) commenced by asking members to send him and John Peck(Havering) any comments they have on the “effective length” item discussed at the last seminar.

John Peck (Havering) issued A4 sketches of two common typical extension layouts currently very common containing large openings in external walls and roofs, sloping ceilings. He highlighted structural deficiencies in the proposals.

Steve Davis issued the two advice notes he has produced for ASELB on the stability and safety of free standing boundary and garden walls. A short discussion amongst members then took place.

Mention was also made of two articles in the ISE Journals dated 20<sup>th</sup> January and 17<sup>th</sup> March 2009 from Satish Desai and Martin Ashmead respectively regarding “Safe construction of common buildings” and “Dangerous buildings and structures” respectively.

## 6. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

**Topic** - Concrete repairs to EN1504

**Speakers** - Darren Priddle and Chris Gallivan - BASF

The speakers gave an informative and interesting presentation. They identified the eleven principles and methods available for the repair and protection of concrete structures given in the EN. The EN is a harmonising standard and it makes it easier to specify the correct materials.

A comprehensive technical brochure and CD containing specifications was handed out to delegates.

**Topic** - The future of Building Control

**Speaker** - Paula Higgins – Communities and Local Government

The next stage is the implementation plan. Building Control system is part of the Government’s priorities and drivers for sustainable buildings, the others are strategic ambitions, Building Regulations, and other tools e.g. Codes.

Dual strategic drivers for Building Regulations are Health and Safety, and sustainability and climate change. Periodic reviews every 3 years are planned.

Part G:Hygiene comes into force in October 2009. 2010-12 review plans include Parts L and F, and Parts A, C, J. Part A will recognise the new Eurocodes, consider freestanding walls, and clearer guidance on disproportionate collapse.

Other future of Building Control projects underway are developing risk assessment guidance (first version September 2009) and mapping regulatory regimes (complete by Summer 2009).

Priorities for the year ahead are compliance, performance management and working with Planning.

**Topic** - Steel design to EC3

**Speaker** - David Brown - SCI

The speaker gave an informative talk on the new design code and handed out technical literature which included articles discussing and comparing the new EC to current Codes and a number of examples and reviews of a number of construction details and restraint conditions related to the lateral stability of steel beams.

## 7. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

Chairman thanked the guest speakers for their excellent presentations. He also thanked the Steering Group members for organising this seminar and thanked all present for attending.

Chairman asked members to inform their colleagues of the matters dealt with at this seminar.

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## ATTENDANCE LIST

**ASELB Spring Seminar on Friday 24th April 2009  
at the Institution of Structural Engineers  
11 Upper Belgrave Street. London SW1**

### BOROUGH

### MEMBER / ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Barking & Dagenham	-----	Ray Aldrich
Barnet	-----	Joe Farrell
Bromley	-----	Barry Ayres
Camden	-----	Gana Natkunan
Croydon	-----	John Waddington
Croydon	-----	Firoz Gangji (AM)
Enfield	-----	Steve Davis
Enfield	-----	Ian Robinson (AM)
Enfield	-----	Dipak Mehta (AM)
Enfield	-----	Peter Card (AM)
Greenwich	-----	George Furmanski
Hackney	-----	Joe Figurado
Haringey	-----	John Yiangou
Haringey	-----	Hewa Hanaray (AM)
Havering	-----	John Peck
Havering	-----	Duncan Groom (AM)
Havering	-----	Marlene Makhoul (AM)
Hounslow	-----	Jayantha Pattapola (AM)
Kensington & Chelsea	-----	Anne Sexton
Lewisham	-----	Mike Payami (AM)
Newham	-----	Jaspal Sehmi
Redbridge	-----	Colin Palmer
Tower Hamlets	-----	Richard Lavender
Tower Hamlets	-----	Martin Waugh (AM)
Waltham Forest	-----	Keith Sellwood
Honorary Member	-----	Manohar Bhavra
<b>Guest speakers</b>		
Darren Priddle	- BASF	
Chris Gallivan	- BASF	
Paula Higgins	- Communities and Local Government	
David Brown	- SCI	



Association for Structural Engineers of London Boroughs

**MINUTES OF THE ASELB STEERING GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 28th MAY 2009,  
AT REDBRIDGE COUNCIL OFFICES, LYNTON HOUSE, ILFORD**

**PRESENT**

Barry Ayres - L B Bromley (Chairman)  
George Furmanski - L B Greenwich (Secretary)  
Jaspal Sehmi - L B Newham (Treasurer)  
Steve Davis - L B Enfield  
John Peck - L B Havering

**APOLOGIES**

Colin Palmer - L B Redbridge

**MINUTES OF THE STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 5th MARCH 2009**

The minutes were agreed and accepted as a correct record.

**MATTERS ARISING**

1. Spring seminar – general view was that whilst the seminar was generally satisfactory the timetable ended being squashed with very little time for discussion at the end of each topic. The concrete repairs presentation was not as good as the one attended at ICHIME by two of the Steering Group.  
Comparisons with LoBEG hinted by some attendees. Steering Group consider ASELB and LoBEG are two different types of organisation and undertake different functions.
2. GF advised the Spring seminar minutes are nearly drafted. **Action - GF**
3. London's rising water table – BA tabled a draft letter to the Mayor which was discussed and amended. BA to agree final draft with Environment Agency **Action - BA**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

JS reported the following :-

Current Account Balance - On 30th April 2009 (date of last statement) there was £2,312.25 in the bank. Since then £70 has been deposited making the current balance £2,382.25.

2009 Annual subscriptions – Payments from Camden, Hillingdon, Tower Hamlets are outstanding.

Invoices have been issued today to eight Associate Members who attended the 2009 Spring seminar.

Outstanding Payments due – A payment of £555.00 is due to be made to the ISE for the room hire and use of projector for the Spring seminar.

## **2009 AUTUMN SEMINAR**

Agreed to hold on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October, JS to confirm booking with ISE.

**Action - JS**

Preliminary draft agenda tabled by BA and reviewed and amended by Steering Group. One technical presentation fixed as "Timber design to EC5".

**Action - BA**

JS may get "Olympics" speaker, SD may get a ground investigation practical matters speaker. For the practical structural engineering matters a couple of topics were mentioned, mothballed buildings suffering weathering and corrosion, overloading existing foundations during alterations.

**Action - JS, SD**

CP to arrange refreshments.

**Action - CP**

## **ASELB REPORTS**

### **ASELB WEBSITE**

CP to place Spring seminar powerpoint presentations on the site.

**Action - CP**

## **BUILDING REGULATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS**

JP said he has noticed a decline in the standard of submissions for Part A. He highlighted the trend of some computer design programmes that give output information but do not allow access to the input used.

BA advised that his section has reduced staff numbers from 20 to 15 because the current economic downturn has resulted in less construction work being carried out.

## **EUROCODES & STANDARDS**

BA has given an article to Eurocode News, it is in Issue No.8.

## **PRACTICAL STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING MATTERS**

Nothing to add to that discussed earlier.

## **LoTAG**

Next meeting 14th July 2009, BA unable to attend, so any volunteer ?

**Action - All**

## **ISE**

BA has an article printed in Journal.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. SD commented that he felt ISE Journal is slimming down, less job adverts and reduced articles. He also advised of a High Rise building in Birmingham which suffered a partial collapse whilst being de-constructed.
2. BA asked that Steering Group at their next meeting should consider ASELB being more pro-active with SCOSS and CROSS.

## **NEXT STEERING GROUP MEETING**

30th July and 10th September subject to room availability, CP to confirm.  
(Post meeting note – CP has confirmed the room is booked for these two dates).

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Association for Structural Engineers of London Boroughs

**MINUTES OF THE ASELB STEERING GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 30th JULY 2009,  
AT REDBRIDGE COUNCIL OFFICES, LYNTON HOUSE, ILFORD**

**PRESENT**

Barry Ayres	-	L B Bromley (Chairman)
George Furmanski	-	L B Greenwich (Secretary)
Jaspal Sehmi	-	L B Newham (Treasurer)
Colin Palmer	-	L B Redbridge
Steve Davis	-	L B Enfield
John Peck	-	L B Havering

**DOUG PITTAM (Honorary Member)**

Although Steering Group were already aware of his sudden death, BA mentioned Doug's passing and GF confirmed that he had sent a condolences card on behalf of ASELB to Doug's widow.

**MINUTES OF THE STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 28th MAY 2009**

The minutes were agreed and accepted as a correct record.

**MATTERS ARISING**

1. High Rise building collapse in Birmingham – SD tabled and talked through a summary of his discussion with Birmingham City Council.  
It was agreed that SD would draft a letter to Chief Executives regarding this incident for the next meeting. **Action - SD**
2. Pro-activity with SCOSS and CROSS – no specific method/means/vehicle was agreed and BA would give this aspect some further thought by the next meeting. **Action - BA**
3. London's rising water table – Doug Pittam used to be the contact with the Environment Agency so BA has contacted the EA and asked for water abstraction information to be sent to him in future.
4. 2009 Spring seminar draft minutes were reviewed and following one minor correction and addition the draft minutes were approved for issue to members.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

JS reported the following :-

Current Account Balance - On 30th June 2009 (date of last statement) there was £1,947.25 in the bank. Since then £95 has been deposited making the current balance £2,042.25.

2009 Annual subscriptions – Payment from Hillingdon still outstanding, a reminder has been sent to the member.

Invoices were issued to eight Associate Members who attended the 2009 Spring seminar. Payments from Enfield, Haringey and Tower Hamlets are outstanding.

Outstanding Payments due – None.

## **2009 AUTUMN SEMINAR**

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October, JS has booked with ISE.

Second draft agenda tabled by BA and reviewed and agreed by Steering Group. SD and JP to provide their practical structural engineering topics by the next meeting so topics can be indicated on the agenda.

**Action – SD, JP**

Refreshments have been booked by CP.

## **ASELB REPORTS**

### **ASELB WEBSITE**

CP has carried out minor amendments to site. He will put Spring seminar's Steel EC3 presentation onto the site.

**Action – CP**

## **BUILDING REGULATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS**

Building Regulations and Building Control continue to be reviewed by the Government.

## **EUROCODES & STANDARDS**

BA commented that C & LG have indicated revised Part A may not be ready for April 2010, may be October 2010. Draft for comment should be issued.

## **PRACTICAL STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING MATTERS**

Nothing to add to that discussed earlier.

## **LoTAG**

BA was unable to attend the last meeting.

## **ISE**

Nothing to report.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. SD commented on the recent fire in South London block of flats and that it takes an incident like this to focus clients' attention on construction and fire prevention issues that when raised at other times are not acted on.
2. SD informed the group that Enfield have had recent problems with a certain type of expanding bolt fixing. When the torque was checked it had dropped off even to zero in some instances. Enfield engaged Imperial College to undertake testing and a report has been produced. It appears there was no loss of pull-out capacity due to loss of torque but there are still some unanswered questions regarding why and how this has happened.
3. BA has received a communication from the Indian Association of Structural Engineers who suggest linking up with ASELB. BA will contact ISE to find out more about the organisation and if it has links with ISE.  
**Action - BA**
4. ASELB Practical Structural Engineering guidance notes 01 and 02 on freestanding boundary and garden walls – it was agreed to put these guidance notes on the web site.  
**Action - CP**

## **NEXT STEERING GROUP MEETING**

10th September 2009, 1.00pm in Room 76, Lynton House, Ilford.

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**MINUTES OF THE ASELB AUTUMN SEMINAR  
HELD ON FRIDAY 16th OCTOBER 2009  
AT THE INSTITUTION OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS**

**1. PRESENT**

1.2 23 Engineers from the member boroughs, 2 Honorary members, 2 guest speakers. The attendance list is attached.

1.3 Apologies were received from Jaspal Sehmi (Newham), Richard Bradford (Harrow), Ray Aldrich (Barking & Dagenham), Joe Figurado (Hackney), Anne Sexton (Kensington & Chelsea), Ian Robinson (Enfield)).

**2. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING ADDRESS**

2.2 Chairman (Barry Ayres – Bromley) introduced himself and welcomed members, associate members and the guest speakers. He then read through the agenda for the seminar.

Chairman then informed the meeting of the sad news that one of ASELB's Honorary Members, Doug Pittam, passed away on 8th July 2009.

Doug trained as an engineer and joined De Havilland where he designed the launching mechanism for the Blue Streak rocket. He then joined the Greater London Council structural engineering building control group and latterly the structural engineering department at London Borough of Enfield where he worked with Chris Rajaratnam (Honorary Member) and Trevor Pennell (Associate Member).

Doug undertook various projects for ASELB and indeed was a founding member. Amongst his achievements were the publications on the effects of rows of trees on foundations, and the inspection and maintenance of multi-storey car parks. He never stopped working, earlier this year he was involved on the implications of the rising water table under London.

Doug was a great inspiration to all of us and he will be missed by all at ASELB.

**3. MINUTES OF THE SPRING SEMINAR HELD ON 24th APRIL 2009**

3.1 The minutes having been previously issued to all members were taken as read and were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3.2 **Matters Arising :-**

3.2.1 Groundwater level in London –

Chairman advised the meeting he has received from the EA a copy of their report "Management of the London Basin Chalk Aquifer – Status report 2009".

Chairman can e-mail a copy to any member who wishes to have one if they give him their name by the end of the seminar. Steering Group continue to ask EA for

this annual report and monitor closely any threat to foundations of London's buildings.

### 3.2.2. Approved Document A –

At ASELB's 2009 Spring seminar Paula Higgins of Communities and Local Government presented her department's vision of Building Control. Since then the Government's timetable for the revision of AD-A has slipped and it will now not be revised until 2013. The consequences will be that our British Standards will be withdrawn by BSI in March 2010 to be replaced by Eurocodes without them being listed in Part A.

Chairman has spent most of this week liaising with ISE and ICE to lodge ASELB's disappointment and the confusion that will entail in the building engineer profession. He will keep members informed on the ASELB web site, and will send Chief Executives ASELB's advisory letter explaining that Eurocodes will be the national standards in Britain from 1st April 2010.

## 4. FINANCIAL REPORT

Because the Treasurer, Jaspal Sehmi (Newham), was unable to attend this seminar the Secretary, George Furmanski (Greenwich), read out the Treasurer's report as follows :-

### Current Account Balance

On last statement dated 30th September 2009 the bank balance was £2,142.25 credit. Since then £70 has been deposited making the current balance £2,212.25 credit.

### 2009 Annual Subscriptions

All 25 member boroughs have paid the annual subscription for 2009.

### Invoices for 2009 Spring seminar

Payment of £25.00 from Haringey is outstanding.

### Outstanding payments due

There are no outstanding payments to be made at present.

## 5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Steve Davis (Enfield) distributed an ASELB News Bulletin sheet "PSE/NB/01 – Partial collapse of High Rise building" which gives a summary of his discussion with Birmingham City Council about the partial collapse of a 13 storey high LPS building during its demolition.

He reminded members of the BRE document on Large Panel Systems buildings published in 1985 which recommends full structural appraisal of these buildings every 20 years.

## 6. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

**Topic - Meeting Local Authority targets for sustainable design**

**Speaker - Julian Sutherland - Atkins**

The speaker gave an informative and interesting presentation.

The Brundtland Commission defines sustainable development. Human welfare and ecological footprints compared. "Act on CO2" gives details of how to work out your carbon footprint.

Resource critical design mantra

Façade design controls energy performance of buildings, solar orientation is also an important factor. Increase thermal mass and reduce peak demands. Reduce lighting energy.

Low carbon technology, zero carbon design. Renewables cost a lot and give least pay-back.

Need to understand the world of carbon. Carbon conscious building will be more integrated, parts will be doing 3 or 4 things.

Structural Engineers will get involved in discussions about façades, thermal mass, etc. and will be "trading carbon" with the Architect and M&E engineers in the design of buildings.

During the question and answer session which followed the presentation Steve Davis (Enfield) asked the speaker for his view on the BREEAM accreditation. Julian Sutherland considers it is a blunt tool to achieve sustainable buildings. The process does not drive positive inputs into building design and it takes too long. He thinks the BREEAM person should be in the design team, make it a positive process.

Barry Ayres (Bromley) considered that Planners should also be involved in the design process.

**Topic - Practical structural matters**

**Speakers - Steve Davis (Enfield) and John Peck (Havering)**

1. Lengths of walls between buttresses and openings  
(Diagram 15 of Approved Document A).

A blank Diagram 15 was handed out to members to test their knowledge of the various minimum/maximum dimensions for walls, openings, and locations of buttresses.

Answer sheet subsequently handed out.

2. Trussed rafter roof bracing

The rules governing standard trussed rafter roof bracing prescribed in BS5268-3 were handed out and discussed. It should be noted that a trussed rafter roof structure is not a horizontal diaphragm when no plasterboard but suspended ceiling is fixed to the underside.

This may be overlooked because on many projects no one person is responsible for overall stability review/assessment of the building.

3. Foundations – Safety Factors

Copies of the ASELB Information Note "PSE/FOUNDATIONS/01c – Safety Factors" were handed out.

The Note amongst other things includes six examples of increase in foundation bearing pressures under the party wall of a terraced house arising from different alterations on one side and both sides of the wall.

10% increase in bearing pressure without justification is generally accepted by Structural Engineers. However, in many cases this increase is considerably more and the foundation safety factors are much reduced.

**Topic - Timber design to EC5, an overview for designing and checking structural beams**

**Speaker - Keerthi Ranasinghe - TRADA**

The speaker gave an informative overview of beam design using the new design code. He highlighted the similarities between the Eurocode (limit state) and the existing BS 5268-Part 2 (load factor) albeit that many factors in the new code have to be obtained from formulae provided rather than already available in a table as in the current British Standard.

He will e-mail his presentation notes to the Chairman for subsequent placing on the ASELB web site.

#### **7. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS**

Chairman thanked the guest speakers for their excellent presentations. He also thanked the Steering Group members for organising this seminar and thanked all present for attending.

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## **ATTENDANCE LIST**

**ASELB Autumn Seminar on Friday 16th October 2009  
at the Institution of Structural Engineers  
11 Upper Belgrave Street. London SW1**

**BOROUGH****MEMBER / ASSOCIATE MEMBER**

Barnet	-----	Joe Farrell
Bexley	-----	Roy Billings
Bromley	-----	Barry Ayres
Camden	-----	Gana Natkunan
City of London	-----	Mark Pundsack
City of London	-----	Tak Chung (AM)
Croydon	-----	John Waddington
Croydon	-----	Firoz Gangji (AM)
Enfield	-----	Steve Davis
Enfield	-----	Trevor Pennell (AM)
Enfield	-----	Dipak Mehta (AM)
Greenwich	-----	George Furmanski
Haringey	-----	John Yiangou
Haringey	-----	Hewa Hanaray (AM)
Havering	-----	John Peck
Havering	-----	Duncan Groom (AM)
Havering	-----	Marlene Makhoul (AM)
Hillingdon	-----	Peter Hackley
Hounslow	-----	Jayantha Pattapola (AM)
Islington	-----	Pushparajah Jeyakumar (M)
Lewisham	-----	Mike Payami (AM)
Redbridge	-----	Colin Palmer
Waltham Forest	-----	Keith Sellwood
Honorary Member	-----	Manohar Bhavra
Honorary Member	-----	Chris Rajaratnam

**Guest speakers**

Julian Sutherland - Atkins



Keerthi Ranasinghe - TRADA

**MINUTES OF THE ASELB STEERING GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 3rd DECEMBER 2009,  
AT REDBRIDGE COUNCIL OFFICES, LYNTON HOUSE, ILFORD**

**PRESENT**

Barry Ayres - L B Bromley (Chairman)

George Furmanski - L B Greenwich (Secretary)  
Jaspal Sehmi - L B Newham (Treasurer)  
Colin Palmer - L B Redbridge  
John Peck - L B Havering

### **MINUTES OF THE STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 10th SEPTEMBER 2009**

The minutes were agreed and accepted as a correct record.

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

1. London's rising water table – BA has issued copies of the EA report "Management of the London Chalk Aquifer" to the six attendees at the Autumn seminar who requested a copy. CP has put a copy of the report on the web site.
2. SD draft letter to Chief Executives on High Rise buildings still to be presented to Steering Group. **Action - SD**
3. SCOSS and CROSS - BA reported they have a new format web site, improved and streamlined at [www.cross-structural-safety.org](http://www.cross-structural-safety.org). BA asked Steering Group members to visit, view and at the next meeting discuss the site. **Action - All**  
BA has spoken to John Carpenter and BA would like ASELB to be an active CROSS supporter. Steering Group agreed that the type of submission to CROSS would have to be something simple with a short format and easy to use by members.
4. 2009 Autumn seminar – All agreed it was a good seminar with good presentations. BA to chase for a copy of Atkins presentation. GF still to complete the minutes. **Action – BA and GF**

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

JS reported the following :-

Current Account balance - On 30th October 2009 (date of last statement) there was £1,648.15 in the bank. Since then £70 has been deposited making the current balance £1,718.15.

2009 Annual subscriptions – There are no outstanding payments.

2010 Annual subscriptions – Invoices for these have yet to be issued. JS advised Steering Group that the balance in the bank has been steadily reducing and is now just enough to cover all the costs of holding one seminar. He proposed that the 2010 annual subscription should be raised to £80.00 per annum per member borough. The increase to £80.00 was unanimously agreed by the Steering Group members present.

**Action - JS**

Invoices for 2009 Spring seminar – as advised by Haringey, an amended invoice for the £25.00 has been re-issued to Homes for Haringey Ltd and payment is awaited.

Invoices for 2009 Autumn seminar – seven invoices have been issued, Havering (2), Enfield (2), Croydon (1), Haringey (1), and City of London (1).

Outstanding payments due - a revised invoice for the sum of £638.25 is awaited from ISE in connection with the room hire for the Autumn seminar.

#### **2010 SPRING SEMINAR**

Friday 23rd April 2010, JS has booked with ISE.

Draft agenda tabled by BA and reviewed by Steering Group.

SD has previously suggested a few topics which were held over for this seminar.

JS to obtain speakers for the Olympic Site presentation.

**Action – SD, JP, JS**

## **ASELB REPORTS**

### **ASELB WEBSITE**

CP has a few updates to do.

**Action – CP**

## **BUILDING REGULATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS**

Revised Part A – no revision now until 2013.

## **EUROCODES & STANDARDS**

Nothing to report.

## **PRACTICAL STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING MATTERS**

Some possible topics - small diameter piling, site investigation, underpinning, basement design.  
JP to contact SD for items for the Spring seminar.

## **LoTAG**

BA was unable to attend the last meeting.

## **ISE**

Nothing to report.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. BA advised that the LDSA piling guide launch at ISE is due in January 2010.

## **NEXT STEERING GROUP MEETING**

21st January 2010, 1.00pm in Room 76, Lynton House, Ilford.

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