

THE SURVEY ASSOCIATION
TWENTY SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR 2005
AND ACCOUNTS FOR 2005.

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TWENTY SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL
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1 THE ASSOCIATION

1.1 Introduction

1.2 The Officers of the Association

1.3 The Council

1.4 The Committees of the Council

1.5 Financial Results

2 THE ASSOCIATION'S 2005 ACTIVITIES

2.1 Introduction

2.2 Membership and Internal Affairs Committee

2.3 Public Relations Committee

2.4 Technical Committee

2.5 Finance Committee

THE SURVEY ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS 2005.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - MR S BARNES

VICE-PRESIDENT - MR R MALTBY

OFFICIALS

SECRETARY GENERAL - MR T F DOUGHERTY

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I - The Council, 2005.

APPENDIX II - Committee Structure, 2005.

APPENDIX III - Report and Accounts of the UK Land and Hydrographic Survey Association Ltd for 2005.

TWENTY SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE COUNCIL OF TSA
YEAR 2005.

1 THE ASSOCIATION

1.1 Introduction

The last twelve months has seen the businesses of TSA members continue to prosper, with the membership numbers reaching the magical one hundred. The TSA Quarterly Industry Snapshot Survey (QISS) continued in the same form as before, and more than half of TSA member companies regularly respond to it, allowing the results that it produces to be viewed as representative of business levels and sentiment in the sector. Results of the QISS are published after each survey.

Once again the health of the industry sector is clearly shown by the pressure on places in the TSA training course for technician surveyors. The next courses, numbers 16 & 17 are due to commence shortly. Member companies continue to fill the great majority of the available places, and it appears that this trend will continue in 2006.

During 2005, 6 new member companies were admitted and 2 applications were being considered at the year end.

The major event for TSA in 2005 was the AGM and Discussion Group held at Hellidon Lakes in March. The AGM saw the final duty of John Furniss as President and he was presented with a picture as a gesture of thanks from the Council. The day also included presentations by Ian Beaumont, the TSA lobbyist, and Brian Logan from MAPPS in the United States who informed members of the way the industry is presented to the politicians in the States. The evening ended with a champagne reception courtesy of Alexander Forbes, dinner, an excellent entertainer and a farewell presentation to the retiring Secretary General, Nick Granger.

The October 2005 Discussion Group took place at the Coventry Transport Museum and was attended by over forty members. An interesting day contained presentations on GIS, Geomatics.org, surveying in the Army and financial management.

1.2 The Officers of the Association

At the 2005 Annual General Meeting, Mr Simon Barnes of Plowman Craven & Associates was confirmed as having been elected President by the Council for one year, and Mr Richard Maltby of Maltby Land Surveys Ltd was confirmed as Vice President for one year.

1.3 The Council

Council members at 31 December 2005 are listed at Appendix I.

1.4 The Committees of the Council

Membership of the Committees is shown at Appendix II. Summaries of the work of the Committees are in Section 2 of this Report, along with a brief resume of other activities and developments.

1.5 Financial Results

The Council set itself a budget for 2005 that would produce a small surplus for the year ending in December 2005. However, major Council decisions regarding the future of the association made during the year necessitated the retention of a larger surplus. As a result of this, some of the planned spending was not incurred. More information about this is supplied in the Finance Committee report.

2 THE ASSOCIATION'S ACTIVITIES

2.1 Introduction

All Council members serve on one or other of the four Committees, whose activities are listed below. The Council has adopted a policy of co-opting member company representatives onto Committees to provide a wider spread of expertise to those Committees and to provide a wider range of awareness of TSA activity to member companies.

Thanks are due to all those who have devoted time to Council and Committee activities during 2005. Without this support of the Association by the member companies, there would be no TSA. All member companies are encouraged to have a greater involvement in Association affairs. Everything counts – completing the QISS return, attending meetings, providing feedback to the Secretariat. The closer TSA can come to being able to demonstrate total active involvement of its member companies, the better and more effective the Association can be.

Supplier Members are encouraged to become more involved with sponsorship of events, and thanks go to those members that contributed last year. It is anticipated that in future, further opportunities will be developed to enable the Supplier members to take an even more active role in TSA business.

The coming year will see the introduction of TSA's own Secretariat, an exciting and challenging move for the association to enable it to fulfil its aims and aspirations.

2.2. Membership and Internal Affairs Committee

Part of the remit for the MIA committee is to assess the suitability, both professionally and financially, of new applications to join the Association. A total of 6 new members were accepted during 2005, continuing the growth established in the previous years.

Generic Health & Safety documentation was produced and sold on to members as part of the continuing growth in membership services. Additionally, a new and revised set of Terms & Conditions of Contract were drawn up and are currently awaiting final approval by Council. The Helpline service continues to be used by members and the feedback from those that have utilised this service has been excellent. A credit checking facility is also offered by TSA although this is rarely used by members. MIA would be pleased to hear from members of any other services that would bring benefit to the membership.

The MIA committee is responsible for both the AGM and the Discussion Group and more information is contained on these two events elsewhere in this document. It is hoped that in 2006 a new format for the Discussion Group can be established making it more of an interactive event.

The final item under ongoing consideration is the establishment of a library of jobs to be held by TSA. This is something that has been discussed for many years but it is only in recent years that advances in technology have made it a practical proposition.

2.3 Public Relations Committee

TSA has sought to build upon the success of the lobbying showpiece event last year at the Houses of Parliament and Ian Beaumont was very busy in 2005. He has continued to build TSA's list of key contacts with Government Departments, Ministers and Officials, while at the same time talking to the Environment Agency and Highways Agency and also maintaining TSA's relationship with OS, RICS and ICES. Ian has been working to get funding for the NVQ Level 3 Course and has been liaising with the Department for Education and Science (DfES). Ian has also been in contact with DFID and other Government departments and with regard to progressing the offer of TSA's support with development projects in Africa. TSA is also talking to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) about being consulted/seconded to the Geographical Information Industries Panel.

TSA had a stand, for the first time, at the Association of Science Education National Conference. The stand was shared with Geomatics.org.uk and helped promote their services. TSA was also present at the World of Geomatics exhibition, held at Newbury Racecourse in February and it was a fairly busy two days.

The distribution of TSA Bytes with the May and December/January editions of Civil Engineering Surveyor continues to be very successful, reaching a targeted database of 3,500 with each edition. TSA also takes advertising space in the March, September and November editions plus the ICES Yearbook. A regular article is also written for Geomatics World.

The website is under continuous development and plans are being put in place for expansion and more for both clients and members to benefit from.

2.4 Technical Committee

The Technical committee continued to promote and monitor the training course, the success of which is testament to the dedication of Richard Maltby in particular and the Council in general. To date, most courses have been fully subscribed and non members are now encouraged to join the course, albeit at a premium rate.

The guidance notes on Laser Scanning produced by the Technical committee were made available as a download on the website. The committee decided that this medium was the best way to promote these documents enabling a wider audience to benefit from TSA's experiences. A number of other guidance notes are to be produced in the coming months as the Technical Committee becomes more proactive.

Discussions on the establishment of a set of standards together with proposals for both CPD and benchmarking were carried on throughout the year and will continue into 2006. A briefing note on Flood Mapping is being produced for inclusion in the House Buyers Pack to be introduced in 2007. Additionally, the committee is looking to conduct discussions with external bodies to update standard industry survey specifications to include for the recent changes in technology such as remote sensing and GPS virtual networks

2.5 Finance Committee

The Finance Committee operated as in previous years without formal meetings, but was responsible for setting and monitoring the budget as approved by Council. In July 2005, proposals were put forward by Council to establish TSA's own secretariat service, the announcement for which was made prior to the 2006 AGM. The impact of this change in direction meant that some of the costing plans previously approved at the January Council meeting were put on hold. The financial impact on TSA of employing its own Secretariat was fully examined by Council over a period of months and the decision to go ahead was approved unanimously in January 2006. TSA has now established sufficient reserves to enable this move to take place and to ensure financial security for the association for the foreseeable future.

APPENDIX I

THE COUNCIL: 2005

Mr S J Barnes	-	Plowman Craven & Associates
Mr R A Maltby	-	Maltby Land Surveys Ltd
Mr J Witherden	-	Aworth Land Surveys Ltd
Mr A Rogers	-	APR Services Ltd
Mr L E Neill	-	BKS Surveys Ltd
Mr J B Waterman	-	Cartographical Surveys Ltd
Mr P R Roe	-	Halcrow Survey
Mr J R Furniss	-	Malcolm Hughes Land Surveyors Ltd
Mr N Harvey	-	MET Surveys
Mr A S Thunhurst	-	M J Rees & Co Ltd
Mr R M Stanbridge	-	Photarc Surveys Ltd
Mr R Otto	-	The Severn Partnership Ltd

APPENDIX II

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE: 2005

1. Membership and Internal Affairs

Mr J Witherden (Chairman)
Mr L Neill
Mr J Furniss
Mr R Stanbridge
Miss H Powell

2. Finance

Mr R Stanbridge (Chairman)

3. Public Relations

Mr A Thunhurst (Chairman)
Mr N Harvey
Mr A Rogers
Mr J Waterman
Mr P Grant

4. Technical

Mr P Roe (Chairman)
Mr R Otto
Mr T Burton

Notes:

1. Seconded participants in Committees are:-

Miss Heidi Powell	David Powell Surveys Ltd
Mr P Grant	Halcrow Survey
Mr T Burton	BKS Surveys

2. Simon Barnes and Richard Maltby were not assigned to any specific Committee but split their time between them all.

Committee Terms of Reference

MIA – To consider all membership matters including the recruitment and selection of new members and maintaining standards among existing members. Maintenance and development of services to members. Responsible for the Discussion Group.

FINANCE – Stewardship of TSA finances.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – Responsible for all matters external to the Association, including relations with other organisations, marketing and promotional activity.

TECHNICAL – Responsible for development of advice and guidance on all technical matters relating to surveying or bearing on the survey business, as well as provision of technical advice to external bodies.