

2001

before choosing your instruments," he concluded. "The use of stress cells, for instance, does need improvement but it appears that good and effective data can be obtained, with care."

Other speakers at the seminar talked of the Heathrow Express collapse and aspects of the Jubilee Line Extension and the Heathrow baggage tunnel. However, at discussion time Sir Alan Muir Wood returned to the general topic of instrumentation.

Instrumentation should be kept as simple as possible, he said. "The last thing you want are instruments that give inaccurate readings. You've got to be able to have confidence in your instruments."

In particular, Muir Wood was "very sceptical indeed" about the practical, quantitative use of stress cells. "What we want to know is, is it going to stand up or fall down, and to keep things simple."

Calibration could be little more than "a fudge, to make them (the instruments) fit the data", he added.

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was vital, he said. Management could not be just about keeping to programme and budget.

Grose prefaced his remarks by expressing relief that his firm's findings were similar to those of WS Atkins, working for the Health & Safety Executive. It was only recently that conclusions about the Heathrow failure were becoming less confidential and the findings of others better known.

EAST ANGLIA

28 March: Design of Badingham Bridge, Suffolk. Suffolk College. Alan Thorndyke (01502) 523351.

28 March: Expamet. Oaklands Hotel, Norwich. Contact Tracy Coote (01206) 862222.

30 March: Annual debate: Flooding in East Anglia is inevitable. Marks Tey Hotel, Essex. 12pm. To reserve a table or place contact Eileen Coppick (01245) 437346.



NCE GRADUATE AWARDS: Judges for this year's NCE Graduate Awards faced a tough challenge at the ICE last week choosing a winner from nearly 60 entries. They had already selected seven shortlisted candidates who were invited to Great George Street to present ideas on increasing the popularity of civils university courses.

"It was a hard fought battle as any of the finalists was worthy of winning," said awards secretary David Hayward. But recipients for the top £1,000 prize, and two £500 runners-up awards, will be revealed at tomorrow's

presentation ceremony held appropriately during NCE's Construction Careers Event at London's Paragon Hotel.

All 11 award sponsors put forward judges, pictured, from left to right, front row: Andy Aldred (Morrison Construction); Robert Smith (Hays Montrose); chairman Andrew Wolstenholme (BAA); David Howarth (Railtrack); and Richard Haryott (Ove Arup). Back row: John Mayne (Babtie); Stuart Bell (Marshalls); Jeff Keer (Balfour Beatty); Stuart Wharton (Binnie Black & Veatch); Julien Parrott (ICE); and David Beadman (Bachy Soletanche).

Historic Bridges Awards 2001

ENTRIES ARE invited for the Historic Bridges Awards 2001 which are organised by ICE's Panel for Historic Engineering Works.

The annual competition, which started in 1998, is held to recognise conservation work on historic bridges in England and Wales - particularly schemes

and innovations enabling structures to continue to function as useful pieces of infrastructure with the minimum of intervention.

One of last year's four top award winners - Tickford Bridge at Newport Pagnell - was strengthened almost invisibly and is now able to carry unre-

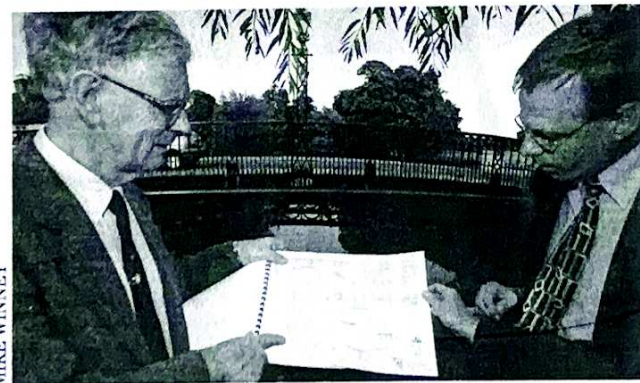
stricted highway traffic over an iron arch cast in 1810.

Sponsors of the awards are British Waterways, CSS the County Surveyors Society, English Heritage and Railtrack, all of whom have important responsibilities in relation to ancient structures. The awards will be presented at the ICE on 15 November by President Mark Whitby.

Anyone involved in commissioning, designing or constructing a maintenance or strengthening project on an historic bridge during the past year is invited to enter the competition. The closing date is 12 April.

Infoplus

For an entry form and further details contact David Greenfield, technical secretary for HBA 2001. Tel: (01823) 277155 or email: david.greenfield@talk21.com or by post to 33 Barrow Drive, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 2UX.



MIKE WINNEY

Judges at Tickford Bridge, one of the Historic Bridge Awards 2000 winners: Professor Roland Paxton, Panel for Historic Engineering Works chairman (left) and Terry Girdler, chief engineer of English Heritage's conservation engineering team.

LONDON

22 March: The UK motorway archive: M1 to M25. ICE. 6:30pm. Meeting followed by a free buffet supper. Contact David Davies (020) 7332 1894.

MIDLANDS

22 March: JCB visit. Rocester, Uttoxeter. 1:30pm. Contact Andrew Shufflebotham (01283) 523502.

NORTH WEST

22 March: Wet and Windy. CUBE, Manchester. 6pm. Contact Ian Grindley (0161) 236 8655.

SOUTH EASTERN

20 March: Creating a strategic transport authority. Clocktower Pavilion, Swanley. 6:30pm. Contact Anne Qualters (020) 8289 6444.

SOUTHERN

28 March: Gatwick surface access strategy. Chichester College. 6:30pm. Contact Matt Lewis (01962) 893178.

WALES

21 March: Cardiff Bay Barrage - geotechnical aspects. Trevithick Building, Cardiff University. 5.30pm. Contact Stuart Barton (01873 855587).