

Countdown to PRECAST2011 May 18, Leicester

Many of you will have received the first two issues of Countdown to PRECAST2011, our newsletter promoting our AGM, awards lunch, exhibition and conference. If you have not received these please email info@britishprecast.org or go to www.britishprecast.org/precast2011 where you can download both copies and register for the day. There is no charge for delegates. We encourage you to bring colleagues, suppliers, specifiers and customers.

We have received a good response to our 2011 Best Practice Awards, which promises a high quality and exciting awards lunch on May 18th, seats are still available from info@britishprecast.org

Welcome to new members

We welcome back into full membership Aggregate Industries, Cemex UK and Creagh Concrete. We welcome for the first time Teifi Concrete Products, Interfuse and S.Morris. Associate membership now features Power Adhesives, Beton Machinery Sales, ConSpare, Future Concrete Solutions, Novacem and Inter-minerals. To all of them we extend a warm welcome and a very long and successful membership.

Cornish Concrete Products achieve ISO:14001 and BES:6001

Cornish Concrete Products (CCP) have become one of British Precast's first SME members to achieve both ISO 14001 and BES 6001 with the help from Environmental Consultants Norman Richards and Trevor Grounds (Picture L to R: Trevor Grounds, Narina Shorland, David Moses, Colin Head and Norman Richards).

Working with Construction Product Certification, CCP have gained independent certification to the Environmental standard ISO 14001, and a "Very Good" rating for the Responsible Sourcing of Materials standard, BES 6001, highlighting their commitment to demonstrating their excellent sustainability credentials and, at the same time, helping architects and specifiers to gain valuable points as part of the Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM requirements.



CCP have now joined the expanding number of British Precast members who have recognised the benefit of independent certification to these prestigious standards and are helping British Precast meet their Target of ensuring that 85% of members' production tonnage is covered by the ISO 14001 standard, by 2012. Please contact British Precast at info@britishprecast.org if you would like further

information on what a company needs to do in order to meet the requirements of the ISO 14001 and BES 6001 standards.

New Rules for Channel Design

Since its invention by Anders Jordahl in 1913, cast-in channel has established itself as one of the most efficient and cost effective methods of achieving fixings into precast concrete. Over the years a small number of channel manufacturers, mostly German, have developed a range of profiles, and in some cases the profiles of different manufacturers are all but indistinguishable from each other. The manufacturers have also developed and published design aids for Engineers to help to select the appropriate channels and tee headed bolts.

Published information has not changed significantly for many years, but this is about to change. Following a ten-year program, the major manufacturers are soon to introduce new design aids based on a completely new testing regime. This approach will allow designers to take full account of such factors as edge distance, cube strength and crack status which were only touched upon before.

A further factor prompting action was the introduction of EN 1992-1-1 (EC2) for the design of concrete structures. This states (clause 2.7) *"The performance of fasteners should comply with the requirements of a CEN Standard or should be demonstrated by a European Technical Approval"*. As there is no CEN Standard for cast-in channels, EC2 thus requires that they must now have formal approval before they can be used, and this approval takes the form of a European Technical Approval (ETA). In simple terms therefore, the use of a channel not having an ETA will not be allowed.

Registered users of Key2concrete will be kept informed of progress.

British Precast and the Mineral Products Association

Following the EGM in December, the Federation has been building on our membership of the MPA and all of our members should be receiving regular news direct from the MPA. All full and associate members are also invited to the MPA General Assembly in London on June 16th.

A full report will appear in the next Newsletter in May.

Government Confirms Fair Payment Requirement

Our sister organization the [NSCC](#) welcomed the announcement from Government that payment within 30 days throughout the supply chain will now be a contractual requirement on central Government contracts.

Mark Prisk MP, Minister for Business and Enterprise, confirmed at the NSCC AGM in November 2010 that the decision to implement 30-day payment periods in the public sector had come as a result of listening to the NSCC Fair Payment Campaign. From December 2010, there will be a common assessment or valuation date for all tiers of the supply chain on central Government contracts and payment must be received down to tier 3 within 30 days of this date. An [Information Note](#) has been issued to all central Government departments outlining the 30-day



requirement and, following the Minister's call for feedback on how it is working in practice, NSCC has set up a confidential feedback service on the newly launched [Fair Payment Campaign website](#).

British Precast members raise the bar on standards, safety and sustainability



On the 10th February British Precast launched a bold initiative to lead the industry to new heights of sustainability, safety and quality performance. From May this year, British Precast will make it mandatory for all members of the UK concrete products trade body to sign up to the British Precast Charter scheme.

This scheme sets out a challenging set of performance targets, which are aimed at improving wellbeing in the industry, reducing carbon dioxide emissions and waste from the £2 billion precast industry. As well as

minimising energy and materials waste, the British Precast Charter mark proves precast companies are striving for the highest standards in health and safety and delivering on quality.

All firms must also commit to the industry's health and safety scheme, Concrete Targets 2015, which aims for a 50% reduction in lost time injuries from 2010 ultimately leading to a zero harm industry. British Precast members will also be expected to achieve a set of internationally agreed quality and management standards and liaise with local communities where they manufacture.

Speaking at the Action Sustainability Conference on Sustainable Procurement at Sainsbury's London HQ on the 10th of February Martin Clarke, Chief Executive of British Precast, said: "We are the only construction products body operating such a scheme anywhere in the world. A lot of other construction sectors have made claims about their environmental credentials, safety and sustainability. We are actually demonstrating that our industry is leading the way with a set of mandatory pledges and collective, measurable targets that are audited for all to see."

Associate News

J & P Expanding

Connection specialists J&P Building Systems Ltd have expanded their facilities in Thame, Oxfordshire. As well as a doubling of the size of the premises, additional staff has been taken on to serve the specialised market that J&P cover.

Technical Director Cliff Billington said "By providing the specialised design service that we do, Customers have a greater confidence in areas that, perhaps, they have not ventured into before. Although we do have a large range of standard items, just having a list of products in a catalogue is no longer the way forward to meet Customers' ever increasing need for maximising efficiency and cost effectiveness. It is much better to develop a bespoke solution that actually fits the project rather

than having to pick the nearest available fit from a catalogue. In addition, both the products and the design methods are becoming ever more sophisticated, requiring in-depth expertise from the onset. The increased sustainability offered by offsite construction methods such as precast concrete is a growing field where skill and efficiency count for more."

New Vidcast from Kodi Corp

The CEO of Kodi Klip Corp. Jon Kodi, will be at PRECAST2011 to launch the revolutionary Kodi Klip reinforcement fastening system with new UK Company LFS Connection Systems, sister company to British Precast Associate Member Lifting & Fixing Solutions. The system will be available from April 2011 and will be officially launched at PRECAST2011 by LFS Connection Systems Directors Brian and Stuart Jones, alongside Jon Kodi himself, who is flying in for the event.

Further details about the system can be found at the following link to their press release for the system: <http://www.britishprecast.org/documents/KodiKlipPressRelease.pdf> or a preview video seen in our Vidcast section <http://www.britishprecast.org/podcasts/kodiklip.php>.

David Zanker retires

We wish David Zanker a long and happy retirement. David stepped down on his 65th birthday on April 4th after 11 years with the Federation. His experience and astute stewardship have been invaluable in delivering value coupled with a high level of service. Financially BPCF has come through the deep part of the recession in a stronger position for his efforts. David was presented with an inscribed watch on behalf of members and staff.



Date for your Diary

7th June 2011 British Precast Annual Golf Day

This year's Annual Golf Day will take place on Tuesday 7th June 2011 at Collingtree Park Golf Course, Northampton. Collingtree Park will host the day for the second year running thanks to a successful day last year. The full day, including a whole day's golf, lunch and evening dinner with prize presentation will cost £65+VAT per person. Our Premium sponsor this year is Precast Construction Technology with CPM Group sponsoring the golf balls. The nearest to the pin and longest drive awards will be sponsored by Lifting and Fixing Solutions and BASF Construction Chemicals.

For further sponsorship opportunities for 2011, or to register intent to field a team, please email info@britishprecast.org. Photos of the last year's event, as well as a full list of winners, can be viewed in the British Precast website members' area.

In memoriam – Alan Tydeman

It was with regret that we had to announce the death of Alan Tydeman on Friday 25th February, aged 71. Alan began his career with Travers Morgan, Consulting Engineers and gained his degree in Structural Engineering. He then moved to another consultant, Kenchington, Little & Partners. In his last two years with them he went to East Pakistan with an Associate Company. In keeping with his nature, Alan decided that he should learn the local language rather than rely on English. After considerable effort he achieved a working ability with Urdu – only to discover that the locals spoke Bengali!

In 1965 Alan returned to the UK and joined Costain to undertake research. He went on to manage their precast works in Hoddesden. It was at Costain's that Alan learned how well runner beans climb up reinforcing rods. They have featured in his garden ever since. Alan joined BPCF on 1st July 1977. He became well respected, not only for his technical ability but also for his perception and keen sense of humour. He always made time to help and support his colleagues with the benefit of his vast industry knowledge.

In 1991, following the difficult effects of that recession, Alan and three colleagues devised a plan for the re-organisation of BPCF. This formed the sound basis from which today's structure has developed. Without the personal leadership qualities and commitment shown by that team, the Federation could not have survived.

Alan retired on 1st July 2002 (exactly 25 years). During this time Alan played a leading role in the development of the Federation and was highly respected for his technical ability throughout the industry and especially in masonry with his work for the CBA, BSI and CEN. His sense of humour was well illustrated in his authorship of the spoof British Standard for Concrete Garden Gnomes. This work will no doubt pass into industry folklore. Alan's contribution to the industry and his considerable achievements were recognised in 2001 when he was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Concrete Society. Alan continued with his committee work on a voluntary basis after his retirement until ill health overtook him.

He will be greatly missed by the many friends he made over the years in Britain and abroad.

16th–17th June – BIM Congress and Exhibition Cannes, France.

S A V E T H E D A T E



We welcome news and views from our readers. Please send to colin.nessfield@britishprecast.org

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British Precast is a member of the Mineral Products Association.