

From the Archives

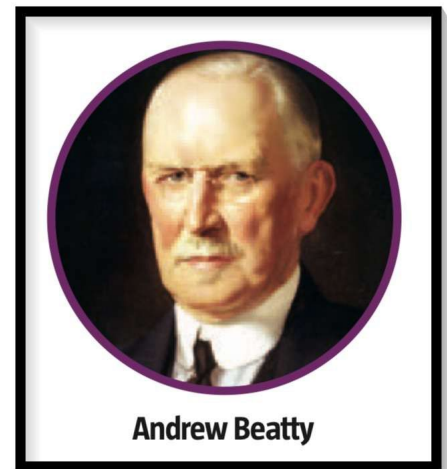
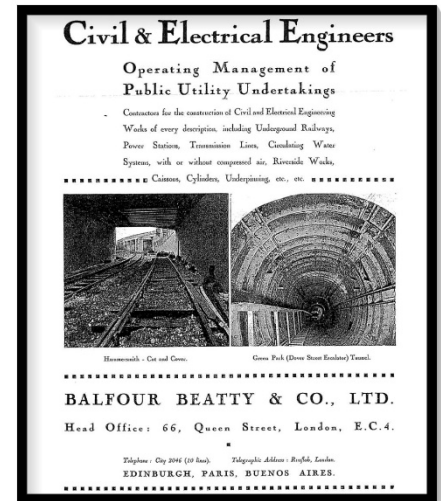
Andrew Henry Beatty – co-founder of Balfour Beatty

Balfour Beatty is a global company involved in major infrastructure projects around the world. According to *Graces Guide* - the acknowledged source of British Industrial History, it was established in 1909 by Andrew Henry Beatty and George Balfour with the main object of carrying out the construction of electric supply and allied undertakings.

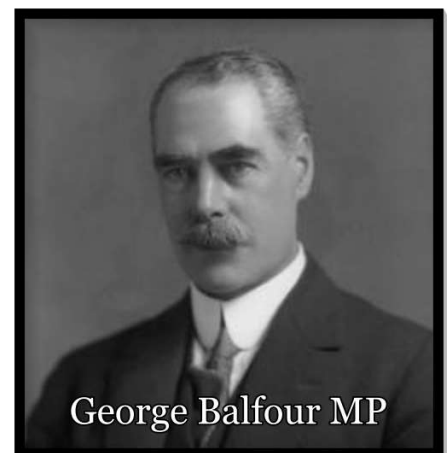
They had met working together for an electric tramway business, JG White. They had both recognised that tramways were generating their own electricity supplies to run the trams and could apply the same principle to make local electricity supply viable for the whole population. The plan was to provide financial and technical management for similar tramway projects. They received their first commission of £5,000 (equivalent to approximately £315,000 in today's money) to take over the operation of tramways at Dartford in Kent and Luton in Bedfordshire. This was shortly followed by taking on the extension of another tramway in Dunfermline for a contract worth £141,450 (approx. £9.6m today).

Sticking to their original plan of providing finance and management electricity projects, by 1912 they had set up a huge midland's electricity supply group as well as a series of tramways. By 1914, the company had 50 permanent electrical engineers, contractors, and managers. The Great War in 1914 checked the development and expansion of their business in the field of electrical engineering as their staff left to join the army. Their contracting experience however was proving to be highly valuable for the war effort with the building of army camps including a vast one at Ripon. This was closely followed by the construction of an 8km long pipeline aqueduct to bring water to boost hydro power to the British Aluminium Company's factory at Kinlochleven in the Scottish Highlands. These projects marked the first steps taken by the company into the world of heavy civil engineering. At the end of the First World War, the Co-Founder of the business George Balfour was elected to the House of Commons in 1918 and played a large part in the debates which established the National Grid now recognised as the high voltage electric power transmission network serving Great Britain connecting power stations and major substations ensuring that electricity generated anywhere on it can be used to satisfy the demand elsewhere.

To fulfil this opportunity and to service this new market from its origins in Scottish hydropower, George Balfour, Andrew Beatty and others formed Power Securities Ltd in 1922. George Balfour was Chairman of the newly formed Company with Andrew Henry Beatty and William Shearer as Managing Directors. Balfour was also able to combine his business interests with politics as Unionist MP for Hampstead from 1918 till the end of his life.



Andrew Beatty



George Balfour MP

4219.
Date received
Date paid 25/1/23.
1922.
ELECTED
31 JAN 1923

CANDIDATE'S FORM.

Full Name of Candidate *Andrew Henry Beatty*
 Address *Chelwood House, 56 Putney Hill, S.W.*
 Profession, Business or Occupation *Managing Director
Balfour Beatty Co. Ltd
Impulse Ltd
66 Grosvenor St. E.C.*
 Name of Banker _____
 Branch _____
 Clubs of which a Member *Junior Carlton, British Empire
and various Golf Clubs*
 Role - Player or ordinary Member *Ordinary*
 I wish to play Golf *Yes* H.P. *9 at most Clubs
4 at North Foreland*
 Lawn Tennis _____
 Proposed by *John Bowie*
 Seconded by *Herbert Barclay Brown
T. H. Carlton Esq. C. Sheriff Hillton*

Shortly after his appointment as Managing Director, Andrew Henry Beatty applied to join Roehampton Club to play golf and was elected in January 1923. He was living at the time at 56 Putney Hill. He was also a member of the Junior Carlton Club, the British Empire Club and various golf clubs including North Foreland Golf Club on the picturesque Kent Coast where he enjoyed a handicap of 7. Beatty was also able to combine his time at the Club with another significant project for his business in 1926 with a £2.5m commission for a hydro-electric power scheme. This required a 15-mile tunnel passing under Ben Nevis – the highest mountain in the British Isles situated at the western end of the Grampian Mountains in the Scottish Highlands only a short distance from the coastal town of Fort William. From these early beginnings, and the significant contributions from its founders, the company expanded outside of the UK in 1924 with its first overseas venture.

It went on to supply electricity to Jerusalem and Bethlehem, building tramways in Buenos Aires and most notably building the enormous Kut barrage irrigation scheme in Iraq to control the waters of the Tigris and Euphrates. Balfour Beatty remains a major international UK based construction company employing more than 23,340 people with a turnover of £14.3Bn in 2019.



Steve Riedlinger, Club Archivist