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On the cover:

The latest San Marco 45N self erector crane which has the option of a cab, seen here at SAIE 2008 in Bologna, where it was unveiled.



Comment 5
News 6

HSE will not prosecute over Liverpool tower crane accident, Nationwide Platforms is born, Two big Liebherr cranes for Fagioli, Iteco appoints Russon Access, Hewden announces new regional structure, Sennebogen and Holland Lift open new facilities, Third quarter financials round-up, Access Link expands, IPS opens in Spain, Defeo and Bamford recognised.

C & a contents

Face to face 49

Since being appointed head of access at Hewden, Nick Childs has made subtle yet significant changes that are helping to re-establish the hire giant. Mark Darwin fires the questions.



17

Big scissiors



23

Self erectors



29

Remote controls



Big scissiors 17



We ask the question 'What is a big self propelled scissor lift?' and take a look at recent product developments in the Dutch-style heavy duty scissor lifts. We also look at the history of Holland Lift which celebrates 25 years which coincides with the birth of the heavy duty scissor lift.

Self erecting tower cranes 23

Will the self erecting tower crane ever rival the telehandler as the preferred choice on the small to medium build job site in the UK and Ireland? Or is it being overtaken by the City tower crane? Mark Darwin investigates.

Remote controls 29



Wireless remote controls are now an accepted every day method of controlling a wide variety of equipment. We take a look at the many benefits as well as the latest developments.

SAIE 2008 33



The Italian equipment manufacturers were out in force at this year's SAIE exhibition in Bologna. Despite the proliferation of equipment shows, there were a surprising amount of new products to be seen.

Push around scissiors 43



The first push-around scissor lift work platforms date back to the late 1950's and virtually died out in the 1960's as self propelled's took over. Who would have thought that 40 years later push-around scissor lifts would be selling in their thousands? We take a look at the main players in the market and the latest arrivals.

Outrigger mats - follow up 51

Last month's article on outrigger mats seems to have hit a nerve and generated an unprecedented reader response. This month we have a follow-up article which includes information sent in and material we did not have space for last month.

Credit sense 66

When it comes to running a small business one of the greatest challenges is cash flow. We review a product from Redditch-based Top Service which has an impressive credit checking and follow up system which may help the industry establish a useful credit experience pool.

regulars

Pasma Focus 55

ALLMI Focus 57

Training 59

IPAF Focus 61

Books & Models 62

Your letters 63

Ladders 65

Innovations 67

What's on? 68

On-Line directory 72

In the next C&A

The December/January issue of Cranes & Access will feature: The annual rental rate guide, Truck mounted platforms, Crawler cranes and a review of 2008.

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c&a comment



Take the money?

The recent CPA Crane Interest Group meeting highlighted a problem that extends across the whole rental sector and one that must surely get worse

with the economic downturn - the 'cowboy' hire company. Do you take a hire where all the risk assessment and other paperwork may not have been completed - or turn the work away only to have a 'cowboy' snap it up?

It would appear that given this choice, more and more 'responsible' rental companies are taking the money. However, for crane hirers there is also a problem between a contract lift and a crane hire. Smaller customers balk at the cost of a contract lift, particularly on simple lifts - say £900, when a hire for the same period would be about £300.

The gist of conversations runs along the lines of "I want the lift, no I haven't got an appointed person, why can't you do it for the hire price? If you don't want to do it I know someone who will and it will probably be cheaper." Wrong yes, but it happens every day in the UK. And until there is a problem or accident, the 'cowboy' will be able to pick up work and the HSE hasn't the manpower to stop it.

Despite the general tightening of legislation for the crane industry this is a common occurrence and, given the current crunch, it looks set to increase.

The proliferation of loader cranes and other lifting equipment for smaller lifts is exacerbating the situation. Revisions to BS7121 Part 4 - lorry loaders, means in theory a more level playing field for the mobile crane hirers. In practise little may change. Now more than ever is the time for the professional rental companies to stick to their good practices and show clients how it should be done.

Can a simple lift be done professionally without a separate appointed person? Of course it can, because of the experience, training and expertise of the vast majority of crane operators.

Perhaps the HSE should not be so prescriptive with its black and white rules and allow crane companies to carry out lifts in their own, safe way. The revisions to Part 4 (Lorry Loaders) of the standards may be a good time to review the whole crane hire/contract lift situation. It clearly isn't achieving its original aim at the moment.

Mark Darwin

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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