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## On the cover:

On the cover: A Manitou MRT 2540 telehandler on hire from Easi UpLifts placing materials on an Ocon Construction site in Manchester.



# C & a contents

Comment 5

News 6

IPAF Summit 45

17

Telehandlers



25

Van mounts



33

Trailer cranes



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Tower crane safety forum reports, Maxim acquired, Tanfield to supply Manitou with platforms, new 150 tonne taxi crane from Liebherr, Terex buys into the underbridge market, Skyjack completes Volvo/Ingersoll Rand deal, AFI opens in Romania, Everest windows fined £22,000, Russon and Manitou part company, World's largest crane christened, Fraud charges filed against Milne, Bobcat opens UK store, First quarter results round up, HUNE goes international.

Telehandlers 17

The growth of telehandlers has continued to gather pace. Compact models are now more prevalent and gaining in popularity, several new manufacturers have entered the market and products are being further refined. We particularly take a close look at the compact machines.



Van mounts 25

After rather a flat year or two, van mounted platform sales appear to have bounced right back as new trades discover the benefits of having a dedicated aerial lift on board. Here we review the most recent product additions and developments.

Trailer cranes 33

Trailer cranes are just starting to be seen on UK construction sites. But can crane rental companies and end users see past the image of a simple, cost-effective machine? We look at the benefits of using these lightweight lifting tools and highlight the products available.

SED Stop Press 40/41



A quick round-up of the late entries and highlights from manufacturers attending the show at Rockingham.

Vertikal Days 40/41

Vertikal Days - the event for the lifting industry at Haydock Park - is shaping up to be a major event in the UK calendar. Here we take a preliminary look at what will be on show so make sure you register soon.



This year the IPAF Annual General Meeting and Summit coincided with the Federation's 25th anniversary, a milestone celebrated by the reception and dinner. In a five page special, we provide a tongue-in-cheek taste of the day's events which attracted a record attendance.

Bike build-off 51

As well as the usual array of new cranes, access and telehandler equipment at the recent Conexpo show in Las Vegas, several manufacturers were using custom bikes to attract visitors to their stands. Mark Darwin, a Harley fan marvels at two of the best.



## regulars

Innovations 53

PASMA focus 55

ALLMI focus 57

Training 59

IPAF focus 61

Ladder Association 62

Books & Models 63

Your letters 64

On-Line directory 66

What's on? 68

In the next C&A

The June/July issue will feature: Plant shutdown, the annual UK/Ireland dealer guide, Industrial access, Pick and carry cranes, Vertikal Days and SED review

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# cranes & access

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**c&a**  
comment



## Taking responsibility

Those of us in the crane, platform and telehandler industry are familiar with responsibility. Manufacturers have the responsibility to design and build

products that are safe - particularly mobile lifting equipment where failure can cause mass fatalities not only to those working alongside but also innocent bystanders.

Those who rent out equipment take responsibility for selecting good quality equipment and making sure it is well maintained and regularly inspected to prevent wear and tear resulting in a catastrophe. The end-user takes responsibility for choosing a machine matched to the task at hand and ensuring the operator or user is competent. Increasingly this means a person who has received some formal, certified training. So far, everyone is treated as an adult and is expected to assume their responsibilities. However, from here things begin to break down.

If the user/operator is an employee, the law treats him as if he were back at school - junior school - and as a result many behave that way. All too often we hear of court cases where an employer is penalised for not ensuring that little Johnny, aged 41, did not stand on a chair/balanced on a wonky table, in order to replace a light bulb; or for allowing young Tommy, 56, to operate his crane without using the outrigger mats supplied.

Now don't get me wrong, there are employers out there who cut corners and fail to supply the proper equipment. They deserve to be punished severely. But little Johnny could also say: "Hang on a minute! I need a ladder." Surely the employee must bear some responsibility. After all, he crosses the road each day without conducting a risk assessment.

This is particularly true when the employer has purchased appropriate equipment and sent Tommy or Johnny on training courses on how to use it safely. If they have then been too lazy to fetch the ladder or use the outrigger mats, shouldn't they be fully or at least partially responsible? Instead we see judgements saying employees should have been supervised and stopped from doing stupid things. Well, I'm sorry, but school ends at 18 for most of us.

If employees were made to take their share of the responsibility and the HSE dropped the pointless blame-and-sue mentality for one that seeks to learn from accidents and publicise the findings within weeks or even months, then the world would be an even safer place to work.

Mark Darwin

*All power to the judge at Worcester Crown Court - see page 59 - who fined an operator for endangering his colleagues: Ed*

*Please mail, email or fax any comments you may have, to the editor, stating if we may publish them or not.*

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