

Readers

Letters



Dear Leigh,

I noticed the article the other day about the Powered Access Trainees that have graduated from the Construction College at Bircham Newton. As you may know I have been very vocal over the last few years about the lack of investment in our industry in good quality apprenticeships. I feel very strongly that in addition to the major national companies like Nationwide and AFI, it is important for small independent Access firms like Active to invest in young people.

I am putting my money where my mouth is and at Active we have recently taken on two apprentice engineers, Robbie Finnie (17) and Robert Wilson (18), along with a trainee hire controller, Nicola McPherson (18). This represents a considerable investment for us as these young people represent just under a quarter of our staff. As well as attending North Glasgow College, the young lads will undergo rigorous training from our service manager Stephen Oswald, who will tutor them one to one and also as a group in tool box talks with the other engineers. Nicola is also scheduled to attend courses to fine tune her skills to handle a busy hire desk.

We are investing millions of pounds in a new fleet over the next 18 months and recognise that as our industry grows the requirement for innovative staff grows too. We can foresee the shortfall and so are acting now to change things.

I think there should be better incentives for employers to invest in youth and training. I am hoping that industry associations such as IPAF can play a major role in not only lobbying for such assistance but also by encouraging more small and medium sized companies to do their part in bringing new people into our industry.

Yours Sincerely,

Andrew McCusker

Managing director

Active Rentals.

Scotland.

Dear Sir,

I know that in the past you have made a point of highlighting the lack of women in the crane industry and how few crane drivers there are, at least in Great Britain. A company that I know well was recently brave enough to take on a lady crane driver. She was keen and enthusiastic and seemed determined to make a career of it.

I know you are supposed to be blind to the sex - or sexual orientation - when it comes to choosing people for jobs but in reality it is much easier to employ men for crane work. So when it does happen I think it is brave on the part of the company and the lady.

In the end the lady did not last long, I think she just found it too difficult being a woman in a mans world- there were a surprising number of difficulties. I notice on your discussion forum that this has been an active subject and that one of the contributors is a lady slinger.

I always thought that the absence of women in the crane (and construction) industry was down to the fact that the companies are mostly run by old men, but now I think it is more related to the attitude of the average man on site and the attitude of co-workers.

I think that this is an issue you ought to cover or do a survey on.

Name withheld - on editors decision

Recent Poll results:

As you might be aware we run polls on Vertikal.Net covering topics of the day. The results of the two latest polls are:

Are full overload devices on self propelled scissor lifts?

3,667 people voted as follows:

- **A positive aid to safety 29.6%**
- **An additional safety hazard 70.4%**

More recently we are asking:

Should a harness normally be worn in a scissor lift?

As of August 31: 329 people had voted

- 21 % saying Yes**
- 79% saying No**

Some cheating

On both votes we experienced some repeat voting by readers. In the scissor overload vote there was repeat voting on both sides. Where we could identify it we removed duplicate votes although a large number got through. The only positive thing was that the cheating seemed in balance and thus only inflated the total vote.

In the current vote on a particular day we experienced a massive campaign to boost the Yes vote by multiple duplicate votes to such an extent that we felt obliged to remove all votes - Yes and No - from that day and install a much tougher block on duplicate voting.

Letters to the editor

Please send letters to the editor: Cranes&Access: PO Box 6998, Brackley NN13 5WY, UK. We reserve the right to edit letters for length. We also point out that letters are the personal views of our readers and not necessarily the views of the Vertikal Press Ltd or its staff.

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