

EABS Newsletter

European Association for Brazing and Soldering

Issue 36

Summer 2007

A message from the Chairman

Since we circulated the Autumn 2006 edition of the Newsletter we have:

1. Receive some interesting statistics from Blackfoot Hosting in regard to the 'hits' being made on the EABS Website. Further details are given later in this Newsletter.
2. Pursued our discussions with two companies concerning the possibility of making joint presentations of Brazing Seminars with them in 2007. In one case the matter was not be pursued to a satisfactory conclusion for reasons that were outside the control of EABS. However in the second case we have reached the point where detailed proposals for the programme were finalised in early December, and the Seminar, which will be primarily concerned with the brazing of aluminium, will take place in Shanghai, China at the premises of Sapa Heat Transfer (Shanghai) Limited between 10th and 12th October 2007. The event has **not** been organised on the basis of a joint programme between EABS and Sapa Heat Transfer, however the Chairman, as the Representative of Delphi Brazing Consultants, has been asked to present several Sessions at the event. Consequently, while the seminar will clearly be a Sapa Heat Transfer event EABS will be represented! Subject to the agreement of Sapa Heat Transfer, a report on the event will be included in the Autumn edition of the Newsletter.
3. Presented the 4th Annual Spring Technical Training Seminar in Maastricht. Full details of this successful event are to be found later in this Newsletter.
4. Completed the final stages of the up grading and revision of the Website in line with the comments made in the Summer 2006 edition. The current situation and forward programme is dealt with later in this Newsletter.
5. Held an Annual General Meeting, the main details of which are summarised later in this Newsletter

Matters related to the website

1. Technical Library

It is not beyond the realms of possibility that all Members will already know what to do to obtain access to the 'Members Area' of the website and know what our 'technical library' contains. However, and thanks to the statistics provided by Blackfoot Hosting, we know that the Newsletter section is one of the most popular parts of the site. Consequently, it is worthwhile summarising the detail here.

It will be recalled that the 'library' initially contained four sections:

1. Technical articles of a general nature
2. Technical articles concerned with low-temperature silver brazing
3. Technical articles concerned with high-temperature brazing
4. Technical articles concerned with the brazing of aluminium.

Toward the end of October 2006 it was clear that we needed to increase the areas to five, and we added 'Brazing undertaken in air'. This was because matters concerning Induction, Resistance, and Flame heating for example, had no 'natural home' in the original four

categories. This has now been resolved, and as a matter of interest the numbers of articles by category is currently as follows:

1. General articles: 15
2. Low-temperature silver brazing: 7
3. High-temperature brazing: 6
4. Aluminium brazing: 1
5. Brazing in air: 11

The technical article that will be found as the final item of this Newsletter will eventually be posted to area 3, increasing the total on file there to 7.

2. Website statistics

The following Table makes interesting reading:

Website Statistics: July '06 to Apr '07

Month	2006						2007				Overall average
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	
Unique Visitors	200	282	240	269	430	357	408	386	405	380	336
No. of visits	287	371	315	406	686	641	539	510	532	520	481
Pages read	676	954	629	1035	1953	1314	1298	1252	1362	1126	1160
Hits	1294	1864	1291	2156	4510	3037	3322	3319	3348	2687	2683

Top 15 countries

USA	USA
EU	EU
GB	Germany
Germany	GB
Netherlands	Netherlands
Australia	Australia
France	France
Sweden	Poland
India	Canada
Canada	China
China	Austria
Turkey	Sweden
Poland	India
Japan	Spain
Singapore	Norway

It is interesting to see how the 'traffic' has built up since hosting of the site was first taken over by Blackfoot at the beginning of July 2006, and, perhaps of more importance to us in the long-term, the countries from where the visitors came!

Clearly, the 'number and location of visitors' is not a parameter that Blackfoot can affect; the important point is that **we** now have an accurate record of what is actually happening in regard to the site. Clearly, there are minor variations month-by-month, but it is clear that the overall trend has been one of gradual improvement. The visits in November and December were certainly driven by the fact of the opening of our library, together with the announcement of the Spring Technical Training Seminar. Likewise, the March 2006 figures reflected the release of information concerning the EABS-Solvay Aluminium Brazing Seminar scheduled for September 2008.

The 'number of unique visitors' at May 31st was 322 while the overall 'hits' total was 2695, a result clearly in line with the usual pattern.

A Report covering the first full year of our use of Blackfoot Hosting will be included in the Autumn 2007 Newsletter.

Spring Technical Training Seminar - Maastricht

This was the fourth year that we have presented the EABS Spring Training Seminar in Maastricht. The dates selected this year were 20th – 22nd March, and unlike previous years where we have used the Novotel Hotel, due to a misunderstanding concerning the dates we changed the venue to the Golden Tulip Apple Park Hotel. This was effected at short notice and the overall efficiency that we enjoyed at such relatively short notice was very satisfactory.

A total of 28 people, this including the four speakers, attended the event. The audience was drawn from 9 countries, (The United Kingdom, Germany, The Czech Republic, Austria, Poland, Hungary, Spain, Sweden, and France).

The programme included a total of five hours of presentations from guest speakers from, respectively SecoWarwick Poland, and Innobrazo GmbH, Germany. The representatives from SecoWarwick gave us all a masterly technical presentation on the finer points of both vacuum-furnace and Continuous conveyor furnace design and operation, while Harald Krappitz, Managing Director of Innobrazo, presented for one and a half hours on the technicalities of filler metal paste production and use, followed by a forty-minute session on the development and mode of use of the family of wear-resistant surfaces that are marketed under the name of 'Brazecoat'. The remainder of the seminar programme was taken up by the presentations that were made by Peter Walter and Phil Roberts.

Perhaps the most satisfactory aspect of the event was the outstanding degree of 'audience input' during the discussion periods that followed each presentation, neither Peter nor Phil can remember a more active group: it was a pleasure to be involved with the whole event.

Peter and Phil were so impressed with the success of the event that we felt that it would be a worthwhile exercise to offer a repeat event in November this year, and so the space has been tentatively reserved at the Golden Tulip Apple Park Hotel, and the Secretariat is currently engaged in finalising the programme. Once all the remaining points have been cleared the programme will be posted to the website, and its details circulated to potential delegates.

It is clear that there *is* a market demand for ***precisely focused technical training seminars on specific aspects of the process***, and it is this format that EABS will continue to promote.

Annual General Meeting

This was held at the Offices of Kepston Limited on 30th May

It is by exception that the AGM covered the two-year period of 1st April 2005 – 31st March 2007 rather than just one! This was as a result of it being impossible to hold an AGM earlier than 30th May 2007. The dates originally scheduled for the late autumn of 2006 had to be shelved due to the indisposition of The Secretary due to illness, a situation which the Committee are very happy to confirm is now resolved.

1. Reports

- a. During the period under review we have improved our financial performance and our income exceeded expenditure. Clearly this is very satisfactory, and arose from the income of three very successful technical training seminars in Europe.
- b. We have pursued our activities in respect of both training and specific consultancy projects. As with all such consultancy work the information involved remains confidential between the EABS consultants and the companies involved.
- c. Discussions with a number of supplier companies concerning the possibility of EABS presenting joint technical training with them were initiated, and as mentioned earlier both **Seco-Warwick, Poland, and Innobrazo GmbH** presented Papers at the Spring

Seminar in Maastricht in March 2007. The presentations were, as anticipated, of a high degree of excellence

- d. **Sapa heat Transfer:** The situation here is that over the past five years a total of ten people, both Swedish and Chinese and employees of the Sapa Group, have attended the EABS-Solvay Aluminium Brazing Seminars. Various discussions were held with them concerning, initially, the possibility of presenting an 'in-house' seminar in Sweden. For a variety of reasons this idea was abandoned, but Sapa are presenting an Aluminium Brazing Seminar for their customers in the Far East in October 2007 close to their factory in Shanghai. This will be to an invited audience, and they have asked six acknowledged 'experts' from Sweden, Canada, the USA, and Europe with expertise in various aspects of brazing technology to present papers on specific topics. The Chairman was very pleased to be asked to cover all of the fundamental brazing topics that are not specifically restricted to aluminium brazing but are important in the context of the overall technology. While it will not be an EABS event, at least we will have a presence at this important seminar.
- e. We have 'pencilled in' another seminar in Maastricht for mid-November.
- f. The 7th Annual joint EABS-Solvay seminar will be presented in Hanover in September 2007 and we plan that the programme for Seminars that we followed in 2007 will be repeated in 2008.
- g. The Management Committee did not meet during the period under review, but conducted their business via e-mail. This proved to be very effective, and the concept will be expanded into other areas.
- h. The website was revised and up-dated in July 2006 and its hosting was transferred to Blackfoot.(See earlier)
- i. There were no capital costs incurred by EABS in the period
- j. The average of travel and communications costs in the two-year period were lower than those incurred in 2004 – 2005)
- k. Since the Secretariat uses electronic communication methods rather than direct mail whenever possible, this has meant that our postage costs are now negligible.
- l. Since the Committee now operates via 'electronic meetings' the venue costs for Committee Meetings, no longer arise.

All in all, I hope you will agree that the past two years can be regarded as being satisfactory!

2. Management Committee

At this AGM it was necessary for all Officers and Committee Members to resign and seek re-election if they so wished. With no proposals for new Committee Members having been received from the Membership as a whole the existing Committee was re-elected together with the Chairman and the Honorary Secretary.

3. The website

If you do not already regularly visit the site The Secretariat would suggest that you do so in order to keep abreast of the notices that are posted there. The site address is:

[http:// www.brazingandsoldering.org](http://www.brazingandsoldering.org)

Finally, The Management Committee asked The Secretariat, via the next Newsletter, to thank all members for the support that they have provided to the Association during the past two-year period. It is comforting to know that 'out there' are a dedicated group of people who are actively interested in the promotion of 'best practice' brazing. We look forward to continuing to serve you during the remainder of the current year and beyond.

Vacuum brazing: how to carry out *really useful* furnace temperature surveys.

By Peter Walter

To many users of a vacuum brazing furnace a temperature survey is either simply a chore they (or work colleagues) have to carry out or something they never have to bother with. However in the absence of such a programme, both groups may be the worse off!.....etc.

*The remainder of this article has been filed as **Doc 3.4** in the 'Members Area' of this website*