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Apartment Complex, Ostend self cleaning concrete - Deccano

Luccor - light transmitting concrete - Heidelberg Cement

Redevelopment of Highbury Stadium to Apartments by Byrne Bros - CDL
I am pleased to report a successful year for British Precast with a healthy and growing membership attracted by proactive sustainability, safety and marketing programmes. Yet this success is in the face of some real challenges. Some of these are global and at least in the short-term pretty unavoidable, especially the clamour for materials by the Far East economies which is pushing up many of our basic costs.

Nearer home we have unwanted fiscal and regulatory pressures from a Government that seems far too relaxed about the erosion to our manufacturing base in construction products and our raw materials. It would be an enormous national strategic error to become dependent on other countries, even those in Europe, for our materials and finished products. In particular we need strong and competitive domestic cement and steel reinforcement sectors.

In addition there is growing concern at the dwindling reserves of aggregates with planning permission. Without these basic platforms the national economy is at risk so basic is the need for our products. Importing construction products that can better be made here means exporting environmental impact - to deliberately to do so in order to massage UK carbon and other figures is immoral and unacceptable. We will continue to work with the cement, reinforcement and aggregates sectors in the cause of UK plc and most importantly our members.

Welcome to the 2008 Annual Review which reports on progress in the year to April. It has been an eventful year with a market surge in spring 2007 that strained raw materials supply chains followed by the autumn credit crunch in the USA that has had an immediate flattening effect on the UK market. The industry has not experienced such a roller coaster market for many years and the negative knock on effects on the housing, retail and commercial sector are becoming clear. Despite this, the interest in precast concrete solutions continues to grow, as does market share, and there is optimism for the future.

Importantly our safety record continues to improve, with members of our Concrete Targets 2010 scheme reporting a 65% overall improvements in accidents and incidents in seven years. Following our Sustainability White Paper published in May 2007 we have been implementing our timetable stage by stage. We were delighted to launch our Sustainability Charter last November and we are now moving as fast as possible to an established responsibly sourced materials scheme so that our members can conform to the London2012 sustainability commitment and earn credits under The Code for Sustainable Homes.

On behalf of the team at Charles Street I thank our Council and our growing membership for their support during the year. We look forward to strengthening membership benefits over the next 12 months.
The last 12 months have been an exciting time for British Precast, marked by some notable achievements and progress on the sustainability agenda which have received widespread recognition both within the industry and amongst its wider stakeholders.

The year began with the launch of the Sustainability White Paper at the National Conference. This document set out a Council approved programme of measures designed to improve performance across the industry on sustainability, and invited comments on those measures from the industry and its stakeholders. In his presentation at the conference, Dr Peter Bonfield, Managing Director of BRE and Sustainability Advisor to the Olympic Delivery Authority, welcomed the programme, describing it as an exciting step forward for the precast industry. With similar positive support received from a broad range of stakeholders, work on the first two measures in the three year programme began in July 2007.

The first measure was to establish a set of key performance indicators (KPIs) to enable progress across the industry on key sustainability issues to be measured and reported to stakeholders. Indicators for the 2006 calendar year were published in the third ‘Sustainability Matters’ progress report. As this was the first year for which data was collected, only the basic figures could be reported, but these will provide the benchmark against which future performance will be assessed. Their publication marks a significant step forward for the industry.

The second measure was the Sustainability Charter. The objective of the Charter is to engender commitment from member companies to a set of industry-based principles which will contribute to economic viability, social progress and environmental responsibility in the sector. At the launch of the Charter in November 2007, Paul King, Chief Executive of the UK Green Building Council (UKGBC), praised British Precast for the comprehensive range of issues covered in the Charter and encouraged other sectors to adopt similar initiatives. The full list of companies who have already signed the Charter is on our website. Although the commitment is made voluntarily by companies, British Precast will be introducing an audit process during 2008 to ensure that signatory companies are fulfilling the charter.

The next measure in the programme is the development of a third-party certified Product Stewardship scheme for precast producers. This is being undertaken as part of a wider programme of work by the UK Concrete Platform (UKCP) to develop a responsible sourcing scheme for the concrete industry and its component sectors in materials and products. The UKCP brings representative bodies from across the concrete industry together to address a range of key issues, including sustainability. In fact British Precast and its members have been prominent in the work of the Platform’s Sustainable Construction Task Group over the last 12 months.

Another UKCP initiative in which British Precast has been closely involved in the development of a Sustainable Construction Strategy for the UK Cement and Concrete Industry. The Strategy will be launched in autumn 2008 and is expected to be very much about aligning industry action with stakeholder expectations, providing better quality information to decision makers, communicating the industry’s increasing contribution to sustainable development and working with others to help achieve wider sustainable construction objectives. It will complement our own Sector Sustainability Strategy programme with Loughborough University. Ian Holton, the Research Engineer working on the Strategy programme, presented a paper describing our progress at the International conference on ‘Sustainability in the Cement and Concrete Industry’ held in Norway in September 2007. The paper was well received and showed that the UK precast industry is well ahead of many other countries in its approach to sustainability.

Providing support to its members remains a key activity for British Precast. The Sustainability Committee has continued as the main forum through which members can keep up to date with the latest developments in national and international regulations, exchange ideas and discuss solutions. Representation is also provided in a wide range of forums, standards committees and interest groups including the UKCP, UKGBC, CPA Sustainable Construction Committee and BIBM Environmental Commission. In addition, close contact has been maintained with BRE over the last 12 months, as it has continued work to revise the Green Guide.

British Precast continues to provide input to and support the Government’s initiatives on sustainability; a comprehensive formal response was made on behalf of the industry to the BERR Sustainable Construction Strategy consultation, and the Government’s Zero Carbon pledge has been signed, committing us to work with others to ensure that all new homes are built to zero carbon performance standards by 2016. In addition, we are following with interest the development of The Code for Sustainable Buildings through our membership of the UKGBC.

In November 2007, British Precast organised a conference on Sustainable Buildings with the UKGBC. A broad range of speakers presented their views on how to achieve ‘green’ buildings.

DR MILES WATKINS
Aggregate Industries Sustainability Commitee Chairman
Colin Nessfield - Secretary
Health & Safety

British Precast’s Health & Safety Committee members continue to be active, meeting regularly to exchange knowledge and experience and help to improve the overall industry performance in this vitally important area. The committee enjoys support from the HSE, with regular attendance and advice, and from Proskills, the industry sector skills council.

As the Concrete Targets 2010 (CT2010) scheme completed its second year, at the end of 2007, it’s membership has increased both in terms of numbers of companies involved and in the number of employees covered by the scheme, which has risen by almost 40%. The rolling five-year plan for the scheme remains the reduction of RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences) rates by a minimum of 50% whilst moving towards the sector target of zero accidents and injuries. The scheme mirrors industry needs and helps members to mitigate any effects of changes in legislation by advance planning and preparation ahead of its introduction and enforcement. The scheme actively encourages members to share best practice and to make use of HSE targets and initiatives to improve their performance. Statistics received from members show that the precast industry has reduced accidents by 65% since 2000 and is on target to achieve the requirements of the CT2010 industry pledge.

The scheme monitors company statistical performance and encourages company initiatives in the areas of Physical Safety, Occupational Health and Human Factors.

The 2007/8 Annual Health and Safety Award centres around ‘Moving Goods Safely’ and mirrors several active HSE campaigns over the past year, so as to maximise member benefit by targeting active business concerns at the most appropriate moment.

Regular ‘Safety Alerts’ are issued, helping to spread information regarding potential accidents and their prevention, and a new BPCF Health and Safety newsletter is in preparation.

The Precast Flooring Federation has published the latest edition of its ‘Code of practice for the safe erection of precast concrete flooring and associated components’ and the Health & Safety committee continues to maintain close links with this and other groups, including the HSE ‘Revitalising Health and Safety’ network, the ‘C3harge’ program, and wider industry bodies and Health and Safety initiatives. Work is also underway on a UK transport safety initiative that involves many industries, which members have been involved with since its inception.

British Precast signed up to the European Social Dialogue on Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS) and members are starting the first reporting cycle in 2008. Both Interpave and British Precast represent members on an HSE working group on reducing exposure to silica during construction work, with particular emphasis on paving and kerb operations.

DAVID GILBERT
Hanson Building Products
Health & Safety Committee Chairman

Colin Nessfield - Secretary

Copies of the RCS poster can be ordered from British Precast
Marine Operations Centre, Aberdeen
Evans Concrete Products
The design of concrete structures is now covered by Eurocode 2 and a precast design manual was published in 2007 to simplify the transfer to the new code, along with a series of British Precast introductory courses.

In a change in the needs of our members, the focus on standards and codes has shifted during the past year away from construction, product and materials standards, where we do still maintain an active interest in many committees, to concentrate on legislative changes affecting manufacturers predominantly in the area of Sustainability and in Health & Safety.

At national level, introduction of The Code for Sustainable Homes and its supporting regulations and methodologies, continuing developments in Building Regulations and the ongoing and increasing focus on the sustainability credentials of our products has meant that a great deal of effort has been spent on supporting our members in these areas. On the international front, CEN committee work on Sustainable Construction and Environmental Product Declarations is being covered by CEN TC350 and the potential release of dangerous substances work by CEN TC351 is being monitored by the BSI mirror committee B/557 for both of which we maintain regular coverage and attendance at meetings.

In March 2008, following his retirement from Tarmac Topblock, Gerry Pettit joined British Precast as the Technical Programme Manager for the Concrete Block Association. His extensive work in BSI, CEN and ISO committees will continue as before and he will continue to lead the CBA Technical Committee and its technical and research portfolio. He will also assist British Precast on certain non-CBA matters from time to time.

The joint British Precast/Proskills (the precast concrete industry sector skills council) training committee has met several times during the past year and a number of working groups are active. Whilst the committee is active and regular attendance is made by some members, it would be very encouraging to see an increased membership of this committee on behalf of the British Precast members, further details of which can be obtained from Colin Nessfield.

Currently the group is focussing on the development of two NVQs in precasting, with a level two qualification aimed at operator level and an NVQ level three course which, although initially targeting supervisor level, may appeal to a much larger range of potential candidates.

The Precast Flooring Federation has also launched a level two NVQ in the past year, again in partnership with Proskills, creating the ‘National Training Scheme for the Erection of Precast Concrete Flooring and Associated Components’.

Interpave and Interlay are industry supporters of the Hard Landscaping Training Group, which is providing a range of practical courses. www.hardlandscapetraininggroup.co.uk
Coastal Defences and Associated Promenade Works, Cleveleys
SLP Precast
Innovation, according to management guru Peter Drucker, is the one thing every business needs to succeed. It is the necessary ingredient that allows companies to stay relevant by continually creating new products and services. The following section first published in a Construction News supplement focuses on advances in the cement sector.

In short, innovation is the engine that drives corporate growth and is the key to future market share growth for concrete products. British Precast is pleased to host one of only two innovation award competitions in the global sector, Germany being the other.

There is no guaranteed route to success, no step-by-step manual when it comes to creating an innovative organisation. Innovation is less about building a better product than it is about establishing a culture that encourages individuals to think creatively and allows the organization to capture and act on the best ideas. No better example than the Roger Bullivant organisation where Roger himself has led by personal example. We were delighted to present him with the British Precast Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007 for his leadership in innovation.

Is maintaining the pace of innovation more difficult as companies become larger? The answer looking at the UK cement industry is a clear NO. The need for global competitive edge and the integrated approach enabled by downstream investment and global programmes has led to an exciting range of product developments which are bringing considerable benefit and opportunities to UK precast producers and their customers.

CEMEX UK are leading the move to blended cements CEM I and CEM II in the UK, a development that will significantly improve the carbon footprint of concrete products for those precasters that prefer not to blend their own mixes.

Lafarge Cement UK is tapping into the major development programme of their global technical centre in Lyon. Lafarge, with others, has created Ductal, a concrete that bends like metal and which is five times as strong as regular concrete without any reinforcing steel. Now Ductal looks like being used for the first time in the UK to build a new flight of stairs at The Building Centre in London. It should lead to a whole new set of product applications for precast. In Agilia, Lafarge has developed a very reliable self-compacting concrete which does not need vibrating and which produces a very dense high quality concrete already a success with precasters looking for a quieter production environment.

Castle Cement, joined by Hanson as part of the Heidelberg Cement group is reaping the rewards of its international links. Their new TiOcem cement, by adding titanium dioxide to the cement recipe can make a self-cleaning concrete that remains the same colour for centuries. When titanium dioxide absorbs ultraviolet light, it becomes highly reactive and breaks down pollutants that come into contact with the concrete’s surface. The reactive material can kill bacteria and fungi and also break down pollutants such as nitric oxide, sulphur dioxide, and many volatile organic compounds that contribute to concrete’s darkening. We have great hopes also for Luccon, the translucent structural concrete developed by Heidelberg, that has so excited architects and interior designers.

The fourth and smallest UK cement producer is Tarmac – small in cement is a relative term and Tarmac are very active in the innovative development of cement and concrete with a range of new precast concrete product innovations including the Modernahus precast housing system that they are developing for the UK market for Skanska.

British Precast is also working with other organisations on a number of themes; these include current work with the UK Concrete Platform on Materials UK’s development of a governmental Strategic Research Agenda (SRA). European collaboration via BIBM has also been an important area for British Precast, with its knowledge transfer issue management system and liaison with the European Concrete Platform are of particular importance.

During the year there was significant activity by a number of product group associations within British Precast, with PFF reaping the benefits of its hollowcore fire tests and new structural toppings research with Nottingham University. Other associations with current research programmes include Interpave with investigation of jointing sand stability and ACA and SPA with new sustainable development initiatives.
Over 100 delegates attended the annual Concrete Fever conference that took place in May 2007 in Leicester. Attractions included 15 exhibits from Associate Members and an interesting range of speakers including Dr Peter Bonfield – Consultant to the ODA who spoke about procurement for the 2012 Olympics and Professor Arnold Van Acker, now a consultant, with a lifetime contribution to precast design and construction.

The conference was followed by the CT2010 Health and Safety Awards Dinner. The evening was hosted by Robert Llewellyn of Red Dwarf and Scrapheap Challenge fame who presented awards to 16 companies, with 11 receiving the top honours. The event was marked by the inaugural presentation of the ‘Outstanding Contribution to Health & Safety Award’ to Clive Richardson, Hanson Building Products.

We continued to run the ‘Sustainability for the Concrete Producer’ conferences. The series ended the year with ‘Green Buildings – making it happen’, a joint conference with the UK Green Building Council. The event focussed on the intelligent use of materials in the built environment and its role in leading to substantial savings in terms of in-use impacts and benefits to the well-being of occupants. It was followed by the ceremonial signing of the British Precast Sustainability Charter.

British Precast again hosted its annual golf day at Hawkstone Park in June, where over 100 players competed energetically for the prizes. We would like to thank the sponsors for their ongoing support.

The long-awaited Precast Eurocode 2: design manual was among a range of publications produced during a busy year. Other titles included the new Sustainability Matters report, and the well received ‘Building Excellence in Precast’ supplement produced in conjunction with Construction News for Futurebuild. The second in the LBOC series ‘The Little Green Book of Concrete – Sustainable Construction with Precast Concrete’ is published in May 2008. All publications are available on the British Precast website for order or download.

During the year we received significant coverage in the trade press, with a series of pro-active articles.

During all our events last year we have been raising money for Purple Party in aid of Cancer Research UK. We raised over £5,500 for the charity. From April 1st 2007 our charity of the year, as chosen by our President, is Mountain Rescue.
Express by Holiday Inn Hotel, Greenwich
Bell & Webster
The Platform continued to function throughout the year with its five task groups. During the second half of the year the governing bodies of three participating organisations approved a study with a view to merging BCA and TCC into a new enlarged QPA during 2008 to create a single industry body for cement, aggregates, and ready-mix as well as lime, asphalt, mortar, silica sand and slag. In this way they will align their market development and trade association activities and aim to improve external representation, advocacy and market access.

British Precast is monitoring developments on behalf of our members but has no plans to join in the merged body preferring to maintain independence and flexibility at this time. We are keen to help establish a wider representative concrete industry alliance with key organisations such as the other materials and concrete construction bodies and The Concrete Society. We await with interest the Society’s vision for their transition to a Concrete Institute.

The five Chief Executives from QPA, TCC, TCS, BCA and British Precast form the UKCP Industry Management Group which convenes quarterly. The real work is done by five task groups, each of which has agreed terms of reference and deliverables and all are now active.

**SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION TASK GROUP**
British Precast representatives – Ian Holton, Martin Clarke plus members
Chair - Andy Spencer, CEMEX

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING TASK GROUP**
British Precast representative – Colin Nessfield
Chair - Martin Powell, The Concrete Society

**TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS TASK GROUP**
British Precast representatives – Colin Nessfield, Norman Brown
Chair - Dr Andrew Minson, The Concrete Centre

**RESEARCH AND INNOVATION TASK GROUP**
British Precast representatives – Norman Brown, Dr Hafiz Elhag
Chair - Norman Brown

**PUBLIC POLICY TASK GROUP**
British Precast representative – Anita Ladva-Cheung
Chair - Simon van der Byl, QPA

Roger Bullivant collects his ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’ from President David Sarti
In January 2008 BIBM held its first ever European Parliamentary event aimed at MEPs and officials from the Commission. The intent was to present the contribution of precast and masonry to sustainable housing and building design and we hope that our presentations will influence thinking.

British Precast continued to lead within BIBM on several key issues especially the CEN TC350 work on the sustainability aspects of building performance including life cycle analysis. We are also leading on recycling and re-use of precast and the threat from timber. BIBM continues to lead for us on the social dialogue agreement on measurement, control and reduction of respirable crystalline silica which we have signed for the UK and which commenced in April last year. We are also active on CEN TC351 regulated dangerous substances.

Versions of the first ‘Little Book of Concrete’ have appeared on the BIBM website, in Norway and Sweden, and are imminent in Spain and Belgium.

In summer 2007 the BIBM Annual General Assembly took place in Oslo and Svalbard, giving members a unique insight into polar research and climate change.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

We continue to expand our links around the world as and when time has allowed. We believe we have much to gain from stronger international exchange of marketing and technical experiences through email and teleconferencing. Our resources do not allow attendance at the many international conferences and symposia that might be of value – however both Martin Clarke and Norman Brown were pleased to visit South Africa on separate sponsored visits to present papers, John Howe continues to network internationally on paving issues and we are developing a global network on concrete pipes to include the BIBM pipes commission members, Canada, Australia and the USA.

We have submitted papers for the major fib conference in London in 2009. Our two Engineering Doctorate students presented internationally – Ian Abley on vacuum insulated masonry and Ian Holton on the precast sector sustainability programme. Step by step we are bringing international sister organisations in as reciprocal Associate members and believe that this will bring real rewards.
In the garden design sector British Precast members continue to make a major impact with new and varied products. Marshalls plc sponsored the 2007 RHS Chelsea Flower Show as they will in 2008 and 2009, gaining a very high TV, media and professional profile. ‘The Marshalls Sustainability Garden’ designed by their own Scenic Blue team won a Silver Flora medal.

The Bradstone division of Aggregate Industries astonished the commentators by winning the Best Show Garden as well as a Gold Medal. Their ‘600 days with Bradstone’ Garden was designed by Sarah Eberle and feature stunning avante-garde precast concrete features and finishes developed by the experts at Croft. Brett Landscaping and Building Products celebrated their first show garden by winning a Silver Flora medal. Brett are again working with designer Geoffrey Whiten for their 2008 Chelsea garden ‘The Real Life by Brett’. Marshalls 2008 garden ‘The Garden that Kids Really Want’ is designed by Ian Dexter and will be installed by Marshalls Gardens & Driveways. Bradstone are focussing their attention this year on the RHS Hampton Court Palace Show where their show garden entry is ‘The Travellers Garden’.
Projects

Throughout the Annual Review we have featured entries for our 2008 project award, the results of which will be featured in the next Moving the Industry Forward booklet and on the British Precast website.

**CREATIVITY IN CONCRETE**

Our 2008 project award has been moved to coincide with our other awards in May. We launched a new award at the Concrete Society Awards Dinner in November 2007. The British Precast inaugural Creativity in Concrete award was presented to colour concrete sculptor Carole Vincent by Brian Blessed. As well as the trophy Carole was awarded her own personal website as a prize.

[www.carolevincent.net](http://www.carolevincent.net)

Nominations for 2008 are invited.
The Architectural Cladding Association has four member companies who between them provide almost all of the quality precast cladding used in the UK.

- Members of the Association have been working on the European Product Standard, BS EN 14992: 2007 Precast concrete wall elements, which covers cladding and was published in April 2007.
- Two editions of Façade were published with 26,000 copies of each edition distributed in Building magazine.
- The Association website that was updated in the early part of 2007 continues to be a useful reference for consultants requiring information on architectural cladding.
- During 2007 many articles were placed in trade journals promoting the use of the Association member companies’ expertise and this successful promotion will continue during 2008.
- A major activity in 2008 will be developing knowledge at client and specifier levels on the environmental advantages of the use of architectural concrete in façade construction. This will cover the finished construction and the benefits of off-site manufacture.

STEPHEN MADDALENA  
Marble Mosaic - Chairman  
Norman Brown - Secretary

The Aircrete Products Association represents the interests of four members who collectively produce most of the aircrete concrete building products in the UK.

- During the year APA took a strong lead within the MMA/HBF Futures Group set up to consider how best to meet the targets for energy performance and sustainability, particularly those being set by the Government through The Code for Sustainable Homes and Part L of the Building Regulations.
- Increased emphasis is continuing on environmental issues, with current activity focussing on The Code for Sustainable Homes.
- Work continues on the maintenance and development of Robust Details to demonstrate aircrete’s ability to meet the requirements of Part E of the Building Regulations and to increase its scope of application. This included the publication of an approval for an aircrete separating wall to be used in conjunction with a separating floor.
- Development work carried out on thin joint construction of aircrete concrete walls will culminate in a technical publication during the year ahead.
- Close liaison is maintained with the European body, EAACA, and the Association is represented on European standards committees.

MARKETING

- The Marketing Committee, chaired by lan Exall of H+H UK, has been active in promoting the use of members’ products.
The Association's three member companies represent the manufacture of over 90% of the precast concrete culverts installed in the UK.

- With input from the Association's members, the European Standard for box culverts, BS EN 14844, was published in June 2007.
- Work continues on a technical data sheet to be produced in 2008 giving guidance to consultant engineers on the specification and design for durability of box culverts.
- The DVD giving best practice guidance for the installation of box culverts has been well received by contractors and will be made available as a web download during 2008.
- Sustainability issues are being considered. A joint approach with the Concrete Pipeline Systems Association to publish guidance on this topic is planned for 2008.

KEVIN BOURNE
Tarmac Precast Concrete - Chairman
Norman Brown - Secretary

STUART BRITTLE
H+H UK Ltd - Chairman
Norman Brown - Secretary

A press event was held in July to promote the sustainability aspects of using aircrete, and a report entitled Decoding Sustainability will be produced in 2008.

Initiated in 2006, the extremely successful ‘Building Blocks for Life’ advertising campaign with themes of Thermal Performance, Sustainability, Design Flexibility, Fire Resistance, Planning and Management, and Health & Safety was completed in 2007.

An up-to-date email database of nearly 5,000 key decision makers with respect to the use of aircrete products was created during the year.

There was a significant increase in the number of enquiries received from marketing campaigns; these rose from 500 in 2006 to over 1300 during 2007.

The website continues to be a growing medium of communication for specifiers and users of aircrete products.

Support continues for colleges to help address the issue of skill shortages.

Thermalite blocks are helping to meet The Code for Sustainable Homes
Hanson Building Products

Box culverts can be used for a variety of infrastructure projects
The Association represents the interests of 24 manufacturers of aggregate concrete blocks in England and Wales. A further 12 manufacturers are represented by CBA Scotland. There are 11 Associate members in England and Wales and a further ten in Scotland, who are suppliers of materials and services to the industry.

The Association focusses on technical development, supported by marketing activity to ensure effective communication to market influencers and to customers.

- Members and potential members are updated on the Association's current activities by regional meetings.
- The Association supports the activities of the Modern Masonry Alliance campaigns to promote masonry building methods in the face of competition, particularly from timber-frame construction.
- The Association also supports the Better Brickwork Alliance, which has successfully addressed the issue of skill shortages in the construction industry, particularly in relation to bricklaying.
- As part of this activity, member companies support local colleges by supplying material, providing information and expertise, and facilitating visits to factories and sites.

TECHNICAL

- The Technical Committee, chaired by Gerry Pettit, has been active in developing innovation in product utilisation and ensuring the demonstrable compliance of products with changing building regulations and Government-led initiatives.
- An integral part of this work is the agreement of new Robust Details for concrete block construction.
- To ensure that the industry has a significant voice in the formulation of future legislation and directives, the Association is represented on both British and European standards committees.
- Sustainability and environmental issues are increasingly important to the future success of the industry, and significant preparatory work has been done to guide member companies towards achieving sustainability.
- Health and Safety matters are constantly being addressed, and work continues on ensuring safe load security and offloading.
- Participation with the HSE continues with respect to the issue of manual handling of products within the construction industry.

MARKETING

- The Marketing Committee has been active in promoting the use of members' products.
- Technical data sheets and fact sheets have been published to support the work of the Technical Committee.
- Articles published in the trade press to exploit market opportunities have focused on the changes in Building Regulations, in particular Part L, and combating other forms of construction.
- A strong marketing campaign is planned to coincide with the publication of the revised Green Guide, emphasising the environmental profiles and benefits of using concrete aggregate blocks.
- The website is continually updated to provide information to a wide audience and incorporates a U-value calculator to assist builders and specifiers.
- The twice yearly newsletter, CBA Update, continues to keep members informed of technical and promotional issues and activities.

CHRIS HUDSON
Aggregate Industries – Chairman
Norman Brown - Secretary
Gerry Pettit - Technical Programme Manager
The Concrete Pipeline Systems Association has seven Full members and ten Associate members.

- A major initiative during the year was the CPSA’s call in August for a six-point drainage and stormwater action plan. This followed the record-breaking summer of floods and sewerage overflows, and proposed six new measures, including an increase in the capacity of the current sewer network by 50% and in the drainage system by 100%.
- During April 2008 the CPSA contributed to the DEFRA feedback on its Future Water strategy and to its consultation on surface water drainage policy.
- Other activities included CPD certification of the popular ‘Gambling with Drainage’ presentation, offering consultations on a range of issues including the Sewerage Infrastructure Network (SIN) work and the EA Construction Sector Partnership Plan. This presentation proved to be a success among engineers in the wastewater industry, with 30 presentations carried out. The event offers a platform to communicate with a wide range of professionals and practitioners across the water and wastewater community. Other events included participation at IWEX and SED exhibitions.
- The Association has also been working closely with a number of sister organisations over the world, including members of the BIBM Pipe Group and Concrete Pipe Association of Australasia (CPAA). Work on European and national specifications and standards was effective, notably the success made by the UK in maintaining imperial pipe sizes in EN 476.
- The Association will continue to work with BSI and CEN standards committees in the coming period, focussing on the revision of EN 1916/1917, and the possible revision of BS 5911 to align it with the new edition of BS 8500. The modernisation of simplified design load tables in BS 9295 is another major activity for CPSA in the coming year.
- A number of new services were added to the CPSA website, with two online calculators for costing of pipe installation/bedding and for design load calculations. Two issues of Pipelines were produced during the year.
- Following research on the service life of concrete pipes an information sheet was produced.
- The CPSA Health and Safety Working Group was reconvened to help with the production of guidelines for the safe loading and handling of concrete drainage products, and will also discuss different H&S issues and industry requirements.
- CPSA Council has committed to strengthening its team by recruiting a national specification specialist in 2008.

ANDY GORING
Milton Precast - Chairman
Martin Clarke - Secretary
Dr Hafiz Elhag - Technical Support

Hughes Concrete stepped in to help complete T5 drainage
The Concrete Tile Manufacturers Association represents the interests of its five members who produce over 95% of the concrete roof tiles in the UK.

- The Association continues to promote the technical benefits and advantages of precast concrete roof tiles, in particular, the development of the industry’s ‘Zonal Method’, a simplified method for calculating fixing specifications for roof tiles. A user guide is downloadable from the website.

- The Association maintains a very active technical agenda with interests in research, technical publications, health & safety concerns such as respirable crystalline silica, handling and transportation advice, product and installation standards. It works at both British and European level in support of the industry’s aims.

CHRIS MORGAN
Monier – Chairman
Colin Nessfield - Secretary

Interlay remains the only independent trade association for block paving installation contractors, both large and small, and is completing steps to become financially independent of any industry support by the end of 2008.

- Current activities are aimed at heightening awareness of the Association and increasing the membership base, as well as raising the level of service and benefits that members receive.

- The new Interlay website has proved popular and is helping to raise the profile of the Association. It is planned to provide a postcode ‘member search’ web facility during the first half of 2008 and negotiations are underway to provide beneficial rates of business insurance for members, including insurance-backed warranties.

- Talks are underway to provide ‘Trustmark’ registration for members, and it is hope that this will provide further encouragement towards new membership applications.

- The Association continues to work with the Hard Landscape Training Group to provide courses in all aspects of paving and related subjects to members of the Group, of which the Interlay membership represents the largest proportion.

DALE McROBBIE
Tarmac - Chairman
Colin Nessfield - Secretary
Interpave represents the interests of its six members, who produce over 85% of the concrete paving production in the UK.

The Interpave website remains at the heart of the extensive information resource available for free download, and in 2007 focussed on improving and expanding information for designers, specifiers, contractors and others users of precast blocks, flags and kerbs. As part of Interpave’s objective to improve access to information, the web site was re-vamped late in the year to provide a site easier and quicker to navigate.

The number of document downloads recorded in the year, grew from 38,000 to 52,000, an increase of approximately 37% compared with 2006, confirming the importance of this information resource. Documents added to the site during 2007 included:

- ‘Guide to the Design, Construction and Maintenance of Concrete Block Permeable Pavements’. This 5th edition gives guidance on the design of the pavement coupled with advice on the design of the scheme.

- ‘Paving for Rain’. This six-page brochure was produced to complement the detailed design guide that was launched the previous year. It introduces the concept of responsible rain water management around the home.

- ‘Heavy Duty Pavements – The Structural Design of Heavy Duty Pavements for Ports and Other Industries’. The previous versions of this guide are recognised around the world. Interpave retained the services of Visiting Professor, John Knapton, to update this guide, and this 4th edition includes the design of permeable pavements for heavy duty applications.

- ‘Permeable Paving for Adoption’. This is intended for a particularly wide audience including local authority planning, drainage, highways and adoption officers, as well as developers and their consultants. Some local authorities consider SUDS techniques as ‘unusual drainage systems’, raising maintenance issues and are reluctant to adopt these schemes. This publication addresses these issues and provides comprehensive guidance on achieving long-term performance with concrete block permeable paving on all types of development.

- ‘Cutting Paving’. This guidance was produced as part of Interpave’s involvement with the Health & Safety Executive in the ‘Reducing Respiratory Disease’ project.

In addition to increasing the effectiveness of communicating the benefits of concrete paving products Interpave is fully committed to training. It has partnered with CIRIA, Landform and SUDSnet to deliver training to over 300 design professionals on SUDS and permeable pavements; this relationship will continue for 2008.

PETER MORTON
Brett Landscaping and Building Products - Chairman
Colin Nessfield - Secretary
John Howe - General Manager
The Precast Flooring Federation has fourteen full member companies who manufacture the majority of precast hollowcore, beam-and-block, and lattice girder flooring solutions as well as precast stairs and landing units in the UK. There are also nine associate member companies which supply goods and services to the sector.

**MARKETING**

- Work during 2007 will result in an expansion of the campaign to focus on the use of PFF products within the commercial sector. A new roadshow initiative, addressing the main target audiences, is being developed.

- A successful advertising campaign was run to promote the inherent fire resistance of concrete floors in buildings and their ability to prevent the spread of fire. There was considerable coverage of PFF products in housing sector journals and most of the construction press during 2007, with articles covering design, manufacture and applications.

- A direct mail campaign aimed at housebuilders was launched in June and helped remind them of the benefits of using precast floors.

- An updated website has been launched allowing designers and contractors access to a large amount of product information and free downloadable data sheets.

- Efforts will be focussed on ensuring potential customers are aware of the sustainability benefits of using the Federation’s products, building on the encouraging ratings achieved in the 2008 edition of the Green Guide.

**TECHNICAL**

- Work continued on a number of datasheets and technical publications on Parts A, E, and L of the the Building Regulations.

- An updated datasheet on structural toppings and a publication on the environmental performance of concrete floors will be produced during 2008.

- The ‘Dynamic Response’ project carried out by Sheffield University was completed during 2007 and the beneficial results will be published during 2008.

- The industry is reaping the benefits of the hollowcore fire tests, carried out by the University of Manchester in collaboration with BRE in early 2007. It is thought that the full scale tests offer the most detailed results on the ability of hollowcore floors to resist fire.

- The PFF will continue to take part in the development of Eurocodes, EN 1168 (hollowcore products) and revisions throughout 2008 to EN 15037 (beam and block floors). The new precast stairs standard, BS EN 14843, was published in 2007.

**HEALTH & SAFETY**

- During 2007 much of the committee’s work focussed on the new edition of the PFF Code of Practice for the safe erection of precast concrete flooring, which, like previous editions, has been endorsed by the HSE. Following a press launch at the end of February 2008 it is now available as a free download from the website.

- In partnership with Prosksils, the ‘PFF National Precast Flooring Training Scheme’ to cover the safe erection of precast flooring on site has been finalised. The scheme also includes qualifications and an NVQ scheme initiated through West Nottinghamshire College. Member companies have started to ensure that both existing site teams and new recruits benefit from this scheme.

- The Committee is preparing a series of guidance notes regarding rescue procedures that will be available in 2008.

**CHARLES DENMAN**

Hanson Building Products - Chairman
Norman Brown - Secretary
The Structural Precast Association had ten members in 2007, covering general structural uses of precast not specifically dealt with by other product groups.

- The Association has assisted with The Concrete Centre publications on *Crosswall Construction* and *Precast Concrete in Buildings* published during 2007.

- Two issues of SPA News were distributed with The Structural Engineer in 2007, with the second issue benefiting from a greater technical content.

- During 2008 this newsletter will be expanded to cover technical, environmental, and health and safety matters and copies will be inserted into two editions of both *The Structural Engineer* and *Building* magazine.

- The SPA will be assisting with the development during 2008 of a UK version of the European lecture course developed by Professor Arnold van Acker on the design and use of precast structures and components. Professor van Acker presented an overview of his course during last year’s Annual Conference.

- Emphasis will be placed on publicising the increasing use in structures of precast wall panels that has occurred over the past few years.

**GERRY FEenan**
Hanson Building Products - Chairman
Norman Brown - Secretary

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The Association has six members producing a range of bagged construction and decorative aggregates, cementitious mixes and miscellaneous packed products.

- This newly formed Association has continued work to develop industry standards and best practice in sustainability and health & safety.

- Activity on the latter issue led the Association to implement a new bulk bag policy from January 2008. This policy has led to all members switching their aggregate bulk bags to those of tunnel lift to reduce the need for operatives to be standing on the back of vehicles.

- The group is currently looking at a CPPA pallet policy, and holds meetings to help update British Standards.

**Chairman - rotating by meeting**

James Fudge - Secretary

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Safety has been the prime focus of the CPPA in 2007.

St James University Hospital car park - SCC
The role of the Modern Masonry Alliance has continued to grow over the last year as the industry became increasingly aware of the challenges posed by “The Code for Sustainable Homes.”

With alternative methods of construction continuing to take market share from masonry, several of the main corporate investors pledged additional funds to recruit a dedicated Director of the MMA. The aim of the role is to drive forward a campaign to ensure masonry remains the dominant market leader for constructing the fabric of British homes.

Mike Leonard joined the MMA as Director from Laird PLC in January 2008 and brings with him some 28 years of experience in the building materials industry, including long service at Thermalite and Marley. Mike has already devised and gained approval to roll out a hard hitting marketing campaign from May 2008. It is also proposed to develop a Code 4 Masonry Network with the HBF and The Concrete Centre.

Throughout 2007 the MMA has been highly active in pushing forward the case for masonry. This has included investment in research, press briefings, events, presentations, demonstration houses and attendance at Exhibitions.

Ian Abley completed the first year of his MMA sponsored Engineering Doctorate and has, by agreement, taken a year out at Whitbybird to investigate the potential for vacuum insulated masonry. This provides clear evidence of an industry that is seeking innovative ways to improve the performance of its products and we look forward to seeing the outcomes of this work.

In order to monitor the performance of brick and block construction on live sites the MMA forged an agreement with BRE to visit and observe masonry building at the SmartLife project sites in Cambridgeshire. The results of this project are due to be published in the spring of 2008. Member companies have also been active with the Hanson Ecouse, featuring glued masonry panels being constructed at the BRE Innovation Park which was opened by the then Housing Minister in June 2007. Barratt has also constructed The Greenhouse at BRE which uses H+H UK aerated concrete panels and glued blocks and is set to achieve Code Level 6. This project is due for completion shortly and provides further irrefutable evidence that masonry can and will meet the challenges of the future.

In September 2007 the MMA team headed to the far South West to host four days of events at the Radoon Ecouse in Cornwall. Invited guests included architects, house builders and journalists were able to see first hand and hear from a range of experts how this Ecouse performs particularly with regard to minimising the effect of summer overheating. This is likely to be an increasingly important factor given the predictions for rising summer time temperatures between now and 2050.

Working in close collaboration with house builders is a vital part of the on-going strategy for the MMA. During 2007/8 the MMA has forged even closer links with the Home Builders Federation. Through the development of the MMA /HBF Futures Group, which is currently chaired by Cliff Fudge, Technical Director of H+H UK, we have been able to develop practical solutions to meeting Code Levels 3 & 4 and have lobbied government, for a change to the SAP calculations in favour of thermal mass.

Our work with house builders has highlighted the need to provide definitive guidance on how to meet the Code including wall constructions and the U value they will achieve. Through working with The Concrete Centre and the Brick Development Association we have now jointly produced a guide entitled ‘Energy and CO2: Achieving targets with concrete and masonry’. This is now available from the MMA and as a download from The Concrete Centre website.

The MMA team reached out to its target audience through attending several events and exhibitions including the the Chartered Institute of Housing Show in Harrogate in June and the RICS/BMS event in London in October. The MMA also sponsored the HBF Technical Conference in November.

Finally the MMA Yearbook featuring a wealth of useful information and case histories was produced and circulated as an insert in 33,000 copies of Contract Journal.

These are clearly challenging times for the industry and, led by new Director Mike Leonard, we intend to act as a catalyst to galvanise the industry to present a single message. We aim to ensure that the cost and performance benefits of masonry are fully understood, especially in the knowledge that thermal mass can play such a vital role in mitigating summer overheating.

David Szymanski - President
Martin Clarke - Chairman
Mike Leonard - Executive Director
Anita Ladva-Cheung – Marketing & Events Manager
Jennefer Lock - Marketing Officer
Staff

PRODUCT ASSOCIATION STAFFING

Aircrete Products Association
Norman Brown
Loretta Simpson

Architectural Cladding Association
Norman Brown
Janet Hunter

Box Culvert Association
Norman Brown
Gerry Pettit
Loretta Simpson

Concrete Block Association
Norman Brown
Gerry Pettit
Loretta Simpson

Concrete Pipeline Systems Association
Martin Clarke
Hafiz Elhag
Mamta Chudasama
Loretta Simpson
National Specification Manager (Vacancy)

Concrete Sleepers Manufacturers Association
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Janet Hunter

Concrete Tile Manufacturers Association
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Jade Buxton

Construction Packed Products Association
James Fudge

Interlay
Colin Nessfield
Jade Buxton

Interpave
John Howe
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Jade Buxton

Modern Masonry Alliance
Martin Clarke
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Anita Ladva-Cheung
Jennefer Lock

Precast Flooring Federation
Norman Brown
Mamta Chudasama
Janet Hunter

Structural Precast Association
Norman Brown
Janet Hunter

Martin Clarke
Chief Executive
martin.clarke@britishprecast.org

David Zanker
Company Secretary
david.zanker@britishprecast.org

Jade Buxton
Administrative Secretary
jade.buxton@britishprecast.org

Janet Hunter
Administrative Secretary
janet.hunter@britishprecast.org

Pamela Wigham
Membership Secretary
pamela.wigham@britishprecast.org

Jade Buxton
Administrative Secretary
jade.buxton@britishprecast.org

Charlotte Smith
Receptionist
charlotte.smith@britishprecast.org

Christine Giddens
Finance Assistant
christine.giddens@britishprecast.org

Loretta Simpson
Administrative Secretary
lorettasimpson@britishprecast.org

Martin Clarke
Chief Executive
martin.clarke@britishprecast.org

Colin Nessfield
Technical Manager
colin.nessfield@britishprecast.org

James Fudge
Eng Services Co-Ordinator
james.fudge@britishprecast.org

Hafiz Elhag
Technical Executive
hafiz.elhag@britishprecast.org

Norman Brown
Head of Engineering Services
norman.brown@britishprecast.org

Janet Hunter
Administrative Secretary
janet.hunter@britishprecast.org

Pamela Wigham
Membership Secretary
pamela.wigham@britishprecast.org

Norman Richards
Environmental Consultant
norman.richards@britishprecast.org

Anita Ladva-Cheung
Marketing Manager
anita.ladva-cheung@britishprecast.org

Jennefer Lock
Marketing Officer
jennefer.lock@britishprecast.org

Mamta Chudasama
Marketing Assistant
mamta.chudasama@britishprecast.org

Mike Leonard
MMA Director
mike.leonard@modernmasonry.co.uk

Gerry Pettit
CBA Technical Programme Manager
gerry.petit@britishprecast.org

Aircrete Products Association
Norman Brown
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Architectural Cladding Association
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Structural Precast Association
Norman Brown
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Gerry Pettit
CBA Technical Programme Manager
gerry.petit@britishprecast.org

James Fudge
Eng Services Co-Ordinator
james.fudge@britishprecast.org

Hafiz Elhag
Technical Executive
hafiz.elhag@britishprecast.org

Norman Brown
Head of Engineering Services
norman.brown@britishprecast.org

Janet Hunter
Administrative Secretary
janet.hunter@britishprecast.org

Pamela Wigham
Membership Secretary
pamela.wigham@britishprecast.org

Norman Richards
Environmental Consultant
norman.richards@britishprecast.org

Anita Ladva-Cheung
Marketing Manager
anita.ladva-cheung@britishprecast.org

Jennefer Lock
Marketing Officer
jennefer.lock@britishprecast.org

Mamta Chudasama
Marketing Assistant
mamta.chudasama@britishprecast.org

Mike Leonard
MMA Director
mike.leonard@modernmasonry.co.uk

Gerry Pettit
CBA Technical Programme Manager
gerry.petit@britishprecast.org
## Full Members

As at the 31st March 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY TO PRODUCT GROUPS</th>
<th>COMPANY</th>
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* Affiliated Associations - full lists of members are available from info@britishprecast.org

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**British Precast offering offsite advice at Futurebuild 2008**

**Masonry and flooring advice at the National Homebuilding and Renovating Show**
Associate Members

As at the 31st March 2008

Advantage Precast
Aggregate Industries Packed Products
Ainscough Crane Hire
Al-Vac UK
Arcelor Mittal Kent Wire
BASF Construction Chemicals
Berescord's Flooring
Besser GmbH
Beton Form
Beton Machinery Sales
BRC Special Products
British Cement Association
Buildspan
Canadian Precast / Prestressed Concrete Institute
Carrington Wire Cardiff
Castle Cement
Caswick
Cathay Pigments (International)
Chomarat Composites
Christeyns UK
Chryso UK
Civil & Marine
Construction Systems Marketing
Composite
CPI Worldwide
David Ball Group
Doncaster College
Dundee College
Ebauwe Anglagentechnik GMBH
EKC Systems
Elkem Materials
Fosroc UK
Grace Construction Products
Graceland Fixing
GRS Bagging
Halfen Deha
Hanson Packed Products
Hewden Crane Hire
Hickman & Love
Hy-Ten
Inditherm
Instarmac Group
Kingston University

Kuka Automation & Robotics
KVM Industrimaskiner A/S
Lafarge Aggregates
Lafarge Cement UK
Lanxess
Leading Edge Management Consultancy
Lifting & Fixing Solutions
Loughborough University
Lytag
Megasteel
Morris Brothers (Tunstall)
National Precast Concrete Association - USA
National Precast Concrete Association - Australia
Neilssoft
PCE
Peikko UK
Premier Erection Services
Probst Handling & Laying Systems
PUK
Rampf Formen GMBH
Resiblock
Rockwood Pigments
Sika
SKAKO A/S
Skanska Construction UK
Speedwell Reinforcement
Springvale EPS
Tarmac Packed Products
Tecroc Products
Tekla (UK)
Trelleborg Forsheda Pipe Seals
UK CARES
University of Bath - BRE Centre in Innovation Construction Materials
University of Dundee
University of Nottingham
University of Paisley
University of Sheffield - Centre for Cement & Concrete
University of Surrey
University of Teesside
University of the West of England - Bristol
Winn & Coales (Denso)

As at the 31st March 2008

Associate Members exhibiting at the National Precast Conference in May 2007, Halfen-Deha, Buildspan, Beresford’s Flooring
Copies of the 2007 Annual Report and Accounts are available to Full and Associate members from the company secretary.