

# PASMA takes centre stage at AIF Knowledge Base

Over a period of three days at the recent Safety & Health Expo at the NEC, member organisations of the Access Industry Forum (AIF) delivered a series of debates, discussions and presentations connected with working at height.

In a deliberate break with the past, and with a view to exploring and comparing the various merits of the two methods currently approved by PASMA and the HSE for assembling, dismantling and altering mobile access towers – the AGR (Advanced Guardrail) and 3T (Through the Trap) methods - the association hosted a series of university style debates.

David Tait and Andrew Gray, both recent law graduates from Glasgow University, debated the following motions:

- That 3T is a perfectly acceptable method of preventing falls from mobile access towers;
- That advanced guardrails are the best available option for preventing falls from mobile access towers;
- That industry cannot afford the cost of converting to advanced guardrails.

Tait spoke in favour of the 3T method and Gray in favour of advanced guardrails. The debates were wide ranging and covered, amongst other things:

- Assembly and dismantling times;
- Safety and fall prevention;
- Application and availability;
- Training and logistics;
- Economic viability.

Both Tait and Gray spoke for seven minutes each with a three-minute



Peter Bennett joins the panel to discuss 'Who's the working at height expert - client or contractor?'

rebuttal at the end, and questions were then taken from the audience. The debates are part of an ongoing

process reviewing the two alternative methods.



Law graduates David Tait (L) and Andrew Gray (R) who took part in the tower debates



Jill Couttie and Stuart Hopkins on the PASMA stand in the Access Village

## Annual Members' Meeting

The 2010 Annual Members' Meeting will once again take place at Moxhull Hall, Holly Lane, Wishaw in the West Midlands. The date is Tuesday, 13th July. A regular highlight in the association's calendar, the AMM is an ideal opportunity to hear about the association's achievements, its plans for the future and the way in which it is advancing safety and standards generally. It also represents a great way of meeting fellow members and exchanging news and views. For more information, please contact [jill.couttie@pasma.co.uk](mailto:jill.couttie@pasma.co.uk)

Delegates will be the first to receive a copy of PASMA's new Annual Review.

## PASMA sponsors Safety Award

For the second year running, PASMA sponsored the 'Effective Health & Safety Management' award at the Hire Awards of Excellence organised by the Hire Association Europe. Regarded by many as the industry's ultimate accolade, the winner of the 2010 PASMA award was Lavendon Access Services.

L to R: Roger Verallo, PASMA; Chris Wraith, of Lavendon and Bob Mills



## Passing off sparks court case

According to Association News, the online newsletter for the not-for-profit sector, a tradesman has incurred a bill of nearly £2,000 as a result of falsely passing himself off as a member of a trade association. The person concerned - an electrician from York - pleaded guilty to four charges of displaying a trade association logo he was not entitled to use, and one of displaying a 'trust mark' that he was not entitled to use.

The case was brought by York Trading Standards who claimed that the company used quotation forms bearing the logo of the National Association of Professional Inspectors and Testers (NAPIT) and used a trust mark linked to the same organisation. The logo was also inappropriately used on the firm's website.

PASMA managing director Peter Bennett said: "This case exemplifies the need for all association members to remain vigilant about the use of the PASMA logo and to report any suspected misuse to the secretariat without delay. Action will always be taken to protect the integrity of the PASMA brand and the reputation and credibility of members."

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