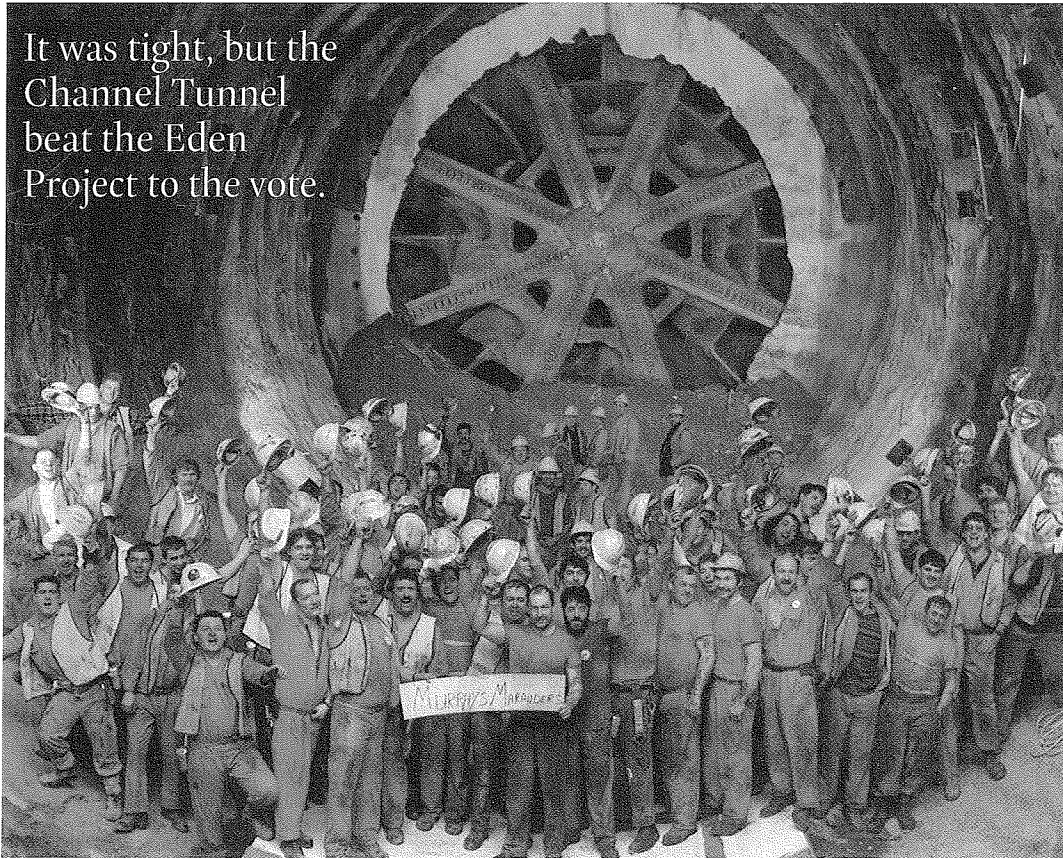


# Channel Tunnel triumphs

It was tight, but the Channel Tunnel beat the Eden Project to the vote.



**Hurray:** Channel Tunnel scooped the NCE readers award for best construction project of the past 20 years

By Mark Hansford

NCE's readers have voted the Channel Tunnel the best construction project of the past 20 years, beating the Eden Project by just 200 votes.

Despite a flurry of voting in the last seven days the Eden Project

was unable to overhaul the Channel Tunnel's slender 300 vote lead, allowing the Channel Tunnel to scrape home.

The two finalists in NCE's 13-week long quest, received 4,000 votes, with 500 coming in the last day of voting.

In total, more than 6,000 votes were cast, with the Second Severn Crossing coming home third, the

Channel Tunnel Rail Link – now re-branded High Speed 1 – fourth and the Jubilee Line Extension fifth.

NCE has been running the poll to mark the 20th anniversary of the British Construction Industry Awards which will see the best projects of the past two decades honoured with a special award at the gala awards dinner in London on 10 October.

Eleven eminent judges representing the cream of the construction industry will pick the official winners (one civil engineering project and one building project) from a shortlist of 13.

Over the past 13 weeks NCE's readers have been trying to influence the judges' choices by voting for your favourite.

The Channel Tunnel is a truly worthy winner of the award; as the realisation of a 200-year dream to connect England with France it was clearly civil engineering achievement of historic proportions. Its achievements include a 50km triple bore tunnel, 39 km of which is under sea, making it the longest undersea tunnel in the world.

It won a BCIA Special Award in 1994 "for an outstanding feat of civil engineering".

The Eden Project was the BCIA major project winner in 2001. A £57M visionary project transformed a disused china clay pit in Cornwall into the world's biggest greenhouse. The Eden Project has subsequently been further extended and has become one of the UK's best-known attractions.

The project is instantly recognisable by its distinctive biome structures – the tallest at 55m high – comprising steel space frames and ethyltetrafluoroethylene (ETFE) foil glazing.

● **Be a part of the celebrations by taking a table at the gala dinner. Contact David Helsen on (020) 8786 6699. NCE will reveal if the popular choice has carried the day next week.**

## the week

The week ahead compiled by **Mark Hansford**

### Saturday 6 October **Rugby World Cup Live**

So it's down to Scotland and England to keep British hopes alive. Both go into their games against Argentina and Australia as serious underdogs, but both will fancy their chances. It's England this afternoon and Scotland tomorrow evening. In between these matches, France will face New Zealand, and South Africa walks over in Fiji in the other quarter finals.

**ITV1, 1.10pm/7.45pm**

### Sunday **Top Gear**

The boys are back and showing no sign of pandering to the environmentalists. They kick off with a quest to find the world's best road. I doubt the M6 will qualify.

**BBC2, 8pm**

### Monday **Windscale: Britain's Biggest Nuclear Disaster**

As we as a nation stand on the precipice of a new era of nuclear

power, a stark reminder of what can happen when things go wrong. Archive footage and interviews are used to piece together the events that led to a potentially catastrophic fire.

**BBC2, 9pm**

### Wednesday **Cities of the Underworld**

A new series begins, probing the secrets hidden below modern day Istanbul, including an AD600 basilica.

**History Channel, 9pm**