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Readers Letters



Hi Leigh

I was reading the excellent interview with Mr Willim on the issue of wind loading (November issue C&A).

Liebherr has been to the fore in issuing guidance on the effects of wind on suspended components and the crane structure, Mr Willim, in particular, deserves considerable recognition on this matter.

The linkage between load density, surface area, drag coefficient and crane reserve capacity is now clearly established and at Windhoist, we have been applying wind loading restrictions (based on component characteristics) for the last three years.

The image in the article is that of a SWT-101 or 120 rotor being installed, the weak link in this lifting operation is not the cranes – it is the tagline control system. When erecting SWT-101 rotors with wind speeds reaching 5.5m/s, experience has shown us that they can become impossible to control.

Whilst Liebherr Statics Department provide an excellent service on specific component /crane wind loading limits, such advice does not account for the behaviour of a component whilst being lifted, but serves to underline the responsibility of the Appointed Person/Crane Supervisor in determining when, and if, a safe environment exists to allow lifting to proceed.

I believe more emphasis must be placed on this aspect of the debate than heretofore, or we run the risk of relying solely on guidance from FEM and diminishing the importance of personnel competency.

Do you agree?

Kind Regards,

Declan Corrigan

WINDHOIST

Dear Ed,

Sorry about the negativity but this game is now in my opinion the worst it has ever been. I started Peterborough Crane hire in 1981 and what a waste of time it has been over the past 10 years.

The cost of new cranes is now so prohibitive I don't ever see small companies buying new for many years ahead - if ever!

On a lighter note regards to Mark and all the team, your mag is a great and informative read. If you ever need any input please give me a ring.

Very Best Regards,

Stuart.

This letter was sent in response to our annual rental rate survey

Dear Sirs,

This is just a short note to say thanks for the social media article in this month's Cranes & Access (November 2012). We are only a small company and have hardly got to grip with the web and the internet age and so most of this is gobbledegook to me.

I have felt for some time that we should be doing something as far as Facebook or Twitter goes, mind you I can't tell you why, it is just that we seem to be missing out on the future.

I can't say that your article will change anything we do but for the first time I think I understand it all and feel a bit better about our efforts to get more out of our website before jumping into any of the other things. Keep up the good work.

John Gregory,

Bradford.

Dear Sir,

There has been a tried and tested solution in circulation for a number of years. It doesn't involve electronics, special attachments or huge budgets. The instructions for use are relatively simple to follow, just as long as they are communicated, managed and enforced. Its technical description can be abbreviated to:

S.E.A.R.C.H (S)urvey for (E)ntrapment (A)bove, identify (R)isk and (C)ontrol the (H)azard

But most of us will simply know or refer to it as a site specific risk assessment / method statement.

Sent in response to an article on anti-entrapment systems on boom lifts, name withheld

Readers Letters



December saw the loss of two much loved and respected individuals from the access industry, **Ted Williams in the UK** and **John Kennedy in the USA**, both of them from cancer. The news of the passing of both men elicited a great deal of feedback to the website or via email here is just a small summary.



The late
Ted Williams.

Ted Williams 1948 – 2012

Ted Williams started out in the scaffold industry and worked with CMC scaffolding, he joined UK based rental company Alan Drew as a director in 1977 when he set up the Milton Keynes depot with Tony Rhoades, within 12 months the new location was outperforming the head office. In the mid 1990s Williams led a management buy out and became majority owner and managing director. He sold the business to AFI in 2006. Aged 58 he was not ready to give up a day job and moved to the access division of King Highway products/Sky King, the Palfinger/Wumag and GSR distributor. He was due to retire this month but was tragically diagnosed with terminal cancer late last year and passed away on Christmas Day, aged 64. He leaves behind wife Mary and son Lee.

Comments received included:

"I worked with Ted for 30 Years at Alan Drew and we had some great times together, it was Ted who gave me the Job at the "New" Milton Keynes depot, and with his knowledge, help and encouragement I ended up as Operations Director, during this time his help and encouragement with other employees, representatives and even competitors forged good careers for many people. He will always be remembered during my life, thanks for all the great times Ted!" *RIP Mac*

"RIP to a fair customer, a good colleague and great friend. The access industry is a poorer place with his passing."

Jim Longstaff, Clements Plant.

"I was very sad to hear the news of Ted's passing. The industry has lost a true gent who was liked and respected universally throughout the industry."

Ian James, Bronto Skylift

"I didn't know Ted till we met after he sold Alan Drew, and I asked him to come and work for Skyking. There are few people you meet in life that are thoroughly genuine and honourable but Ted was one of them. It's tragic that in a few short weeks a man who could so easily have retired and enjoyed his retirement should have his life taken away. Ted wanted to work after he sold Alan Drew and Skyking was the beneficiary of his knowledge and salesmanship. My thoughts are with Mary, Lee and Ted's family. He is a great loss to the Access industry."

Mark Carrington, King Highway Products

"It is incredibly sad that Ted's life has ended so soon and I cannot put into words how much I will miss him.

Ted was a very positive person, with a ready smile. We started out together as colleagues when we joined Skyking and soon found ourselves as great friends. Even though Ted may be gone, his memory will live on in all of us forever. Many people will walk in and out of your life but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart."

Martin Cowley

"A true gentleman, lovely genuine man, we will all miss him. I will raise a glass of malt to him tonight. Love and deepest sympathy from all at Rapid Platforms."

Alistair Jordan

"Ted was the true gentleman of the industry and will be greatly missed. He never had a bad word for anybody and was respected and, more importantly, liked by all." RIP Ted.

Glyn Goodwin



John Kennedy.

John Kennedy 1943 - 2012

John Kennedy, owner and president of STI (Sales To Industry) based in Hampton, New Jersey, which represents Falcon, Snorkel, Bluelift and Pop-Up - passed away on December 28th, after losing his fight with cancer. He was 69.

Born in Millbury, Massachusetts, Kennedy began as an industrial tool sales rep for Ingersoll Rand founding Sales To Industry in 1984. Over the years STI represented many notable manufacturers such as Doosan/IR, Atlas Copco, Niftylift, SkyJack, Haulotte, SkatTrak and others, covering a territory from Maine to Virginia and west through Pennsylvania.

Here are a few of the comments received.

"It is with the deepest regret that I inform you of the passing of John Kennedy. After a very hard fought battle with lung cancer, we lost him early this morning. I am honoured to have called him my friend."

Regards, Rick McDonald

"He was a very good friend to me and Universal Equipment. We did a lot together. The industry has lost a good man and ambassador."

Alastair Robertson

"John was a good friend and mentor to a lot of people."

"I knew him well and took every opportunity at the trade shows to say hi to him. I really enjoyed his company and will never forget him."