

Gentleman,

19th April 2010 (and yes, I should have been at Bauma, too)

The letter entitled 'Poor planning', published on page 62 of the April edition of Cranes & Access, is but a poor - albeit updated - rendition of the famous monologue given by Gerard Hoffnung on 4th December 1958 at the Oxford Union. The original recording, of which I have a copy on LP, can now be obtained on a BBC Audiobooks CD entitled 'Hoffnung: A Last Encore', ISBN 0563536756.

An accurate transcript of the original can also be found at www.bluegum.com/Humour/Assorted/bricks.html. However, although the words on the page tell the story, nothing other than listening to Hoffnung himself recounting the tale can convey the true brilliance of this classic of British humour. It was his timing that stole the show.

With kind regards,

Simon Walker

Dear Sir, Madam,

Since I appreciate your safety awareness items very much, you can't rub it in enough, I thought you might appreciate attached photo of an improvised crane which I saw in action in London last year.

A chain hoist, a ladder and some scaffolding is all you need to unload steel from a truck. Working circumstances were difficult though, a narrow alley close to the Thames made it hard to reach for a crane.

Maybe the photo is good enough for publishing. If so, please go ahead.

Kind regards,

Marcel Riemslag



18th April 2010

Improper use

Just to point out that in your article on page 24 of the latest issue of Cranes & Access on the 'Double Decker does the Lofts', you describe the misuse of a mastclimber where you suggest that the wrap around platform extension is also used for access into the building. If I understand the rules correctly this contravenes the regulations covering mastclimbing work platforms which are not supposed to have passenger access from multiple levels.

Wayne Richards

Bedford

This has also been raised by others and we are expecting an official letter on the subject. We have checked the wording and confirm that it properly reflects the information that we were given. One thing that is clear is that any use of the decks to access the building - assuming it was set up properly - was not intended to convert the platform into a passenger lift. Surely if the use of such an extension to access the platform was the only (perhaps the platform did not run from the ground?) or safest way for workers to enter the platform and a full and a thorough risk assessment was carried out, it would be perfectly acceptable? Please let us have your opinion. Ed

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 Vertical Press Ltd or its staff.

Who trained him then?

Hi,

We receive a copy of Cranes & Access every month and always take great delight in seeing the pictures of health and safety nightmares in the 'Who Trained Him Then?' section. I suddenly remembered we had photos of an incident that would fit quite nicely under this title.

Attached are a couple of pictures of two gents who needed an hour's crane hire and a man to do some maintenance on the rigging on their yacht. They felt that the £100 we wanted to charge to assist was extortionate and decided to do it their own way by erecting a scaffold tower against their mast, precariously perched on bearers across the deck of the yacht and guyed to the pontoon either side. The yacht was sat in soft mud at the time which was fractionally more stable than it being afloat I guess but still unbelievably dangerous!

I hope the pictures are of use to you, I took them myself on a company camera so you are welcome to reproduce with my permission if you would like.

Thanks

Name withheld by request

One of the photos sent in by this reader can be seen on our training page under Who trained him then?

Outrigger cribbing,

I note that in your article on page 21 of the April issue of Cranes & Access you show at least one photograph (the Marchetti crane) of a machine set up with no spreader plates or mats under the outrigger pads. This is odd given the position that you seem to take on this subject - which I and my company fully support. Surely if you are serious about this subject you would not publish pictures like this?

I assume that the photographs come from the manufacturers looking to advertise their products? If so can you not refuse to publish them unless they meet your standards of safety and good work practice? This would then at least focus attention on the subject and help eliminate the idea that this is somehow an acceptable practice?

Yours Truly

Gerry Daniels
Shreveport, LA
(USA)

While we agree with the sentiment of Mr Daniels, it is easier said than done in order for our features and articles to cover the full gamut of products and to be visually attractive we need to show all products and like to use good photography. We do try to eliminate such pictures, but sometimes it is the only one we have, we then try and crop out the offending practice but occasionally it is not possible and we have to either use an offending photo or leave it out.... This particular picture was taken at Intermat and while the outriggers were set the boom was not extended, however mats should still have been used. ed



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