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**2005** as usual passed all too quickly and yet it was an eventful year, and a good one overall for the industries that we cover. We take a look back at some of the key events in the lifting and wider world.

# A look 20

## January

### Hewden combines Tool and Plant hire

Hewden Merged its tool and plant hire companies into a single entity. Cranes and access hire remain separate operations under Martin Hender. **Jan**

### Terex Atlas wins BT order

Terex Atlas extends production capacity to meet an order from British Telecom for 217 - 85.2 knuckle boom crane. **Jan**

### Loxam buy Ireland Access

Loxam purchased Ireland Access from Haulotte, which had acquired it along with UK Platforms in 2004. **Jan**

### Oil&Steel appoint Platform Company

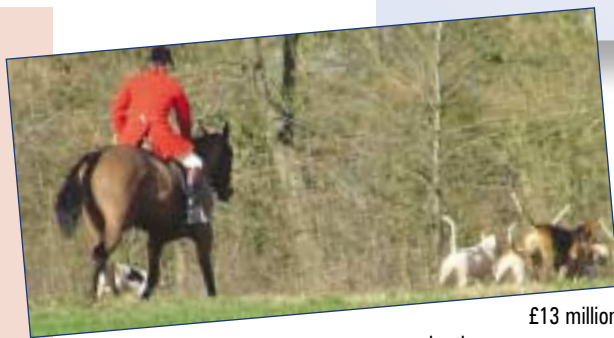
Oil&Steel closed its Henley, UK office, transferred distribution to the Platform Company and opened a major accounts office in London. **Jan**

### JLG announce Liftlux relaunch

JLG announced the launch of JLG-Liftlux, with its first showing at Conexpo in March.



Liftlux at Conexpo



Hunting with dogs is banned in England, but hunting continues. **Feb**

## February

### Cox Plant call in administrators

Cox Plant headed by David Symon and Keith Price, is placed in administration with debts of over £13 million, only to emerge a week later as Cox Hire centres, under the same management. The new company failed to meet its promised repayments and fails again, but not before its assets had been sold off.

### Manitou appoint Russon as UK rental dealer

Manitou appointed Russon Access to handle sales to rental companies in the UK. **Feb**

### HSS buy into Spanish franchise

HSS, the UK tool hirer, purchased a 25% stake in Rentecnika Iberica its Spanish franchisee, with plans to expand its access rental fleet. **Feb**

### Locatelli appoints Hird for the UK

Locatelli, the Italian crane producer, appoints Peter Hird and sons Ltd as its distributor for the UK market. **Feb**

### CITB cut the price of test

The Construction Industry Training Board cut the price it charges for its Health and Safety awareness tests from £35 to £17.50. **Feb**

### Coughlan exits UpRight

John Coughlan, president of UpRight suddenly left the company after barely 18 months with the company. **Feb**

### Genie Launch Z135/70

Genie launch Z135/70 its largest boom to date, at the ARA in Las Vegas. **Feb**

### Intervect becomes Alimak-Hek

Intervect AB the owner of mast climbing and hoist producers Hek BV of Holland and Alimak AB of Sweden changed its name to Alimak-Hek. **Feb**

**ALIMAK HEK**



### ESTA appoints Martin Ainscough

The European Special Transport Association (E.S.T.A.) appoints Martin Ainscough as a vice president. **Feb**



Christian Jaques Vernazza congratulates Martin Ainscough

### A tower crane collapsed, killing two employees.

A tower crane collapsed at Durrington High School in Worthing, West Sussex, hitting another, and killing two tower crane erectors as school children looked on. **Feb**



A tower crane collapsed killing two employees

# back at 05

## April

### Work at height rules come into force

The Temporary Work at Height Directive came into UK law on April 6th as the Work at Height Regulations. The old Two metre rule becomes a thing of the past. **April**



Prince Charles marries Camilla. **April**

### Kobelco cranes appoints new president

Kobelco Cranes Co appointed Yoshihiro Tanno (62) as president and CEO in late June, replacing Takashi Ishida. **April**

### Böcker takes over Steinweg

The Böcker Group, owner of Albert Böcker and Robert Böcker, producers of aluminium trailer cranes, Hoists and lifts, purchases the hoist business of fellow German producer Steinweg. **April**



### Kato UK becomes Kranlyft

Kato Parts & Service, the long established UK arm of the Swedish based Kranlyft group, changed its name to Kranlyft UK Ltd. **April**

### Ainscough spend £30 million with Liebherr

Ainscough place the largest single All Terrain crane order ever placed in Europe, for 91 Liebherr All Terrain cranes worth over £30 million. **April**

### Liebherr open new UK premises

Isolde and Stephanie Liebherr opened Liebherr GB's new headquarters in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. **April**



New Liebherr Premises ribbon



Pope John Paul dies. **April**

### Wear a harness on booms

IPAF issued a guidance note strongly urging operators to wear a harness when using a boom lift. **April**

## March

### Denka and Falck Schmidt merge

VT Holding A/S the owner of Denka Lift, purchased the aerial lift business of fellow Danish producer Falck Schmidt and merges the two into World-Lift Industries under the management of Brian and Michael Falck-Schmidt. **March**

### Ainscough buy Vanguard

Ainscough Engineering services Ltd purchased Vanguard Industrial Ltd from administrators KPMG. **March**

### Kobelco announce European deal with Manitowoc

Manitowoc announced an extension to its OEM supply agreement with Kobelco to Europe and Africa. **March**



A Falck-Schmidt Falcon.

### JLG appoints new Head of JLG UK

JLG appointed Simon Cracknell as general manager of JLG UK, responsible for all activities within the UK and Irish markets. **March**



### Ward Bushnell departs

After over a year of rumours, Ward Bushnell finally named April fools day 2005 as his final day at Genie. **March**

### Hitachi Sumitomo launch new telescopic crawler

Hitachi Sumitomo announced the SCX400T, a 40 tonne telescopic crawler crane, the first unit was sold at SED in May.

## May

### IPAF summit at Whittlebury

The first IPAF summit and AGM at Whittlebury Hall was a success and returns to the same venue in 2006. **May**

### Last Grove founder dies

Wayne A. Nicarry, the last surviving co-founder and past president of Grove Manufacturing, passed away on May 29th at the age of 85. **May**

### Terex and Liebherr settle legal battle

The legal battle over the infringement of Terex Demag's Sideways Superlift patents by the Liebherr Y-Guy system was settled on a mutual basis and all litigation dropped. **May**

### Tony Blair is re-elected with dramatically reduced majority

### SED 2005 attracts record numbers

the last SED at Fen Farm was attended by over 22,000 visitors, an increase of just over 12.5 percent. SED 2006 will be held at Rockingham Speedway in Corby. **May**

Liverpool win the European cup for fifth time beating AC Milan after being 3 nil down



### Nifty open German office

Milton Keynes based Nifty Lift established a direct sell business in Dresden, headed by Mark van Oosten. **May**

### Management buy out at Sky Climber

A team of Sky Climber managers, including president George Anasis, Robert Eddy and Todd King purchase a majority interest in the suspended platform producer. **May**



June

Tadano-Faun ATF65G

**Tadano-Faun launches new 65 tonner**

Tadano-Faun launched the latest in its "G" All Terrain crane line, the 65 tonne, ATF 65G-4. The four axle crane replaced the ATF 60-4 and features a new 44 metre boom. **June**

**Sherlock steps up at Hewden**

Hewden promoted Brian Sherlock to "managing director of Hewden" and Martin Hender to general manager of Hewden contract services and lifting. **June**

**All Access enters administration**

All Access the three year old access rental company filed for voluntary administration, emerging as All Access Southern a day later. **June**

**HSE report fails to identify cause of tower crane collapse**

The UK'S Health & Safety Executive published its full report on the fatal tower crane accident in Canada square in May 2000, which killed three men. The investigation failed to identify the cause of the accident. **June**

**Omme appoints APS**

Omme lift the Danish producer of trailer and crawler mounted aerial lifts appointed APS of Huntingdon as its UK/Ireland distributor **June**

**New MECs arrive in Europe**

Platform Sales Europe trading as MEC Europe is established as European master distributor for MEC scissor lifts. **June**

**Terex Demag launch AC160-2**

Terex Demag launched the AC160-2, to replace the AC160-1, the new crane features significantly improved long reach lifting capacities. **June**

**Zeppelin sells tower crane business to Arcomet**

Arcomet the Belgian based tower Crane company, purchased 300 tower cranes from MVS-Zeppelin and took over its tower crane rental business. **June**

**Palfinger buys Ratcliff**

Palfinger AG acquired Ratcliff Tail Lifts Ltd, and with it market leadership of the UK tail lift market. The UK is now Palfinger's world wide tail-lift centre. **June**

**Bison Palfinger launch 61 metre lift**

Bison Palfinger extended its range with the TKA 61 KS, a 61 metre working height truck mounted lift, its largest unit to date. **June**

**Godenhilm raises Dino stake to 100%**

Dino Lift Oy, the Finnish aerial lift producer, purchased shares owned by Aboa Venture, giving managing director, Lars-Petter Godenhilm 100 percent ownership of the business. **June**

The England Cricket team beats Australia to win the ashes.

Michael Jackson acquitted of child abuse

July

**Modulift and Hewden raise message to G8**

Five Hewden mobile cranes using 130 metres of Modulift spreader beams lifted an eight metre high, 18 letter message to the G8 summit delegates in Edinburgh. **July**

**Tower crane sleepwalker rescued**

A 15 year old sleepwalker was rescued with an aerial lift, after being found asleep 40 metres up, on the counterweight of a top slewing tower crane in Dulwich, south London. **July**

**Ten die in crane collapse**

The Japanese chief engineer and his assistant were killed when a gantry crane, building the Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge on the Mekong River collapsed; eight others were swept away by strong currents. **July**

**4 point lift systems sold**

4 Point Lift Systems Inc is acquired by an investment group led by Bruce Forster of Rigging Gear Sales, following the retirement of founder, Gary Lorenz. **July**



**A.M.P Access de-merges non powered access**

South West based A.M.P Access, separated its non-powered access business into a new company called AMP Access Solutions Ltd. **July**

**Liebherr launch 100 tonne telescopic crawler**

Liebherr launched the LRT1100 a telescopic crawler crane, combining the LTM1100 superstructure with the undercarriage from the lattice boomed LR1100. **July**

**AJ Access buys Lloyds Access**

A.J.Access Platforms purchased Lloyds British Testing's 130 unit aerial lift Hire Fleet. **July**

**Genie launches 51ft boom**

Genie launched a stretched version of the popular Z45/25JRT articulated boom. Designated the Z-51/30J RT. **July**

London was attacked by four suicide bombers three on the underground and one on a bus.

July London awarded the 2012 Olympics



August

**Tornado hits Birmingham**

A freak tornado with winds of up to 136 Miles an hour struck Birmingham, causing significant structural damage. **Aug**



Birmingham tornado damage.

**Wolffkran sold**

The MAN Group sold Man Wolffkran GmbH, its heavy duty tower crane business, to a German-Swiss investment group. **Aug**

**Gamble Sells**

The Gamble family, led by Ian Gamble, sold Gamble-Jarvis Plant Ltd to a group of investors. **Aug**

August 30th, New Orleans: Hurricane Katrina devastates New Orleans



# September

## Haulotte storm APEX with new models

Every exhibit on the Haulotte stand at APEX was new, including its new truck mounted range, two big articulated booms and a new push around lift. The company also launched a new image. **Sept**



## Grove builds cranes in Italy

A new Grove facility opened in Niella Tanaro, Italy, to build Rough Terrain cranes, beginning with the Grove RT530E. Further models, including smaller Grove All Terrains, are due to be added in 2006. **Sept**

## John Hocking dies

John Hocking (70), technical director at PAC, the notified body and a veteran of the UK access industry passed away without warning. **Sept**

## CTE takes over Effer/Bizzocchi

CTE acquires a controlling interest (80%) in Effer Holding, rescuing the company from administration.

## Snorkel buys back plant

Snorkel purchased its main manufacturing facilities in Elwood Kansas from previous owner Textron. The acquisition included offices and the assembly and parts warehouses.

## John Valla dies

John Valla who built up Valla cranes died at his home in the USA. **Sept**

## Holland Lift opens in France

Holland Lift opened a facility in Northern France to distribute and support its products in the French market.



## Michielsens and Van de Weghe merge fleets

Michielsens and Van de Weghe merged their crane hire businesses into a new crane company trading as Kranen Michielsens. **Sept**

# October

## RK and Cramo merge

RK of Finland and Cramo AB of Sweden, announced that they will merge, creating Europe's 5th largest rental company. **Oct**



Earthquakes in Kashmir kill tens of thousands.

## Hewden spend £15 million on IT

Hewden spent £15 million on a new integrated Information Broadband and intranet system to help improve customer service.

## Peiner production moves

Peiner crane production was moved to from Germany to the Terex plant in Willmington. **Oct**

## JLG takes over CAT telehandlers

JLG and CAT agreed a global alliance, with JLG designing and producing a full Cat branded telehandler product line exclusively for Caterpillar dealers.



## Skyking



# November

## King shareholding changes

Mark Carrington and Vinod Thakar acquired the outstanding shares in King held by 3i and others.

## George Brumwell dies

George Brumwell, chair of CSCS, died suddenly aged 66 from an infection following a short illness. **Nov**

## Brandon buys Light Hire

Brandon Hire purchased the tool hire business of Light Hire, the Devon based company managed by Brian Light. **Nov**



# c&a 2005 review

## Chinese crane company sold

The Carlyle Group of the USA purchased 85 percent in Xugong Group Construction Machinery Co., Ltd. (XCMC), for \$375 million in cash. **Nov**

## MEC buys Volvo telehandler designs

MEC aerial platform sales Inc purchased the designs and tooling of Volvo's telehandler range that was never launched. **Nov**

## Instant Access Australia sold

Rick Stowe's Griffin group sold Instant Access Australia to RMB Ventures and its senior managers for a\$40 million (£17/\$30 million). **Nov**

## Liebherr announces 1,250 tonne crawler

Liebherr announced a new heavy lift crawler crane, the LR 11250 with a maximum lifting capacity of 1,250 tonnes. **Nov**



November 25th George Best dies

## Terex Go Maximum

Terex unveiled plans, for a number of new and upgraded heavy lift crawler cranes to expand and enhance its range, starting with the 1,000 tonne CC5800.



# December

## Tadano realigns production in Japan and takes control of Chinese JV

Tadano announced a major investment in its three production plants in Japan and took control of its Joint Venture in Japan. **Dec**

## Grove announce new 80 tonner

Grove announced a new 80 tonne four axle All Terrain crane, the GMK4080-1 to replace the GMK4075. **Dec**



## Terex announce AC55-1

Terex will launch the AC55-1 at Internat in Paris, the -1 includes a new telescoping system with some significant capacity increases and a lighter weight. **Dec**

## Crane used to steal Henry Moore sculpture

Thieves used a Mercedes truck and loader Crane, to steal the two tonne Henry Moore sculpture, "A reclining figure". **Dec**



## Arcomet take over UK Potain distribution

The Arcomet Group agreed to take over the distribution of Potain tower cranes in England, Scotland and Wales from January 1, 2006. Setting up two new companies to handle the business. **Dec**

## European Rental Association

Gerard Deprez CEO of Loxam, proposed the inaugural meeting of a new European Rental Association for January 2006. **Dec**



## BT extends Versalift contract

BT Fleet extended its supply contract with Versalift for van-mounted aerial work platforms for a further two years. **Dec**

Fire devastates Buncefield fuel storage depot in Hemel Hempstead



David Cameron is elected as leader of the Conservatives.