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## On the cover:

New Caterpillar telehandlers built under the JLG-CAT alliance are being added to the Hewden fleet, the UK's largest at over 2,000 units. Our telehandler feature is on page 39



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## The BIG Bauma review 16

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scissor lift sold in the UK, the recently imported PLE range sold by Planet Platforms.

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# Your powered access expertise



## IPAF membership



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# c&a comment



## A paler shade of green?

In the early days of being environmentally friendly - probably in the mid '70's - groups such as The Scouts would organise 'recycled newspaper collections' to raise money.

Unfortunately, the market was not yet ready for the poor quality recycled products and after a few years the whole exercise failed. In fact, it is true to say that more natural resources were expended in collecting and transporting the paper than the recyclers could ever save. It just didn't stack up.

30 years on, how things have changed caused by a scarcity of natural resources and increasing prices. We are now being forced to recycle and are happy to split our refuse into bottles, cans and paper. We are repeatedly told of the increasing percentage of the products we buy that are recyclable. If we are now 'green', 30 years ago we were probably just khaki.

*But where is all this going?*

At last month's Bauma I sat in numerous press conferences given by the major manufacturers and in almost every one the first question asked by my esteemed colleagues of the press was about hybrid technology. What were the manufacturers doing? Why hadn't they produced a hybrid machine?

Most gave the 'PC' answer saying they were in the process of developing, not yet ready, would probably be a few more years.....In the process they were spending millions on developing the technology. Indeed Volvo Construction Equipment is spending £75 million a year developing hybrid solutions.

Then Terex chairman Ron Defeo took a different line saying that his company would 'wait and see' and that hybrid technology had a long way to go. His way of being 'green' would be to eliminate waste and by finding a use for and recycling old equipment.

I am all for doing my thing to save the planet, but will the vast amounts of money and resources being poured into hybrid technology by nearly every major manufacturer really end up in future worthwhile savings. Even when it is properly tried and tested, there is still the problem of old machines. Perhaps we should adopt Ron Defeo's mantra and all make a concerted effort to do what we can now rather than waiting for the hi-tech hybrids of the future. Hybrid technology is a bit like the newspaper collections of 30 years ago - it is the right path to take, just ahead of its time. It's time will come, but for now, maybe its time to concentrate on what's closer to home.

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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