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On the cover:

Haulotte's new secondary guarding Activ'Shield uses a spring-loaded sensor bar which moves out of the way when pressure is applied, creating a 'Safety Gap' protecting the operator from full entrapment and potentially allowing them to get out of danger.



C&A contents

17

Self propelled booms



27

Rough Terrain cranes



35

Conexpo preview



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Comment 5

News 6

Genie Z-135/70 accident update statements, Manitowoc sells Chinese stake, Link-Belt to launch 150 ton RT, Niftylift launches new narrow booms, NMT takes first Terex Explorer 5800, Facelift adds chairman and looks to



franchising, Genie unveils hybrid RT scissors, Raimondi owner establishes Brazilian operation, New guidance on working at height, New record for PASMA, Manitowoc Cranes restructures, Another Jost jib failure in London, RiRent JV to wind down operations and financials round-up.

Self propelled booms 17

In response to higher fuel and transportation costs several manufacturers have introduced innovative new self propelled booms, some of which achieve similar or better performance in terms of reach and capacity, but with lower weights and more compact dimensions. Cranes & Access takes a look at the latest trends and developments.



Rough Terrain cranes 27

The Rough Terrain crane is very much a product of the Americas, so it is no accident that we feature it within a month or so of Conexpo. We look at and compare the latest new model introductions.



Conexpo preview 35

Next month most major crane, access and telehandler manufacturers will be making their way to Conexpo 2014 in Las Vegas. We preview the show highlighting the major attractions.



Batteries 45

With rental rates for electric scissor lifts keener than ever, an in-field battery problem can easily kill six months or a year's profit margin. We run through battery basics and compare the good and bad points of various types of batteries on the market.

regulars

ALLMI Focus 55

Training 57

IPAF Focus 59

PASMA Focus 61

CPA 62

Innovations 63

Books and Models 65

Letters 67

What's on 71

Online directory 80

In the next C&A

The next issue of Cranes & Access scheduled for the end of March will feature a review of Conexpo 2014 in Las Vegas, as well as featuring Scissor lifts, Mid-range telescopic cranes and Remote controls. If you have any contributions or suggestions, please contact our editorial team.

Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.

Albert Einstein

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It's good to share...

Regular readers will know that we are firm believers in sharing information - both imparting and receiving - which we feel will benefit the industry as a whole. We often have a pop at various companies and government departments (the HSE in particular) for their lack of sharing basic information, particularly following an incident - information that would highlight or shed light on a

particular problem or practise hopefully preventing others from having a similar or worse fate.

We are also saddened when information is not shared, acted on or is ignored.

A recent incident involved a man being dragged to his watery grave because he was wearing a harness and lanyard while working in a self-propelled boom lift over water. The boom slid off a barge taking him six metres under. Ever since IPAF began campaigning for the wearing of harnesses with lanyards, while using boom lifts, there has been the caveat "except over water". While this information has been widely shared it obviously did not get to at least two people on a site in Waco, Texas. Worse than that they may have been subject to a '100 percent tie-off' ruling that some sites insist on whenever working above ground - with the risk of being fired if caught disobeying.

This inclination by main contractors to issue black and white decrees to employees and sub-contractors or prematurely issue wide ranging equipment safety bulletins is of course done with the very best of intentions. And in the end we could use faster, more decisive action rather than long winded inconclusive investigations. But in many cases the implications of wide-ranging or knee-jerk edicts can be totally counter-productive. Having a strong clear and unified industry position on key issues, such as when and when not to wear harnesses (e.g. not over water or in a regular scissor lift) for example can help enormously. When faced with contradictions or a lack of clarity, contractors will make up their own rules.

A positive example of sharing information is IPAF's accident reporting project. Although still at an early stage it is showing great promise as an increasing number of powered access accidents are logged, and the 'keep it quiet, and 'sweep it under the carpet brigade' begin to understand the benefits of sharing such information - whether there have been injuries or not. As Albert Einstein once said "Learning is experience. Everything else is just information". Through training and the correct information let us avoid having to learn the hard way and advance the industry as one.

Mark Darwin

*Comment and feedback is most welcome via post, email, fax or phone stating
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