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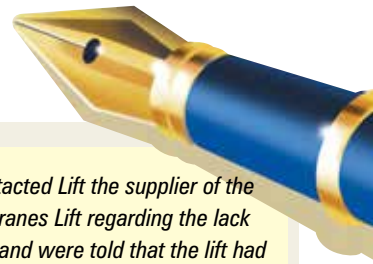
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Readers Letters



Why oh why oh why?

Front cover picture on Cranes & Access August/September. I smile as I see the mini cranes on the front cover, ok it's the competition BUT it's still nice to see mini cranes making the cover.

Then I take a closer look. NO OUTRIGGER MATS !!!! I shake my head in disbelief.

Am I more outraged that no-one proof viewed the most important picture of the magazine? Or that the competition actually completed the lift using no outrigger mats? Given that their customer might have

been ok with the point loadings it is still best practice to always use outrigger mats.

Rant over.

Nice to see our MC305 picture used on page 31 (with oversize mats to protect the paving)

Thanks Mark.

Here's to many more editions.

Andy Hinton-Sheley.

Technical sales manager.

Vacuum and Crane Ltd.

We contacted Lift the supplier of the spider cranes Lift regarding the lack of mats and were told that the lift had already taken place (with outrigger mats in place). The cranes were being removed but were repositioned for the picture. Yes mats should always be used, even in pictures where they have finished the lift. Ed

Top 30 rental company guide

Hi Mark,

I was fascinated to read your article on the top 30 telescopic handler companies in the UK but rather disappointed to notice that Fairfax Plant Hire from Selby with 69 and another 4 on order were not included. We run a total fleet in excess of 800 tracked and wheeled machines.

Kind regards

Ian Davidson

Fairfax Plant Hire

Hi Leigh

Once again we have really benefited from analysing the data in this report. It is very helpful in that it provides some vital information which allows us to compare our own performance with that of our competitors.

What we do is input your data into a spreadsheet and then add other information from the credit raters which then gives us some really meaningful measuring information such as:

- Average annual income per employee
- Average annual income per Platform
- Average Platforms per employee.
- Average value of each platform.
- Return on net assets.

Etc etc.

So thank you for this invaluable tool. It is appreciated and valued.

Regards

Malcolm Bowers

Lifterz

Hi Leigh

Just picked up the latest copy of your mag.. looks great, but then they always do. Just wanted to say another great job on the Top 30 hirers. Seems it gets better every year. Glad to see the telehandlers section is becoming more meaningful, when I think back to the first time I saw it its night and day, solid progress. This is the chart that we seem to use the most here so good to see. By the way you have a front picture of two of its spider cranes from Lift in action on a blue vessel (great shot) but in the relevant Top 30 chart they are shown as having zero spider cranes in their fleet?! Assume you have the headings around the wrong way? If so then that would make sense.

Keep up the good work

Yours

Beverly Shipton

Top 30 guide errors & omissions

In last month's issue we published our annual Top 30 crane, access and telehandler rental company guide. And as is always the way when publishing such a mass of data, the only thing that is certain is that errors and omission will occur.

Spider and pick & carry crane mix up

Sadly one of them was silly error that we repeated from last year, concerning the chart for spider, mini crawler and pick & carry cranes. We had the data for spider cranes and pick & carry in the wrong columns, so that companies with extensive spider crane fleets, such as Lift Minicranes, City Lifting, and JT Cranes were shown as having no spider cranes at all, but plenty of pick & carry cranes which they do not own. The mistake quickly becomes obvious, but that is, of course no excuse, and we apologise profusely. "To err once is human, to err twice is careless."

So here is the corrected chart which was placed into the digital version the magazine the very next day. Obviously there was nothing we could do about the printed copies with this correction. Hopefully we do not repeat it next year.

MINI CRAWLERS / SPIDER CRANES / PICK & CARRY

Company	Total	Under 12t	Pick & Carry	Spider Crane
GGR Group	227	21	50	156
Hird	100	0	48	52
A Mini Crane Hire Co	74	4	5	65
Coppard Plant	47	1	6	40
TCA Lifting	36	4	3	29
Lift Minicranes	34	0	0	34
NRC	26	26	0	0
City Lifting	24	7	0	17
JT Cranes	19	2	0	17
Sparrow Crane	15	10	0	5
AGD Equipment	15	15	0	0
Emerson Crane Hire	11	8	0	3
King Lifting	8	2	4	2
Ainscough	7	0	7	0
NMT Crane Hire	7	0	7	0

Missing telehandlers

Two other reported errors ... so far ... was that we missed Ashbrook Plant from the telehandler chart. The company now runs 164 telehandlers which would have put it into 20th position on the chart. And as per the letter above we missed Fairfax Plant which currently has 69 units rising shortly to 73. It would have been 26th in the chart.

If we have missed anyone else please do not hesitate to contact us.



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DAY ONE

Wed 29th November
EXHIBITION
10am – 5pm

CONFERENCE
10:30am – 5pm

DRINKS RECEPTION
7pm – 8pm
DINNER DANCE
8pm – Midnight

DAY TWO

Thurs 30th November
EXHIBITION
10am – 4pm

INNOVATION FAST PITCH
10:30am – 2:30pm

AWARD CEREMONY
2:30pm – 3pm



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The following open letter and response between Mick Norton and David Partington of the CITB - both of which were copied to our letters page - concern the CPCS Card system which are used for proof of relevant training and skills. They are relatively self-explanatory.

Dear Mr Partington,

My earlier email today concerning the inability of current CITB computer systems to electronically cope with data retrieval for CPCS blue cards has triggered a sizeable response from your stakeholders. The alleged CITB computer shortfalls linked to the CPCS product reveal that test centres that operate up to date Microsoft XL have been unable to open the CPCS test question banks for over 10 months!

The majority of CPCS test centres who wisely operate the later versions of the software have found themselves financially penalised having to purchase pre-2013 versions to facilitate files in CPCS question banks, which for many busy centres take a lifetime to open. For test centres the shambolic CITB system is loaded the first time, online, it automatically updates to the latest version and once again the question bank access is denied.

A source at Bircham Newton confirms the CITB/CPCS have been totally aware of the problem for nearly a year

with the problems for test centres due entirely to the CITB/CPCS still operating the vintage MS 2010 version. If these circumstances are vindicated it shows huge fault lines running through the CITB's woefully inadequate computer system for the necessary technical support to the construction sector. Once again, levy payers and stakeholders should be asking:

- "Why is the CPCS revenue not diverted to mitigate these alleged administrative failings?"

Grateful you pass on my points to whosoever runs the computer systems at Bircham Newton and of course the CPCS management team and its management committee. The latter two seem blissfully unaware of any problem despite feedback from CPCS monitors to the contrary for a considerable length of time.

Regards,

Mick Norton BEM

Dear Mick Norton,

Thank you for your email in relation to the CPCS blue card holders.

At present we do not have a report which will provide us with this information as we have not previously recorded how an individual met the criteria, nor was this a requirement. In order for us to determine whether individuals have achieved a NVQ/SVQ we would need to check each individual's personal file within our electronic document management system to ascertain whether we have been provided with a copy of a NVQ/SVQ qualification certificate. Therefore it is inaccurate to say that CPCS blue card holders cannot be electronically checked; it is possible for CITB to check whether a specific individual has achieved at NVQ/SVQ, however your request was to provide information on all blue card holders. This would necessitate reviewing over 140,000 individual records and would therefore be exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of

Information Act, as per my response to your request.

I also acknowledge that the CLC requirement is to ensure that all cardholders, whose cards expire from 2020 onwards, meet the expected qualification standard. CITB has a piece of work on-going to ensure that this target is met, therefore in future we will be able to provide the information requested but it is not possible to do so at the moment.

I hope this helps to explain why CITB is unable to electronically retrieve the information you have requested, however should you be dissatisfied with my response you may apply for an independent internal review, as outlined in my original letter of response, by contacting Chris Brooks, Chief Financial Officer & Corporate Performance Director.

David Partington

Head of Audit, Risk and Governance