

Brice-Baker Tunnel Division



Brice-Baker is not usually associated with large civil engineering projects, but when the Backwell Common Light Railway looked for a supplier of steelwork for a new tunnel project, the company beat off international competition with an innovative design.

The 1800mm bore tunnel, which runs a full 8m under the Somerset countryside, was formed using "cut and cover" construction, utilising Brice-Baker corrugated silo wall sheets as the tunnel liner. The design brief specified a degree of curvature, which was achieved by tapered joint sleeves between the rings. The track through the tunnel is laid on a conventional ballast system inside the tube.

The 5" gauge railway was constructed by an enthusiast, who has turned a 1 hectare paddock into a miniature

landscaped railway complex, planting 400 trees, digging lakes and laying over 500m of track. There are currently two locomotives: a poly V 0-6-0 steam engine and an electric Y4 tram engine with a second steam engine and an electric locomotive under construction.

The project was completed on time, to budget, and whilst accepting all things are relative, we consider that, in commercial terms, this tunnel is more successful than the Channel Tunnel and in structural terms, more successful than the Tesco tunnel at Gerrards Cross.



Team News

Lisa Barker

Moving from Hanson Building Products, Lisa joined Brice-Baker in November 2004 as Accounts Assistant. Lisa is 26 years old with a daughter Yazmin and is expecting a second child in the near future. Best wishes to Lisa and we look forward to her return from maternity leave in the New Year.

Lee Wilson

Lee joined us in June 2005 as Project Assistant and has become established as a valued member of the team. Lee previously worked for Weir Pumps in Manchester where he gained seven year's experience in Engineering and Technical Drawing. Aged 24, Lee moved to Northampton to live with his partner and in June 2006 became a father for the first time following the birth of his son Jamie.

Bob Wayne

Bob joined Brice-Baker & Co Ltd in September 1986 as Technical Manager of the UK agricultural division, later becoming a Director. Bob reached retirement age in June 2006 and left the company at the end of September 2006 following a retirement dinner held in the marquee at Wyboston. We thank Bob for his twenty years valued service and wish him a long and happy retirement.

Wayne Tobin

Wayne was appointed Technical Sales Manager following Bob's retirement and will also continue his duties as an Area Sales Manager, based at Wyboston. Wayne is aged 49 and joined Brice-Baker in September 1991 so is well known to our UK customers and has an extensive knowledge of Brice-Baker products.

ISO 9001 and Investors in People Award

During 2006 Brice-Baker Silos Ltd qualified for the above awards, which reflect our commitment to customers and staff. On 27 September 2006 at the Bob Wayne retirement dinner, Mr Platen Dimitrov, Head of the Commercial and Economic Section at the Bulgarian Embassy in London, presented both awards to Steve Morgan, Sales Director of the Brice-Baker Group. Congratulations to the staff involved in the process, particularly Tina Hurman, David Elliott and Corinne Staniforth.

Despite the long and involved process of achieving these awards, we are very proud to have gained them both and consider this as a reflection of our commitment to our staff and our customers, which ultimately means to our business as a whole!



BRICE-BAKER GROUP

BULLETIN

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HaBeMa Hamburg

New Silo Plant for a Grain Handling and Storage Depot

Brice-Baker won a major contract in 2005 with HaBeMa GmbH, Germany to supply the first steel silos on this site: 4 x E20/25/R flat bottom silos with a total storage volume of 40,000m³ for the provision of a handling depot and storage facilities for grain, maize and rape seed. The silos are over 35.0m high and are the tallest silos ever produced by Brice-Baker, confirming our ability to meet our customers' needs with in-house, structural engineering capability. Managed by our Markus Seifert, the project involved 22 trucks delivering goods over a 9 week period, commencing at the end of May 2005.

HeBeMa is a very efficient service organisation operating in the North German animal feed preparation market. Located in the industrial port of Hamburg, HaBeMa has good access to the world agricultural markets utilising sea, canal, rail and road connections. HaBeMa and four other companies provide a total silo capacity of 800,000t and are at the forefront of the north European ports as handling depots and storage providers for grain, oil seeds and animal feeds.



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First Industrial Conveyors Sold in the UK

Brice-Baker received its first orders in June 2006 for the supply of industrial chain conveyors to Whyte & Mackay, Invergordon and Farmway, Piercebridge.

The conveyors manufactured by Schmidt-Seeger AG Germany met the requirements of the clients, who insisted on high quality machines with proven reliability to work long-term in intensive duty applications.



Brice-Baker has collaborated with Schmidt-Seeger for many years on mainland Europe and is now actively offering the UK industrial market a range of conveying, cleaning and storage equipment built to the highest standards demanded by such customers.

PREISS – SALDUS LABIBA

Following an initial enquiry in May 2003, Brice-Baker, in collaboration with their contractor customer SIA Preiss, successfully completed a major 30,000 tonne intake, cleaning, drying and storage extension facility for A/S Saldus Labiba, Latvia in readiness for the 2005 harvest.

Brice-Baker supplied 10 flat bottom silos of 3100 tonnes capacity each, 8 hopper bottom silos of 365 tonnes capacity each, plus truck, train and cleaner trash bulk unloading hoppers, together with an extensive catwalk and silo access system, temperature monitoring, ventilation and silo discharge systems.

The success of the project involved close collaboration between Brice-Baker, SIA Preiss and Crocus of Denmark, the supplier of the mechanical handling equipment.

Due to the success of the project, Saldus Labiba has subsequently received a number of enquiries from third parties interested in co-operative ventures.



Sun Shines on Bespoke De-Hulling Plant

In 2001 Brice-Baker were approached to design, supply and install a sunflower de-hulling facility in the UK.

In 2004, after extensive research including overseas visits to potential suppliers, a specification for the plant was finalised and budgets agreed. The plant was designed to fit into an existing building utilising existing intake and pre-cleaning equipment, thereby significantly enhancing this extensive production and packing facility in the UK.

After the sunflowers are graded, impact hullers remove the shells. ¹

A full cleaning and grading programme is undertaken to separate out shells from seeds and un-hulled material. Extensive use of reciprocating cleaners, air sifting and gravity tables ensure an even grade of product. The main grades are further cleaned and sorted to market standards. ²

The complex trash handling system ensures thorough cleaning standards are maintained. Trash is transferred via high capacity lines to specially commissioned high volume trailers for removal from site. ³

The customised control system has been designed to maximise motor efficiency and reduce overall power consumption. The control system

allows flexible use of the plant whilst maintaining a watch over critical areas of the material flow. Brice-Baker's flexible approach has enabled the most efficient machines to be sourced and supplied for each stage of the process. Careful consideration of the material flow and product segregation, together with our design detailing, allowed the project to be installed to the customers own exacting standards. ⁴



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