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# Readers Letters

C&A

letters



**Hi Mark,**

I just wanted to say how interesting I found your editorial in the latest edition of Cranes and Access.

I have often thought of the mental and physical damage that the crazy world of access has on it's people. I know it's not just the access industry that is affected. We all need to be aware of our own actions and how we impact on each other.

All the Best

**Ian James**

Bronto Skylift

**Dear Mr Editor,**

Good work

I have decided to break a long tradition of having never ever written to a publication, after having read the latest copy of Cranes & Access. The magazine gets better and better, but that is not what prompted me to take some time out to write this. I have noted the hire rates guide before, but to be honest have just looked it over and checked out some key rates and put it down. This year I was surprised when dropping on at customers site office while checking a job I found the site manager reading the mag and what was he looking over? Yes you guessed it the rate guide!! I instantly wished I had looked at it more closely how did our rates compare?

Thankfully the rates he gets from us fell nicely in the range and given the service we offer would have been easily explained and justified. You can imagine as soon as I got back I fished the magazine out of the bin - no just joking it was in the canteen - and gave a proper look over digesting it more fully.. and realised how much effort has gone into it.. while it might not be perfect for some more specialist kit it was not bad at all and if had extra copies I would be happy to send them to our customers. It is a handy thing to have on the desk.

That's all I want to say .. although if you are up for sending me a few extra copies I will make sure that they go to a good home - but I don't want to pay of course - old habits die hard!

Keep up the good work

On second thoughts don't print my name - almost forgot that my customers might read it...have probably said too much already! Oh well have already broken one rule.

**Dear Sir**

Interesting comment this month, this health issue is certainly being talked about these days, it seems to be the flavour of the moment. It is not a subject that I would expect to find in a crane mag, and my first reaction Oh Oh here we go again another do-gooder spouting politically correct BS. But actually you make some sound points and when you see what happened to poor David (Jacobi - page 70 of Jan issue) it does make you sit up and think by the grace of God go I, but also to worry about those on the payroll. We have to be realistic even those who have had a scare slip back into bad habits once they are back at work. Its hard not to the whole way job sites and the work is set up makes it all too easy to do everything you shouldn't. I don't really agree that this then crosses over into the problems of recruiting young people and women into the business. The younger ones we do have some of the worst habits! But there is something to the industry not being sexy and programmes like the Crane Gang which has just been replayed don't help.

You have set me thinking – Well Done!

**Geoff Lindsay**

*Contractors are certainly taking the subject of physical and mental health a good deal more seriously, and unlike some companies and safety issues it appears to be more than just lip service. As a result we are looking to devote space to the subject, starting with a short piece on diabetes on page 51. Hopefully this will become a regular column that helps stimulate awareness to the Health part of Health & Safety.*

*Ed*

**Benny Sarens 1952 - 2017**

**Benny Sarens, technical director of the Belgian crane and heavy lift company that bears his name, died at the end of December, he was just 65.**

Sarens began working for the family company in 1972 and was responsible for driving forward many of the company's technical and engineering innovations. His association with the company's first in-house mega crane the SC120 was such that the crane was nicknamed Big Benny in his honour.

His roles have included a range of technically challenging jobs, including director of load-outs and special operations. He worked on projects all over the world.

He leaves behind his wife and six children, three of whom work in the company - Carl, Steven and Mathias. In spite of his relatively young age he also had 18 grandchildren. The crane industry has missed one of its most enthusiastic and imaginative technical people.



**Mick Donovan 1953 -2018**

**We have received the sad news that Mick Donovan group crane manager at Bowmer & Kirkland passed away last month.**

He spent almost 26 years with Bowmer & Kirkland, having joined the company in 1992 from Wimpole Hire - part of Willmott Dixon where he was managing director. He had worked his way up from the bottom at Wimpole, having started with the company as a 16 year old in 1970. He spent his entire working life working with construction equipment and cranes.

He was widely respected and well-known within the industry, his premature departure is a great loss to the industry, his friends and colleagues.



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